

Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan

A Vision and Plan for Coastal Agricultural Development



Our Vision

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.



Guided By

- Public engagement
- Steering Committee
- Multi-sector Advisory Committee
- Professional Agrologist
- Consultants with local and expert knowledge



Project Results

- Research and analysis of coastal background and context
- Agrologist assessment and report
- Implementation Plan that addresses eight identified goals



Implementation Plan – Key Activities

Create
Compost

Establish Coastal
Roundtable

Support Coastal Community
Coordinator

Coastal Agriculture: Challenges, Opportunities, Resources

Ecological



Challenges	Opportunities	Existing Resources
High level of humidity and precipitation for growing	Temperate climate with long growing season	Compost building through the Tofino Urban Farm Co.
Limitations on soil quantity and quality and lack of compost	Small scale, intensive vegetable	Abundance of compost fodder (food & fish waste, seaweeds)
Summer droughts	Unique bioregional crops and value-added products	Rainwater abundance

Economic



Expensive property Very high cost of living	Entrepreneurial and innovative population	Strong commercial and community distribution network with the Tofino Ucluelet Culinary Guild
Lack of relevant skilled labour	Many small-scale producers with collective potential	Grower resources in the OCN Garden Centre and Tofino Botanical Gardens
Lack of start-up capital and infrastructure	Active tourism industry and strong international shellfish market	Strong processing industry and market

Community



Remote and isolated with high transportation costs within and outside of the region	Regular educational opportunities and food-related events and festivals	Facilitation and coordination support through Eat West Coast, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's food hub
Unstable transient workforce due to lack of housing	Strong restaurant culture and high-calibre chefs	Supportive organizations including the Tofino Community Food Initiative and the Ucluelet Local Food Society
Competitive seasonal job market	Interested consumers	Businesses offering plots or land for production

Regulations



Regulatory hurdles and barriers	Marine infrastructure	Regional Agricultural Support Workers as link to Provincial Government
Silos between agriculture, marine, forest, and environmental industries	Class 'E' Slaughter facilities	Interested and supportive municipal governments

Coastal Agriculture Implementation Plan

We aim to have specific and actionable activities for a variety of stakeholders that are balanced between some 'easy-pickings' and a more challenging long term perspective.

Create
Compost
Fertile soils is a must

Establish a
Coastal Roundtable
We achieve more working together

Support a
Coastal Coordinator
If nobody does it, it won't get done!



Literacy Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy
For example, sponsor a series of agricultural business literacy workshops

Employment Increase Youth, First Nation, and Employment Projects
For example, develop an agricultural project involving multiple coastal governments or councils, like the Octopus Garden with Yuulu?il?ath

Infrastructure Increase Access to Infrastructure
For example, dedicate land to agricultural development - large tracts and community spaces within new developments

Funding Increase Financial Resources
For example, offer financial incentives, such as service fee reductions, to producers and to processors

Culture Ensure Culturally Appropriate Food Production and Branding
For example, engage Nuu-chah-nulth stakeholders in agricultural planning processes

Soil & Water Increase Soil and Water Resources
For example, commit to making local organic resources available for public use

Policy Reduce policy and program barriers
For example, ensure policies are scalable for small and emerging producers in remote areas

Marine foods Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations
For example, develop secondary processing facilities

What Can YOU Do?



INDIVIDUALS

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Take a course in how to grow your own food ◆ Attend community food events/work bees ◆ Talk about the importance of healthy, local food with family and friends ◆ Acknowledge producers when speaking at dinner events ◆ Start a backyard vegetable garden or community garden plot ◆ Participate in agricultural surveys
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Support related government and organizational initiatives
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Consider sharing/leasing unused land to producers ◆ Work with neighbours to develop neighbourhood garden plots, compost facilities, beehives, and small livestock pens ◆ Offer transportation infrastructure (e.g. empty trucks) to producers/processors for imports/exports
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Buy local food directly from producers and at local markets ◆ Make cash donations to organizations for food and agriculture related projects
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Create a personal 'local food' policy and commit to buying locally ◆ Write letters and lobby local and Provincial Governments
Increase Soil and Water Resources	• Start a backyard compost and donate the compost to a local producer • Reuse and collect rainwater and clean grey water where appropriate • Use garden design systems that recycle materials, include perennial edibles, and use mulches/green manures to conserve water and build soil
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production and Branding	• Observe and tend the natural food systems within the environment • Foster 'wild' area, learn about the benefits of 'weeds' and foraging etiquette
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	• Eat more local seafood • Involve children in seafood harvesting and marine industry experiences

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



ORGANIZATIONS

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Develop and facilitate agricultural workshops and events ◆ Assist with development of new community gardens, farms, and food forests ◆ Use appropriate technology to reach various audiences ◆ Develop educational PR campaigns ◆ Develop school garden programs that include lunch items and chef's activities ◆ Convene local planning sessions that include chefs, distributors, and producers
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Facilitate development of a human resource and short term labor pool ◆ Research and share models of successful agricultural projects ◆ Support development of a coastal 4-H chapter ◆ Facilitate gardening programs for children and elders ◆ Support branding and marketing for Nuu-Chah-Nulth products
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Support neighbourhood gardens, composts, beehives, and livestock pens ◆ Coordinate producer access to transportation and kitchen infrastructure ◆ Develop platforms for sharing agricultural materials, tools, & infrastructure ◆ Purchase and manage community-accessible equipment
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Offer free tuition to producers for farm-related educational events ◆ Offer no-cost promotional sections in newsletters for local growers ◆ Facilitate grant-writing workshops
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Share educational materials about compost and rainwater harvesting ◆ Contact tree service companies and arrange wood chip drop-offs ◆ Develop a composting resource platform ◆ Apply for a kelp harvesting license for compost fodder ◆ Facilitate joint purchases of rainwater harvesting and storage systems
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production and Branding	◆ Ensure workshops include food that is locally available and easy to grow ◆ Include Nuu-Chah-Nulth food stories and historical anecdotes in tourist promotions ◆ Reach out to elders when developing programs ◆ Create a branding contest for a local logo and slogan for regional food
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Facilitate Marine 'Farm Tours' and educational events about the seafood industry ◆ Research and share models of sustainable shellfish and seafood operations

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



MUNICIPAL GOV'T

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Sponsor an ongoing series of agricultural business development workshops ◆ Include food production and processing in recreational programming ◆ Hold public workshops on water conservation and rainwater harvesting.
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Make municipal land available for use in agricultural programs or initiatives in perpetuity ◆ Research and develop Agro-forestry operations within the Barkley Community Forest ◆ Develop programs to convert landscaping waste to compost ◆ Shift focus of municipal plantings to edible species
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Make municipal land available for use for agricultural production or processing facilities ◆ Donate expiring equipment and vehicles to food and agricultural organizations ◆ Encourage residents to develop neighbourhood nodes for compost and food production ◆ Offer financial credits for start-up costs to businesses who offer production spaces ◆ Offer property tax credits for properties with accessible community gardens ◆ Designate production spaces at multi-use community hubs and emergency centres
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Support grant applications with in-kind offerings such as printing and room rentals ◆ Waive business license fees for producers and processors ◆ Share information about internally and externally available grants ◆ Offer water or property tax credits to producers ◆ Implement a restaurant tax to be used as a funding pool for agricultural operations ◆ Maintain annual budget for agricultural support and community agricultural initiatives ◆ Include Agriculture as a focus in Community Economic Development Action meetings
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Ensure agriculture and urban agriculture is included within OCPs and zoning bylaws ◆ Ensure food & agriculture is prioritized in sustainability & emergency planning initiatives ◆ Develop local purchasing and healthy food policies ◆ Require developers to reserve spaces for community food production in new subdivisions ◆ Endorse a Regional Food Charter
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Shred paper waste for composting operations ◆ Implement rainwater harvesting and storage rebates ◆ Consider growing 'brown' matter for compost on municipal land (alder, hemp, other) ◆ Require water conservation and rainwater harvesting systems in new developments ◆ Work with Barkley Sound Community Forest to access wood waste for composting ◆ Develop policy around separation of biosolids from other organic waste
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production/Branding	◆ Promote restoration of native plants and damaged ecosystems ◆ Foster wildlife borders & corridors, diversity, and natural ecology in municipal plantings
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Engage seafood producers in planning initiatives ◆ Ensure local policy and bylaws allow for dock sales and marketing

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



REGIONAL GOV'T

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Ensure coastal stakeholders are included in Alberni Valley initiatives ◆ Undertake further coastal studies related to food imports, markets, soils, and potential production levels
Increase Youth, Nuuchah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Fund business and feasibility studies for new or expanding agricultural initiatives
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Make regional land assets available for agricultural production or processing facilities ◆ Continue to lobby for Regional Designation under Provincial Meat Inspection Regulations ◆ Support large-scale agricultural infrastructure projects
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Assist with grant writing and support applications ◆ Serve as financial administrator for related grant projects ◆ Ensure multi-year funding is made available ◆ Promote coastal operations and organizations, within the Alberni Valley and beyond ◆ Develop a start-up grant for new producers ◆ Develop a buy-local policy for regional events
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Bring motions that support the recommendations of the Coastal Addendum to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) for adoption at annual UBCM conventions
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Fund business and feasibility planning for composting initiatives in coastal regions ◆ Include marine compost and offal in regional composting initiatives ◆ Lobby stakeholders to compost fish and marine waste within coastal region
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production/Branding	◆ Support development and implementation of a coastal brand ◆ Promote and support environmentally friendly agricultural practices in the region
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Collate list of marine producers, production levels, and processing facilities ◆ Conduct a series of stakeholder engagement sessions and a SWOT-type analysis of local seafood industry

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



PROVINCIAL GOV'T

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Continue to develop and share training programs and reference sheets that support agricultural businesses and business development
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Continue to offer a diverse complement of agricultural grants and programs ◆ Fund pilot and research projects for non-traditional production systems ◆ Ensure grant programs are scalable to small businesses in sparsely populated areas ◆ Provide funding for regional branding campaigns
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Donate expiring equipment and vehicles to food and agricultural organizations ◆ Develop funding program for community infrastructure projects ◆ Support development of Food Land Trusts or ALR within the coastal region
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Provide incentives for institutions to purchase from local producers ◆ Contribute funding for local and regional agricultural support ◆ Publish an annual 'Guide to Agricultural Funding Resources' which includes Provincial and independent funding agencies and programs
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Ensure that policies reflect agriculture's ecological, social, and economic value ◆ Include the ACRD as a 'Designated Region' under the Meat Inspection Regulations ◆ Amend and adapt Farm Property Tax regulations to better support small scale and start-up producers in remote areas of low population density ◆ Ensure grant eligibility requirements are scalable to new or small-scale producers ◆ Ensure that agricultural policies include Non Timber Forest Products and aquaponics ◆ Break down the silos and barriers between forestry, fisheries, and land-based production ◆ Ensure that food security has a home within Provincial Government Frameworks ◆ Establish regulatory framework for harvest/sale of wild game (e.g. deer) in remote area
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Fund business and feasibility planning for composting initiatives ◆ Ensure policies support keeping fish and marine waste within the Region for composting ◆ Fund purchase and installation of rainwater harvesting and storage systems
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Promote employment opportunities that keep people in traditional marine livelihoods ◆ Develop PR campaigns for BC's seafood industry that promote less-consumed products ◆ Map and preserve traditional oyster and shellfish beds ◆ Develop a matrix of marine species being cultured in BC, other than fin fish ◆ Ensure that marine production is an eligible activity in agricultural programming ◆ Increase funding support for value-added initiatives for current catches ◆ Fund automation equipment in order to support production hikes for the export market ◆ Develop a regulatory framework that better supports direct local distribution of seafood ◆ Work with Federal govt. to reduce regulatory hurdles, overlaps, and multi-level permits ◆ Ensure BC and the Maritimes have similar programs; eliminate competitive disadvantage ◆ Follow recommendations of the 2018 Wild Salmon Committee report, particularly Goal 3

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



Nuu-Chah-Nulth

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Develop traditional cooking classes and gardens in schools ◆ Establish scholarship funds for food & agricultural education ◆ Support member attendance at Indigenous Food Network events
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Consider agri-tourism and traditional food practices when developing cultural tours ◆ Employ a member to facilitate community gardens, food storage, and equipment ◆ Engage elders in developing and managing native plant nurseries and gardens ◆ Invite speakers to share examples of successful projects at meetings ◆ Participate in development of an 'Octopus Garden' ◆ Develop a therapeutic farm as an employment and training opportunity ◆ Research and develop Agro-forestry operations
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Develop agricultural infrastructure projects and community food storage facilities ◆ Purchase and manage community-accessible equipment ◆ Establish community gardens, beehives, poultry or small livestock operations ◆ Undertake restoration of traditional clam, mussel and seaweed beds, berry and root gardens, t'ućup (sea urchin) gathering locations, and traditional drying areas
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Tap into programs and grant opportunities for indigenous agricultural initiatives ◆ Develop tourism programs focused on traditional practices ◆ Maintain annual budget and dedicated staff for food and agriculture initiatives
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Develop local purchasing and healthy food policies ◆ Ensure food / agricultural is considered and funded in planning processes ◆ Develop policy outlining how members access and use community gardens. ◆ Create a regulatory and protocol frameworks for traditional harvesting ◆ Develop and share a protocol for appropriately approaching and communicating with Nuu-Chah-Nulth communities and governments
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Provide education to members about composting and water conservation ◆ Develop and manage a community composting centre ◆ Install rain water harvesting systems in communities ◆ Apply for grants for fog water collection and related research projects
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production/Branding	◆ Support development of a formal Nuu-Chah-Nulth food network ◆ Share traditional practices and history with others ◆ Facilitate workshops about healthy lifestyles and traditional food and medicines ◆ Convene member gatherings to discuss bioregional food and cultural practices ◆ Develop and share a framework for culturally-appropriate marketing and branding
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Share knowledge about the range of food traditionally harvested from the sea ◆ Employ members in marine harvesting initiatives ◆ Map and preserve traditional oyster and shellfish beds ◆ Develop seafood infrastructure projects and food storage facilities ◆ Purchase and manage community-accessible equipment

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What Can YOU Do?



Producers/Processors

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Seek out business support, mentorships, and producer networks ◆ Share business plans and expertise with others ◆ Include public education materials as part of marketing and promotional packages ◆ Add business information to online databases
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Offer work/stay arrangements or temporary work to transient populations ◆ Tap into existing employment grants and programs ◆ Offer volunteer opportunities to high school students needing volunteer credits ◆ Develop and teach a curriculum for gardeners and farmers ◆ Investigate and develop community-suggested agricultural business models
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Share in the use of infrastructure ◆ Develop cooperatives or collaborative agreements with others ◆ Apply to develop Class E abattoir facilities ◆ Research land leasing and bartering models and opportunities
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Engage in child care, labor, and equipment swaps with other producers ◆ Incorporate high-value products into efficient and scalable production schemes ◆ Develop cooperatives to unite micro-producers and increase efficiency and profitability ◆ Develop direct relationships with producers and/or processors ◆ Develop business and succession plans and operations and employee manuals ◆ Seek support from industry associations
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Develop and participate in a peer support and lobbying group ◆ Write letters to and share data and concerns with government representatives
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Collect compost and compostable waste from residents and businesses ◆ Keep small livestock such as rabbits to recycle green waste and generate manure ◆ Research and use sustainable and efficient design and maintenance systems ◆ Consider establishing aquaponics systems to deliver plant nutrients and recycle water ◆ Grow crops as carbon fodder in a composting program ◆ Apply for a kelp harvesting license for compost fodder ◆ Install rain water harvesting and storage systems
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production/Branding	◆ Include local and indigenous ingredients within recipes and value-added products (e.g. salal, fir tips, kelp, sea asparagus etc.) ◆ Include stories and historical anecdotes in sales promotions
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Work together to develop Community-Supported-Fishery operations ◆ Tap into existing export markets and labor or volunteer opportunities ◆ Consider agri-tourism events for promotional and financial inputs ◆ Route waste to composting operations or develop composting infrastructure ◆ Keep processing opportunities available to other producers at the local level ◆ Access grants to develop secondary fish processing facilities locally (e.g. fish sticks)

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



Restaurants/Retailers

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Increase Food, Cultivation, and Business Literacy	◆ Participate in garden-to-table culinary programs at local schools ◆ Participate in a community forum to share product needs and foster relationship-building and development of purchase agreements with local producers
Increase Youth, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, & Employment Projects	◆ Identify high demand and desirable products
Increase Access to Infrastructure	◆ Consider avenues to allow producer or processor use of equipment or facilities ◆ Develop dedicated marketing promotions for local producer/processor products ◆ Dedicate store space for local food, where residents can sell their extras
Increase Financial Resources	◆ Develop marketing promotions spotlighting local farmers, fishers, foragers, and products ◆ Purchase and make use of 'ugly' vegetables
Reduce Policy and Program Barriers	◆ Develop local purchasing and healthy food policies
Increase Soil and Water Resources	◆ Sort waste according to waste types, including compostables ◆ Shred paper and contribute food scraps to composting operations ◆ Consider hiring a specialist to develop innovative composting schemes, such as blower or high heat, with the funds that currently go to waste tipping fees
Ensure Culturally-Appropriate Food Production and Branding	◆ Develop regional food sections or menu highlights including bioregional and cultural information related to food ◆ Include stories and historical anecdotes in sales promotions
Expand and Diversify Seafood Operations	◆ Include special sections in stores and menus that highlight local seafood and industry information ◆ Cultivate relationships with local producers and processors

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)

What Can YOU Do?



SPECIALIST INTEREST

Supporting Agriculture in Coastal Communities

Teachers	◆ Incorporate a school garden and agricultural literacy into curriculum ◆ Take field trips to coastal production or processing facilities ◆ Develop programming that measures food imports, production, and purchasing habits ◆ Use school gardens to develop business and marketing skills programming ◆ Ensure your school has a productive composting program ◆ Involve children in seafood harvesting and marine industry experiences
Producer Networks	◆ Recruit membership from coastal communities
Parks Canada	◆ Deliver education on wildlife mitigation for producers
Tourism Associations	◆ Include agri-tourism and bioregional food systems in promotions
Distributors	◆ Develop and share lists of desired products & appropriate pricing for producers. ◆ Create avenue for local producers with low production outputs to access services
Vancouver Island Regional Library	◆ Establish coastal seed libraries
Association of BC Farmers' Markets	◆ Allow use of nutrition coupons for low-income residents at markets in areas with low number of primary producers
Community Futures	◆ Offer business development programs that provide support resources and base wages to producers through a start-up period
Landlords	◆ Consider reduced rents for producers/processors or for maintenance of edible gardens
Banks/Credit Unions	◆ Offer free financing or postponed repayment on agricultural loans ◆ Ensure loan requirements are scaleable to small and start-up producers ◆ Include marine producers and processors in low/no-interest agricultural loan options ◆ Allow marine leases to be used as collateral for loans.
Certified Organic Association of BC	◆ Adapt or scale programs to increase accessibility to small and remote producers ◆ Develop new models that better support them in local markets
Institutions	◆ Develop local purchasing and healthy food policies
Businesses	◆ Ensure landscaping installations and services include edibles ◆ Invite producers to manage and harvest edible garden spaces ◆ Stock agricultural inputs (feed, bedding, soil supplements, seed, etc) in retail spaces ◆ Consider avenues for sharing infrastructure or retail space with producers/processors ◆ Offer service fee reductions for producers (massage, bookkeeping, wellness, childcare)

More info within the [Coastal Addendum to the Alberni Agriculture Plan](#)