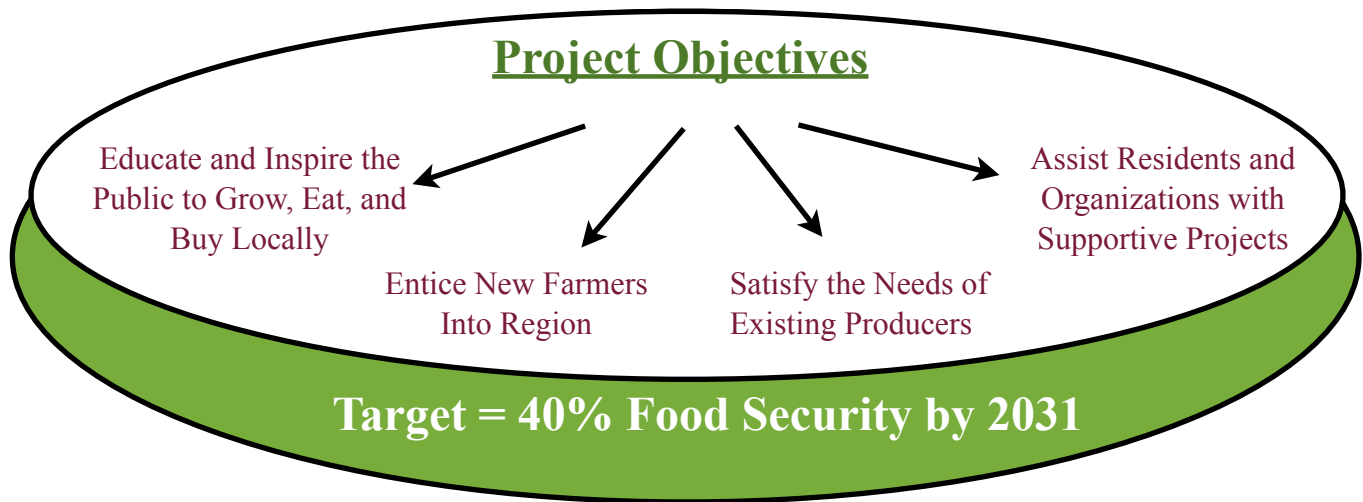


Alberni Agricultural Plan Implementation Project

Phase 3 Report - February 22, 2017



Food security is central to a healthy and resilient community and recent food and agricultural initiatives are part of a larger ACRD planning mandate of sustainability. We are well on our way to meeting the 12 goals of the 2011 Alberni Agricultural Plan.

Phase 3 Success Stories

- **2017 Islands Agriculture Show (IAS)**
 - Port Alberni hosts the second largest agricultural trade and conference show in BC
 - Marine production and a First Nations presence highlighted for the first time
 - Opening ceremony touted as the best ever, with eloquent speakers and a variety of delicious local food
 - Three events are sponsored in conjunction with the show; a Young Agrarians' Mixer, a Farm Business Start-up workshop, and a Barkley Sound Aquaculture Tour
- **Abattoir Working Group**
 - 50 producers and stakeholders achieve consensus in a plan to lobby the Provincial Government for supportive changes to the Meat Inspection Regulations
 - A working group is convened, data gathered, and a background audit initiated
 - MLA Scott Fraser brings the issue to the Provincial legislature
- **Growers' Guide**
 - The 2017 edition of the West Coast Growers' Guide is published
 - Significant editorial content offers resources and information to the public
 - The AV News expresses a commitment to annual publication
- **Increase in Producers and Food Related Projects**
 - Producers of micro-greens, big leaf maple syrup, beef, chicken, vegetables, garlic, and seed expand operations in the Alberni Valley and in the District of Tofino
 - Grants are secured by the Hupacasath First Nation, Shelter Society, Alberni Valley Transition Town Society, and Literacy Alberni that will further increase the amount of land in production and/or support food security initiatives in the region

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Additional Funding Secured, 2016

Project Funded	Funder	Amount
Growers' Guide	Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network	\$2,000
Young Agrarians Mixer Event, Feb 3	MNP and Bank of Montreal	\$1,000
Barkley Sound Aquaculture Tour	Ministry of Agriculture and BC Shellfish Growers Association	\$4,200
Grow Local Program (over two years)	Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC and various local partners	\$39,305
Abattoir Town Hall Forum	Strategic Outreach Initiative, Growing Forward 2	\$2,200
IAS and Farm Start-up Workshop	Min. of Ag, IAS, and various	\$71,000
Agricultural Support	Ag. Support Workers, in-kind	\$7160
Total		\$126,865

Next Steps, Growing Forward...

- **Abattoir Initiative**
 - Assist Alberni Farmers' Institute to achieve regulatory changes that will stimulate production, increase viability for livestock producers, and improve animal welfare
- **Agricultural Use of Water Project**
 - Assist to secure a safe, affordable, and accessible water supply for producers, one of their top priorities in 2014. Funded in part by the Real Estate Foundation of BC
- **Coastal Addendum to Agricultural Plan**
 - Focus on First Nation Communities, supports for marine production/marketing, and urban/non-traditional agriculture on the coastal land base
- **Grow Local Program**
 - Increase horticultural knowledge and food production within the Regional District by offering garden tours, consultation sessions, hands on learning opportunities for adults and school children, horticultural demonstration events, and a public awareness campaign. Co-managed by Alberni Valley Transition Towns Society
- **Regional Food and Agriculture Website**
 - Team up with the City of Port Alberni, who is requesting partnership in a Local Food Map and Resource Website project to provide a platform and umbrella for local food resources and initiatives, and 'house' them in an accessible and permanent location
- **Supporting Other Community Initiatives**
 - Support other organizations, such as the Alberni Farmers' Institute and Alberni Valley Transition Towns Society, in projects like a series of educational events for producers, a SD70 healthy food and garden policy, and a food recovery/waste reduction project.
 - Support ongoing annual events such as the Alberni Fall Fair and Family Farm Day