

Primary Human Resources Needs (ie: Staff and/or Contractor Roles)

- 1. Agricultural Committee facilitation** (agendas, minutes, communications)
 - Established = Agricultural Development Committee, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, Council for Agricultural Water Supply
 - Ensure tracking and follow-through on requests from Members and public
- 2. Update, evaluate, and implement ADC and CAR strategic plans**
 - Source and secure grants and resources where required
 - Work with Clayoquot Biosphere Trust on coastal implementation
- 3. General PR and community relationships** (email lists, social media, website)
 - Ensure up to date info on website and social media
 - Maintain consistent communications with agricultural community and public (growing, markets, infrastructure, community, land base, traditional foods, grants, extension/technical supports, business development)
 - Build, maintain, and improve relationships, including with other levels of government
- 4. Individualized support to food producers, as needed**
 - Best practices, grant support, neighbourly practices, reducing environmental or other impacts, directing to resources, etc
 - Include technical extension supports where Professional Agrologist is available
- 5. Continued support of partner organizations' various agri-food programs and events**
 - Grow Local programming, Guide to Farm Gate Stands, Growers' Guide, NIC training programs, Alberni District Fall Fair
 - Include financial support for local food purchases
 - Current partners include: AFI, ADFF, AVFSS, Dock+, Com Future, TCFI, EWC/CBT, NTC, Island Health and other agri-committee members
- 6. Oversight and management of existing projects and initiatives**
 1. System Change (June 2021- June 2024)
 - Facilitating cross-provincial RAS network
 - Core funding and mentorship within region
 - Reporting, communications
 - Distribution of honoraria
 2. Continuation of Council for Agricultural Water Supply
 - Work towards implementation of recommendations
 3. Electric fence cost-share program (with WildSafe BC)
 4. Nuu-chah-nulth Food Sovereignty Support; with Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
 - Support in-person food and wellness event for 14 Nations as requested
 5. Farm to School BC regional working group
 6. North Island College agri-food training programs

Core Roles, Funding Considerations

1. Ensure minimum 20% of workload is available to support First Nation initiatives as requested (equal to population percentage)
2. Consider using climate change, emergency preparedness, and economic development resources to support agri-program staffing
3. Provide core funding for permanency of program; secure additional grant funds for projects

Future Programs - Essential Add-ons to Meet Identified Needs

1. **Farmland Advantage:** Producer compensation for ecosystem services
 - Develop a local program that supports producers and First Nations to protect ecological assets and services on land under their management
 - 7,776 ha of ACRD land is with the Agricultural Land Reserve
 - Support could be by way of tax incentives, grants, or payment for services
 - See example: Township of Langley
2. **Business Development Support:**
 - Create a permanent compendium of programs and resources to provide producers, processors, distributors, and Indigenous food system entrepreneurs with support for:
 - Business start-up, expansion, diversification, and growth, including navigation of regulatory requirements and value-added food processing ventures
 - In partnership with Community Futures, the Dock+, and others
3. **Establishment of a Community Abattoir:**
 - Support access to land and issues of ownership, management structure, and staffing
 - with Alberni Farmers' Institute & Small Scale Meat Producers Association
4. **Public Education Programming**
 - Share best practices for growing food and keeping livestock on small properties
 - Reduce wildlife conflict and encourage electric fencing (with Wildsafe BC)
 - Minimizing land use, noise, bylaw, complaints, and safety issues
 - Explore potential for AFI 'Peer support & Mentorship Committee', as in past
5. **Update 2011 Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan**, integrate with 2018 Coastal Addendum
6. **Expand Farm Gate Stand/Agri-tourism Program**
 - Build on the 'Guide to Farm Gate Stands in the Alberni Valley' with farm-gate stand infrastructure, community messaging, and agri-tourism promotion)
7. **Technical Extension Services and Research Support**
 - Ensure professional agrologist/s and extension service providers are available and supported to provide and on-site technical extension services (soils, pests, etc) to individual farm producers and to assist with carrying out on-farm research projects
 - With Ministry of Agriculture and Food
8. **Annual Public Agri-food Forum**
 - Establish an annual opportunity to receive public input and suggestions for ACRD Agri-food programming and to share program results and activities
 - Note: AVFSS is planning a Harvest Festival for October 21, 2023
9. **Emergency Planning Framework - Food (AV and Coast)**
 - Develop a framework to support food access and distribution in emergency situations
 - With First Nations
10. **Create an Online Farm Directory**
 - Create and publish an online local farm directory. See [RDBN example](#)
11. **Create a Local Food for Events Program**
 - Streamline requests for funding for local food purchases and support producers by increasing market opportunities and promoting the region's diverse products
 - See a model from Regional District of Bulkley Nechako:
 - *Each Electoral Area or Municipality (they have 12) is eligible to receive up to \$1100/yr to support events that feature local foods*