

**ACRD: Coastal Agricultural Roundtable
Strategic Priorities and Plan, 2020 and beyond**

Vision and Goals (from *Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agricultural Plan, 2018*):

- Vision Statement -

“Our food is celebrated and recognized for its role in nourishing individuals, livelihoods, and relationships. A strong and localized food system provides dignified access to food for our people, a sense of place for our communities, and the seeds of resilience for future generations. We respectfully use the resources we have on hand, preserving our ecosystem through responsible stewardship.”

	Overarching Goals
1	Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy
2	Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, and Employment Projects
3	Increase Access to Infrastructure
4	Increase Financial Resources
5	Reduce Policy and Program Barriers
6	Increase Soil and Water Resources
7	Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production/Branding
8	Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations



We acknowledge the traditional territories of Hesquiaht First Nation, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Ahousaht, Yuułu?i?ath, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Ditidaht, and Uchucklesaht First Nation in the spirit of truth, healing, and reconciliation.

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Strategic Priorities and Plan, Context

The Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan (the Addendum) 2018, was drafted in order to define the needs, perspectives, and attributes of the unique population and geography of the ACRD's coastal regions, and offer action recommendations which help to stimulate its appropriate and efficient agricultural development.

The Addendum recommended 3 Key Activities for implementation:

1. Create Compost
2. Establish a Coastal Agricultural Roundtable, and
3. Support a Coastal Community Coordinator

The Coastal Agricultural Roundtable (CAR) was convened in 2019. These Strategic Priorities were formulated from feedback from the CAR's preliminary meeting in November 2019 and from research and outreach conducted as part of the Addendum's Development.

This Strategic Plan is a working document and attempts to guide the activities of the CAR and its Coordinator for the year 2020. These initiating activities are designed to contribute to desirable longer-term outcomes and further 'next steps' as funding, commitment, and timelines increase.

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Strategic Priorities

Priority A: Food System Policy/Planning for Emergency Preparedness

Primary Activities:

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|------------|--|------------|---|
| A.1 | Support development of policies that effectively support local production | A.5 | Ensure adequate food stores and distribution channels for times of need |
| A.2 | Identify and assess barriers to policy implementation | A.6 | Engage schools and other institutions in discussions |
| A.3 | Help to ensure local policies are easily implementable, via education and programs | A.7 | Involve experts and knowledge keepers in an inter-community workshop |
| A.4 | Support traditional food skills, knowledge transfer, and activities | A.8 | Share examples of inspirational urban production models and food policies |

Priority B: Supporting Development of Community Food Production Projects

Primary Activities:

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|------------|--|-------------|--|
| B.1 | Support communities to identify opportunities for local agricultural projects | B.7 | Support inter-community synergy and resource sharing |
| B.2 | Involve experts in sharing knowledge about project development processes | B.8 | Foster community leadership |
| B.3 | Help ensure plans address employment, market, infrastructure, sustainability needs | B.9 | Encourage training and mentorship opportunities |
| B.4 | Provide consultancy and expertise where required | B.10 | Support the production of quality humus through organic waste initiative |
| B.5 | Ensure establishment and sharing of strong evaluation and impact measurements | B.11 | Support grant applications and leverage funding |
| B.6 | Assist with resource referrals where needed (human, capital, or otherwise) | | |

Priority C: Strengthening Relationships and Networks

Primary Activities:

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|------------|--|-------------|---|
| C.1 | Meet as a Roundtable 2-4 times per year | C.7 | Increase public awareness about agriculture and food security |
| C.2 | Gather in various coastal communities | C.8 | Ensure information is available online and social media |
| C.3 | Maintain productive relationships between CAR member organizations | C.9 | Develop an email list or formal electronic network for stakeholders |
| C.4 | Ensure connection to ACRD's Agricultural Development Committee | C.10 | Increase collaboration between various Governments and Councils |
| C.5 | Support organizations to fill roles as 'Coastal Community Coordinators' | C.11 | Support avenues for community engagement, including volunteerism |
| C.6 | Support collaborative efforts and development of synergy between Members | C.12 | Prioritize reconciliation and culturally-appropriate frameworks |

Priority D: Supporting Events and Education

Primary Activities:

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|------------|---|------------|---|
| D.1 | Help to promote agricultural and food system events | D.4 | Support educational events aimed at increasing soil and water resources |
| D.2 | Support educational events about farming and gardening techniques | D.5 | Support events that support the other Strategic Priorities |
| D.3 | Support educational events about agri-business development and planning | D.6 | Support avenues for informal mentorship and knowledge transfer |

Other Priority Areas:

- | | | | |
|------------|---|------------|---|
| E.1 | Supporting marine production and infrastructure | E.4 | Exploring opportunities for innovative agricultural practices |
| E.2 | Supporting traditional cultural practices around food | E.5 | Agri-tourism planning and advocacy |
| E.3 | Coastal branding initiatives | E.6 | Others, as per CAR recommendations |

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Priority A: Food System Policy/Planning for Emergency Preparedness			
	Objectives	Primary Activities/Outcomes (2020)	Potential Next Steps
A.1	Support development of policies that effectively support local production	ACRD project: <i>Advancing the CAR: Actioning Community Priorities around Food and Agriculture</i> (with funding from CBT Vital Grant) 1) 3-part workshop on Policy/Emergency Planning held in June 2020 (supported Objectives A1, A2, A3, A5, A7, A8) • 28 participants • Partners: KPU, Wild Safe BC, District of Ucluelet • Convened by ACRD with funding from CBT Vital Grant • KPU drafted Final Report 2) Wild Safe BC developing brochure outlining simple strategies to mitigate wildlife interaction when producing food (Objectives A1, A3, A8) 3) Tofino Community Food Initiative/Wild Safe BC to host electric fencing workshop (Objectives A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A7, A8)	• Convene Policy Working Group as a sub-committee to the CAR • Investigate policy constraints and solutions regarding development of local fish market with direct sea-to-consumer sales • Convene School Garden working group as a sub-committee to the CAR (including SD70 if possible) • Support traditional food skills programs and knowledge transfer
A.2	Identify and assess barriers to policy implementation		
A.3	Help to ensure local policies are easily implementable, via education and programs		
A.4	Support traditional food skills, knowledge transfer, and activities		
A.5	Ensure adequate food stores and distribution channels for times of need		
A.6	Engage schools and other institutions in discussions		
A.7	Involve experts and knowledge keepers in an inter-community workshop		
A.8	Share examples of inspirational urban production models and food policies		

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Priority B: Supporting Development of Community Food Production Projects

	Objectives	Primary Activities/Outcomes (2020)	Potential Next Steps
B.1	Support communities to identify opportunities for local agricultural projects	ACRD project: <i>Advancing the CAR: Actioning Community Priorities around Food and Agriculture</i> (with funding from CBT Vital Grant) Supported community members to develop comprehensive project plans via education and mentorship (June 2020-present) • With support of Professional Agrologist Hannah Roessler • Develop and share workbook and resources • Host 2 interactive Zoom meetings to discuss participant's project plans and build coastal network • Engage 1-1 with participants to support plan development • Supported Objectives B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11) CBT's Make Way Funding Distribution CBT distribution of funding to Indigenous Communities, to Small Neighbourhood Grants, and to participants in ACRD Advancing the CAR and Community Garden project. (Objectives B1, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11) Fostering Collaboration Amongst Coastal Community Gardens Project Bringing together Community Garden (CG) leaders across coastal communities to foster collaboration, build capacity and leadership, and cultivate a mutual support network • Led by Tofino Community Food Initiative, administered by ACRD, and funded by Plan H • Now through early 2021 • Objectives (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11)	• Continue to provide support for project development as possible • Share educational material • Follow up with project participants, uncover lessons learned and any outstanding needs • Support projects with further funding or other resources
B.2	Involve experts in sharing knowledge about project development processes		
B.3	Help ensure plans address employment, market, infrastructure, sustainability needs		
B.4	Provide consultancy and expertise where required		
B.5	Ensure establishment and sharing of strong evaluation and impact measurements		
B.6	Assist with resource referrals where needed (human, capital, or otherwise)		
B.7	Support inter-community synergy and resource sharing		
B.8	Foster community leadership		
B.9	Encourage training and mentorship opportunities		
B.10	Support the production of quality humus through organic waste initiative		
B.11	Support grant applications and leverage funding		

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Priority C: Strengthening Relationships and Networks

	Objectives	Primary Activities/Outcomes (2020)	Potential Next Steps
C.1	Meet as a Roundtable 2-4 times per year	Progress towards Objectives C1, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C10 - CAR meetings, March and November 2020 - Groups emails sent sharing grant and program opportunities - CBT newsletters including Eat West Coast updates and programs - Applied and received funding for 'Fostering Connection Amongst Coastal Community Gardens' - Provided updates to ACRD's ADC - Application for System Change project to support cohesive Regional programming and CCCs - Creating platforms for discussion and networking via Policy Workshop and Project Development Zoom meetings; supporting collaboration within those projects	- Dedicated CAR e-newsletters, website info, FB page and/or other social media - Coastal PR about food initiatives and opportunities - Create working groups for Policy, School Gardens, or other issues - Work with NTC to create an NTC food/agriculture coordinator or similar role
C.2	Gather in various coastal communities		
C.3	Maintain productive relationships between CAR member organizations		
C.4	Ensure connection to ACRD's Agricultural Development Committee		
C.5	Support organizations to fill roles as 'Coastal Community Coordinators' (CCC)		
C.6	Support collaborative efforts and development of synergy between Members		
C.7	Increase public awareness about agriculture and food security		
C.8	Ensure information is available online and social media		
C.9	Develop an email list or formal electronic network for stakeholders		
C.10	Increase collaboration between various Governments and Councils		
C.11	Support avenues for community engagement, including volunteerism		
C.12	Prioritize reconciliation and culturally-appropriate frameworks		

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Priority D: Supporting Events and Education

	Objectives	Primary Activities/Outcomes (2020)	Potential Next Steps
D.1	Help to promote agricultural and food system events	Progress towards Objectives C1, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C10 • Successful Tofino Farm and Garden Show • Produced and sharing 'project development' educational materials • Expansion of Tofino Community Food's Grow Local programming, including broadly-accessible videos and workshops • Policy workshop series	• Create and share annual event calendar for food/agri-related events • Generate long-term sustainability measures and resources for annual events • Sponsor students in Market Gardener training (Port Alberni) • Convene NETP programs supporting food/agri-related employment and training
D.2	Support educational events about farming and gardening techniques		
D.3	Support educational events about agri-business development and planning		
D.4	Support educational events aimed at increasing soil and water resources		
D.5	Support events that support the other Strategic Priorities		
D.6	Support avenues for informal mentorship and knowledge transfer		

E: Other Priority Areas

	Objectives	Primary Activities/Outcomes (2020)	Potential Next Steps
E.1	Supporting marine production and infrastructure		• Investigate policy constraints and solutions regarding development of local fish market with direct sea-to-consumer sales • Support traditional food skills programs and knowledge transfer
E.2	Supporting traditional cultural practices around food		
E.3	Coastal branding initiatives		
E.4	Exploring opportunities for innovative agricultural practices		
E.5	Agri-tourism planning and advocacy		
E.6	Others, as per CAR recommendations		