

# VIU Agricultural Development Program

## General Funding Agreement 2023: Project Tracking

Project Intent: Create a curriculum of micro-credential programs that will support emerging or existing agricultural producers, processors, and supply chain providers to adopt more sustainable, regenerative practices, to integrate Agri-technology and climate adaptation strategies into their practices, and to support the regional Food Hub program.

Financial agreement signed June 20, 2023

- \$8,500 in year 1
- \$10,000 each in years 2 & 3

*Board Resolution, May 10, 2023: "That the CVRD enter into a one-year contribution agreement with Vancouver Island University regarding funding for the part-time Agricultural Coordinator, with consideration around funding for 2024 and 2025 to be brought forward as part of the 2024 budget process."*

Per the agreement, Schedule A – Financial Contribution, the CVRD Board must approve the one-year program report prior to the 2023 payment:

1. The CVRD Board may withhold the One-Year Financial Contribution in whole or in part until it receives and is satisfied with Vancouver Island University -Cowichan One-Year Program Report.
2. The One-Time Fund Contribution is specifically to contribute to a part-time Agricultural Coordinator position and program delivery for the Cowichan region.
3. Vancouver Island University will submit an invoice of \$8,500 for 2023, accompanied by an Agriculture and Food Program Development update, not later than October 31st 2024.

Deliverables (Year 1)	Progress February 2024 (end of Year 1)	Criteria met?
Board resolution states that the funding is for a part-time Agricultural Coordinator	Agriculture Project Development Team members: 1. Dr. Jenny Horn, Agriculture Project Developer (no date provided as to when she became a staff person) 2. Julia Fisher, Agriculture Program Coordinator – hired into the position in June 2023	Yes
Provide an annual report and presentation on project progress to the CVRD Committee of the Whole;	Activity report submitted Feb 2, 2024 for activities from June 2023-present; deadline for submission is Oct 2024	Contract was from June to Dec 2023; funding to be released after approval of the report from VIU

<b>Deliverables (Year 1)</b>	<b>Progress February 2024 (end of Year 1)</b>	<b>Criteria met?</b>
Number of annual networking/partnership meetings hosted in the CVRD: 2- 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providence Farm (VIPCA)</li> <li>2. OUR EcoVillage</li> <li>3. Local livestock producers (unnamed) within the region</li> <li>4. Small Scale Meat Producers Association, Island Meeting, Feb 2023 (not clear where this was held)</li> <li>5. Islands Agricultural Show</li> <li>6. Discussions with Mayor Douglas re AAC, AAP refresh, and related</li> <li>7. Ken Elliott, Native Plant Nursery</li> <li>8. CVRD AgriFood Stakeholders Meetings, Sept &amp; Oct 2023</li> </ol>	Yes
Continue as the lead institution of the Agriculture Special Interest Group with the Continuing Education and Training Association of BC	Cowichan continues to be the lead for the Agriculture Special Interest Group of the Continuing Education and Training Association of BC (CETA BC).	Yes
Number of grant applications submitted to support the development and implementation of the suite of regenerative agriculture curriculum: 2- 4, or until the curriculum is fully developed/implemented	<p>3 Grant submissions; 1 under development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation, Rural Economic, Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Forests Impact Transition – for Cowichan Food and Farm Hub Processing Kitchen (results Spring 2024)</li> <li>2. AgCo Foundation – to support VIU initiatives re agriculture (results early spring 2024)</li> <li>3. Min. of Post-Secondary and Future Skills Micro-Credential fund (potential) (results April 2024)</li> <li>4. Ministry of Post-Secondary education and future skills, Community Workforce Response Grant (under development, deadline Spring 2024)</li> </ol>	Yes