

Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan

April 2020



upland agricultural consulting

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Acknowledgements

The *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan* is a strategic planning document, the result of a community planning initiative led by District of Squamish (DoS) and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) in collaboration with the Squamish Food Policy Council, Upland Agricultural Consulting, the Whistler Centre for Sustainability and in close consultation with BC Ministry of Agriculture.

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Disclaimer Statement:

The Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC are pleased to participate in the production of this publication. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, or the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

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Executive Summary

The *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan (SVAP)* considers agriculture within the current growth and policy context of the region and attempts to identify and anticipate future changes and challenges to the sector. The development and implementation of the *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan* is an important opportunity for elected officials, the agricultural sector, and community organizations to work together toward a more resilient and sustainable local economy.

The four specific objectives of the SVAP are to:

1. Identify opportunities and actions to strengthen agriculture within the community of Squamish and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area D.
2. Protect and increase the productivity of foodlands and the Agricultural Land Reserve.
3. Contribute to the long-term environmental and social health and economic sustainability of the community.
4. Integrate Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and considerations for supporting Indigenous food sovereignty within Traditional Lands and food systems in the region.

An Agriculture Plan focuses on a community's farming area to discover practical solutions to challenges, and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming and ultimately to contribute to the community's long-term sustainability. The intent of agricultural planning is to provide an overview of the current food system, develop policy and regulatory recommendations, and provide an implementation strategy to support the community's agricultural viability. While food security is an important component of a resilient food system, the underlying contributors to household food insecurity (e.g. low-income, housing affordability, job security) are outside the scope of most agricultural plans. Therefore, the majority of the goals, objectives, and actions in the SVAP do not directly address food security and/or household food insecurity.

The development of the SVAP was led by a Steering Committee of local producers, members of the public as well as the Squamish Food Policy Council, local government staff, and consultants. This final report is the culmination of a Background Report (including an Agricultural Profile), a Market Opportunities Analysis, a public survey, open houses, and Steering Committee meetings. Through this public and stakeholder engagement process, a vision statement was crafted, and key goals were identified. The vision statement guiding the SVAP is:

The Squamish Valley supports an ecologically sound and economically diverse agricultural sector, where foodlands and water resources are accessible, protected, and productive.

Farmers and processors have the knowledge and skills to be nimble in a dynamic economic environment, are adaptive to a changing climate, and are part of the solution to mitigate climate impacts while contributing to food security. Growers, foragers, and fishers are supported by well-developed harvesting, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing systems. A combination of traditional and innovative practices ensures that a legacy between generations is sustained. Nutritious food is plentiful and appreciated as part of a resilient food system that reinforces human, ecological, and economic health.

The SVAP identifies a total of 38 recommended actions presented under 6 goals (Table i) at various levels of urgency:

- Ongoing urgency (items needing continuous support): 10 actions
- High urgency (to be implemented in the next 2 years): 14 actions
- Medium urgency (to be implemented in the next 5 years): 12 actions
- Low urgency (to be implemented in the next 10 years): 2 actions

The participation of senior levels of government, agricultural businesses, and community organizations will be essential to realize a resilient, sustainable, and profitable local agricultural sector. Shared leadership and a commitment of resources and ongoing community collaborations and partnerships will be required for full implementation of the actions in this plan. This SVAP is intended to be a robust document that will serve communities within the Squamish Valley for at least the next 10 years.

Table i. SVAP goals and number of recommended actions.

Goal Area	# of actions with DoS as a lead or co-lead	# of actions with SLRD as a lead or co-lead	Total # of recommended actions
1. Expand and encourage agriculture and food production	1	0	4
2. Improve sector growth and market viability	3	0	5
3. Promote stewardship of natural resources and regenerative agricultural practices	3	2	7
4. Plan and prepare for climate change and emergencies	4	4	6
5. Align policies and regulations for agriculture and food	7	7	8
6. Increase engagement, communication, awareness, and education	0	0	8
TOTAL	18	13	38

Acronyms

ACF	Ashlu Creek Foundation
AGRI	BC Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
ALUI	Agricultural Land Use Inventory
BCYA	BC Young Agrarians
BFI	Brackendale Farmers Institute
DoS	District of Squamish
EMBC	Emergency Management BC
ENV	BC Ministry of Environment
FLNRORD	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LAFS	Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society
MAH	BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
OCP	Official Community Plan
SD48	School District 48
SES	Squamish Environmental Society
SFMS	Squamish Farmers Market Society
SFPC	Squamish Food Policy Council
SLRD	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
SLRFTF	Squamish-Lillooet Regional Food Task Force
SSFPA	Small Scale Food Processors Association
SSMPA	Small Scale Meat Producers Association
SVAP	Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
VCH	Vancouver Coastal Health

1.0 Introduction

The *Squamish Valley Agricultural Plan (SVAP)* provides a coordinated approach to support agriculture and food systems in the Squamish Valley over the next 10 years. The Squamish Valley includes Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) reserve lands as well as land under the local government jurisdictions of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Electoral Area D and the District of Squamish (DoS) (Figure 1). In order to achieve regional resiliency goals, the SVAP is an essential tool for the DoS and the SLRD Electoral Area D, working in collaboration with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), the province, and stakeholders. The SVAP provides a clear vision and roadmap of actions to maximize the agricultural and food sector potential of the Squamish Valley. The plan considers how rural, urban, and residential agriculture can play a role in the production of food, enhancing awareness of local food, and fostering community connections for a sustainable food system.

In the context of the global climate crisis and the DoS Climate Emergency Resolution, the SVAP recognizes that agriculture has a significant impact on GHG emissions, and thus encourages climate-friendly farming practices. For example, regenerative agriculture presents an opportunity to draw down and store carbon from the atmosphere. The SVAP acknowledges that the participation and partnerships between all levels of government, agricultural businesses, community organizations, and the public is essential to realize a resilient, sustainable, and profitable regional agricultural sector.

Regenerative Agriculture is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, and improves watershed health. One of the goals of regenerative agriculture is to capture and store carbon in soil and biomass, thereby acting as a carbon sink.

1.1 Agriculture Plans

An agricultural plan focuses on a community's farming areas to discover practical solutions to challenges and to identify opportunities to strengthen the agricultural sector and to contribute to the community's long-term sustainability.¹ The intent of agricultural planning is to provide an overview of the current food system and develop policy and regulatory recommendations, and an implementation strategy, to support the agricultural viability of the community. While food security is an important component of a resilient food system, the underlying contributors to household food insecurity (e.g. low-incomes, housing affordability, job security) are outside the scope of most agricultural plans. Therefore, the majority of the goals, objectives, and actions in the SVPA do not directly address food security and/or household food insecurity.

1.2 Study Area

The Squamish Valley is an area of 3,047 km² encompassing the floodplains of the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and a small portion of the District of Squamish. The Squamish Valley includes 4,066 hectares of agricultural lands. See Figure 1 for a mapped representation of the area. The Squamish Valley plan area is situated within the unceded core traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). The Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) has occupied and governed their traditional territory since beyond recorded history and the Nation continues to practice their customs and traditions, which are strongly interconnected with the

¹ Smith, B. 1998. Planning for Agriculture. BC Ministry of Agriculture publication. <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/822420-1.pdf>

lands and waters. Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) has used and occupied lands within the Squamish valley for fishing, hunting, and edible and medicinal plant and herb cultivation and harvesting since time immemorial². Squamish place names exist throughout the area and, in many instances, describe that place within the context of Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) land, cultural, and archaeological sites of significance located throughout the watersheds in the Squamish Valley.³

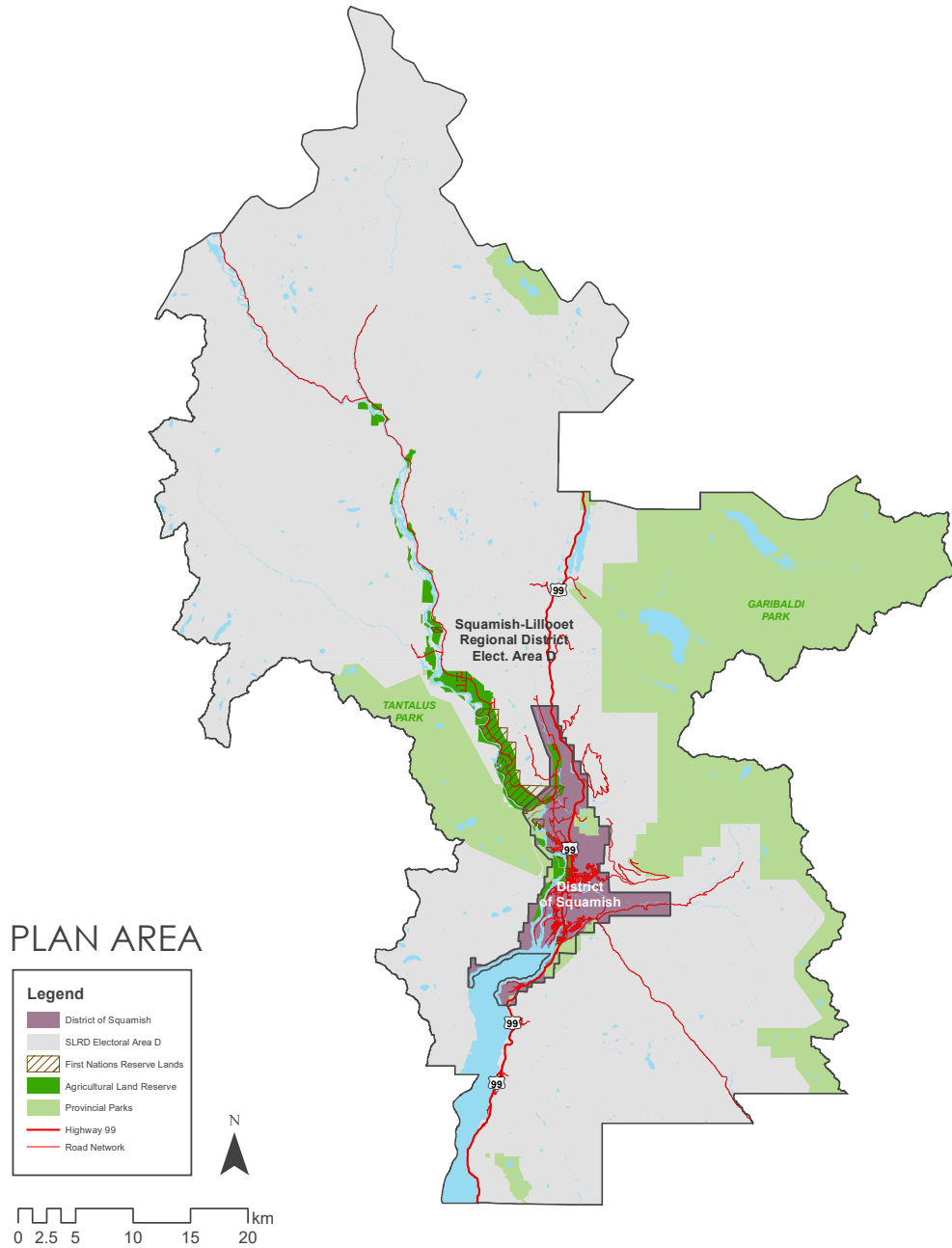


Figure 1. Map of the SVAP plan area.

² [Our Land](#). Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). Accessed March 2019.

³ [Integrated Flood Hazard Management Plan](#). 2017. Kerr Wood Leidal Associates LTD.

1.3 Background Documents

This Agricultural Plan is the culmination of a *Background Report* (including an Agricultural Profile), a *Market Opportunities Analysis*, a public survey, open houses, and Steering Committee meetings. Background documents and findings from the community engagement and stakeholder processes are available for download from the project [website](#) and are summarized in the following section.

1.3.1 Agricultural Background Report

The *Background Report*, produced during the SVAP process, provides an overview of the biophysical features of the agricultural land base, including soils, water, and climate and a profile of the agricultural sector. It is an important jumping off point for the development of a robust and actionable agriculture plan for the region.

In addition to outlining the biophysical features of the region, applicable policy documents are covered in the background report. The DoS and SLRD Area D OCPs and zoning bylaws are reviewed within the context of agriculture. An overview of emergency management plans, flood hazard studies, and community wildfire plans are also included. Some of the highlights of the *Background Report* are summarized below.

Within the Squamish Valley, agricultural activities take place on private land within the DoS, SLRD Electoral Area D, Provincial Crown land, and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) reserve. The climate and soils in the Squamish Valley are well suited for agricultural production, especially with season extension methods (e.g. greenhouses) and sustainable drainage and soil management. As the effects of climate change continue, appropriate water conservation and irrigation methods must be considered for successful production.

Agricultural operations need to consider emergency management plans and strategies as properties in both the Upper and Lower Squamish Valley are at risk from flooding, soil erosion, and wildfires, and there is only one road leading into and out of the community. Figure 3 outlines the overlap between the floodplain and the ALR in the plan area.

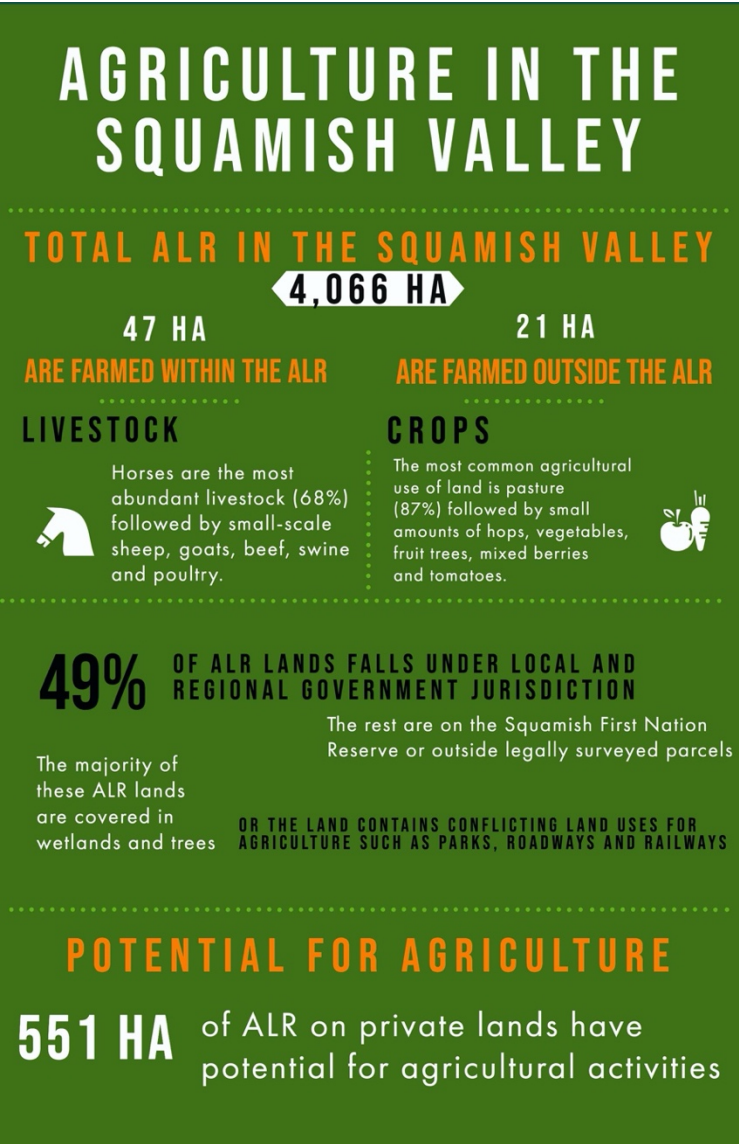


Figure 2 Results of the 2017 Agricultural Land Use Inventory undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

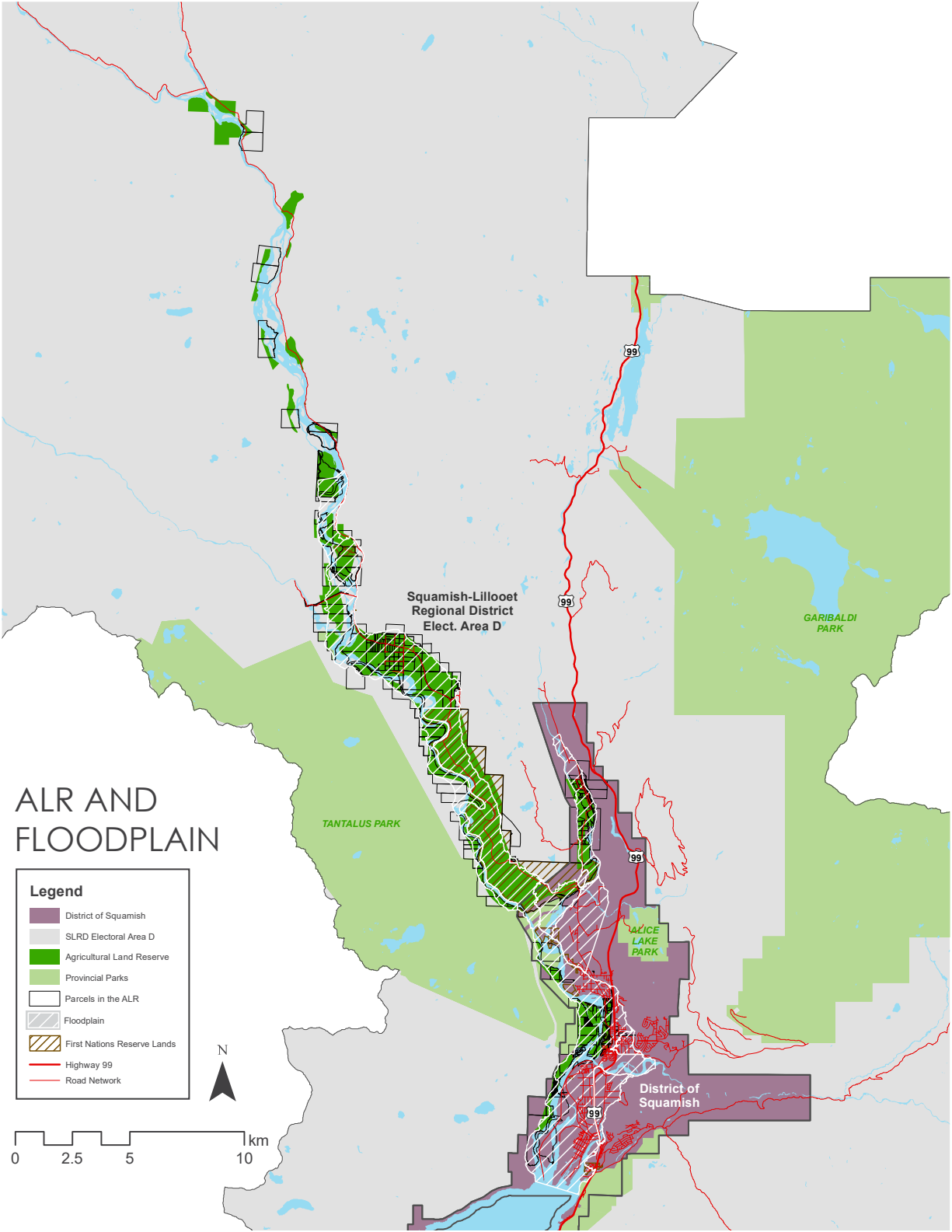


Figure 3 Agricultural Land Reserve Parcels and Floodplain Extent

Detailed mapping information related to agricultural lands, environmentally sensitive areas, terrain hazards and other zoning designations can be found on the DoS and SLRD websites:

- [District of Squamish Web Map](#)
- [Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Web Map.](#)

In 2017, a comprehensive [Agricultural Land Use Inventory \(ALUI\)](#) was undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Squamish Valley. An ALUI is a windshield-based parcel-by-parcel analysis of agricultural land use and land cover. The information uncovered during a ALUI creates a baseline of information to track changes in land use over time. ALUI data can also be integrated with GIS mapping software for local area planning. The Squamish Valley ALUI includes all land within the ALR as well as land outside the ALR that has been zoned as Agriculture locally. The Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) chose not to include reserve lands within the ALUI. Key findings of the ALUI are presented in Figure 2. Table 1 illustrates the various jurisdictions within which ALR lands exist, as summarized within the ALUI.

While the effective amount of ALR that is most likely to be viable for production in the near-term is 1,986 ha, representing private and Crown ALR, in practice that number may overestimate what is readily available for farming. Crown ALR land in the Squamish Valley is largely inaccessible, as it is mainly located in an area of the Squamish River watershed that is not connected to roads or other transportation routes. This is reinforced by the fact that only 2% of the effective ALR was actively being farmed. Within the privately held ALR, 46% of the land is considered unavailable for agriculture due to conflicting land uses or farming limitations (e.g. parks, roadways, railways, small residential lots).

Effective ALR is the total ALR area excluding ALR on First Nation reserves and outside of legally surveyed parcels. Effective ALR can be used to compare land cover categories across different jurisdictions.

Table 1. Proportions of ALR lands in each jurisdiction relevant to this Agricultural Plan.

	District of Squamish ALR (ha)	SLRD Electoral Area D ALR (ha)	Total ALR Area (ha)
Private and Crown ALR	499	1,487	1,986
Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Reserve Land	163	1,133	1,296
ALR Outside legally surveyed parcels	135	649	784
Total ALR Area	797	3,269	4,066

The ALUI also explores parcel size, which is an important consideration for viable agricultural activities. There are pros and cons to different sizes of farmland parcels as follows:

- **Large Parcels**
 - Tend to allow farmers greater flexibility in expanding or changing their type of operation as markets shift.
 - Accommodate equipment more efficiently and reduce the need to move farm equipment on public roads between farming sites.
- **Small Parcels**
 - Well suited to some types of agriculture (e.g. intensive market gardens, nurseries, poultry).

- Provide opportunities for small-scale enterprises that can contribute to local food security.

However, the number of economically viable farming options generally decreases with a reduced parcel size (e.g. dairy, blueberries) due to economies of scale on small parcels. Small parcels may be suitable for start-up farmers. However, they generally cost more per hectare than larger parcels. Furthermore, smaller parcels are more impacted by bylaws designed to reduce potential land use conflicts, such as setbacks from lot lines and road allowances.

Figure 3 shows that there are a variety of parcel sizes available for farming in the Squamish Valley. It is particularly important to note that there are parcels available for farming that are between 16-64 ha, which allows for the economies of scale associated with large parcels. These parcels have high potential to invigorate agriculture in the region, if potential farmers can be encouraged to buy or lease them, clear them and put them into production.

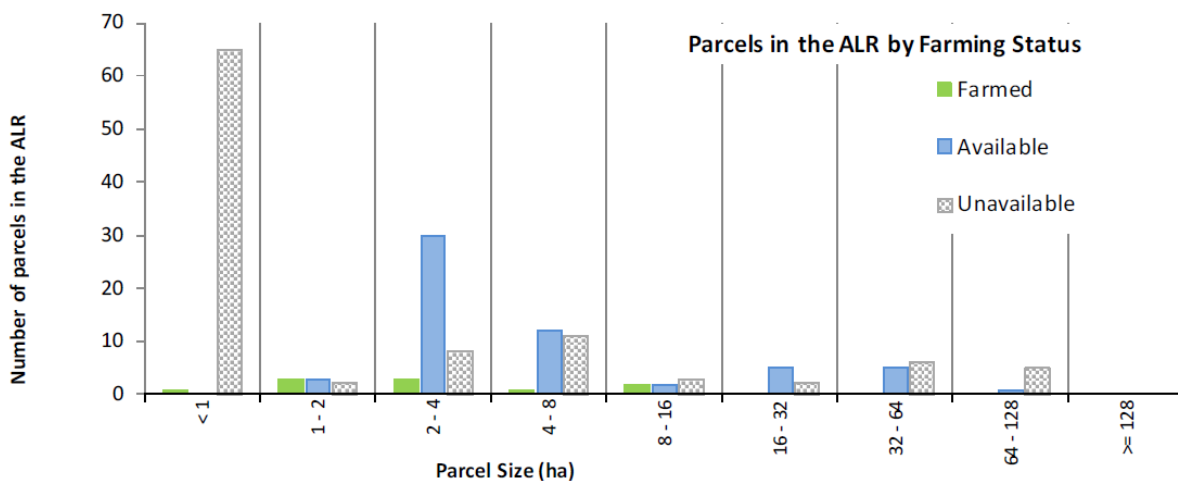


Figure 4. The distribution and size of privately owned ALR parcels by their farming status. Nearly all parcels less than 1 ha in size are “Unavailable for farming” due to residential use of the land base⁴.

1.3.2 Market Opportunities Analysis

Current economic activities of the agricultural and food sector in the region were used to inform the actions within this Agricultural Plan and point to the potential opportunities for agriculture and food businesses. The accompanying *Market Opportunities Analysis* (MOA) report outlines these findings. A brief summary is provided here to set the context for the SVAP recommendations.

The MOA was developed using the following sources:

- Literature review and sector-specific data and research;
- Responses from surveys;
- Discussions with members of the public and stakeholders;
- Results from one-on-one interviews with key local stakeholders; and
- Feedback from the SVAP Steering Committee.

⁴ [Agricultural Land Use Inventory](#), 2017. District of Squamish & Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area D. British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture.

The MOA includes following subsections:

1. Scope, engagement, and literature review
2. BC sector outlook and local food demand and supply
3. Infrastructure to support local market expansion
4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis
5. Market potential for different agricultural products
6. Success stories and resources
7. Conclusions and recommendations

Market support for food produced and processed locally is increasing within the DoS and SLRD over time. Despite this support, it has not resulted in a large impact on the agri-food employment sector. District of Squamish residents spend a collective \$8 million on food per month.⁵ This indicates that there is a significant amount of capital being spent on agriculture and agri-food businesses outside the community. In 2019, there were less than 150 jobs in Squamish in the agriculture and agri-food sectors.⁶

Currently, the Squamish region has a limited number of established support services and businesses (such as food storage, transportation/distribution, abattoirs and processing facilities) for agricultural activities. Farms existing in the region mainly sell their products directly to consumers at the farmers' market or through direct orders and deliveries. Local producers need to look outside of the community to purchase inputs for their farms: over 95% of agricultural inputs and services are purchased from suppliers located outside of the Squamish Valley area. At the same time, they also need to send their products outside of the community for value-added processing, representing nearly \$4.5 million in lost local food processing revenues (Table 2).

Table 2 Gaps in food processing and manufacturing in the Squamish region. (Data source: Emsi Input-Output model 2015).

Food Processing and Manufacturing Activities	% of purchases imported from outside of the Squamish area	Estimated value of imported purchases
Grain and oilseed milling	84.9%	\$2,222,134
Sugar and confectionery (e.g. chocolate, candy, etc.)	55.2%	\$508,873
Fruit, vegetable and specialty food manufacturing	97.3%	\$395,120
Dairy product manufacturing	99.3%	\$253,028
Meat manufacturing (e.g. abattoirs, cut & wrap shops)	100.0%	\$234,882
Other food manufacturing (e.g. nuts, teas, spices/dressings, etc.)	91.4%	\$862,170

While the current agriculture and agri-food sector in Squamish is small, the region has many strengths including:

- Good quality water and soils;
- A core base of established farmers;
- Proximity to large markets
- Strong support within the local community; and
- Various food system organizations that promote local food.

⁵ [Food Costing in BC 2017: Assessing the affordability of healthy eating](#). 2018. BC Centre for Disease Control. Assuming a household of three spends approximately \$780/month on food. Does not include food purchased at restaurants.

⁶ District of Squamish, Emsi Q1 2019 Data Set. Input-Output model.

A variety of crops are suitable for the Squamish Valley’s growing conditions and opportunities exist for niche product development and expanding retail outlets for local products. Additional statistics regarding jobs, businesses market opportunities and best practices within the agricultural and food sector can be found in the MOA report published separately.

1.3.3 Engagement Process and Results

The process of developing the SVAP involved robust public and stakeholder consultation, research, and data analysis (Figure 4).

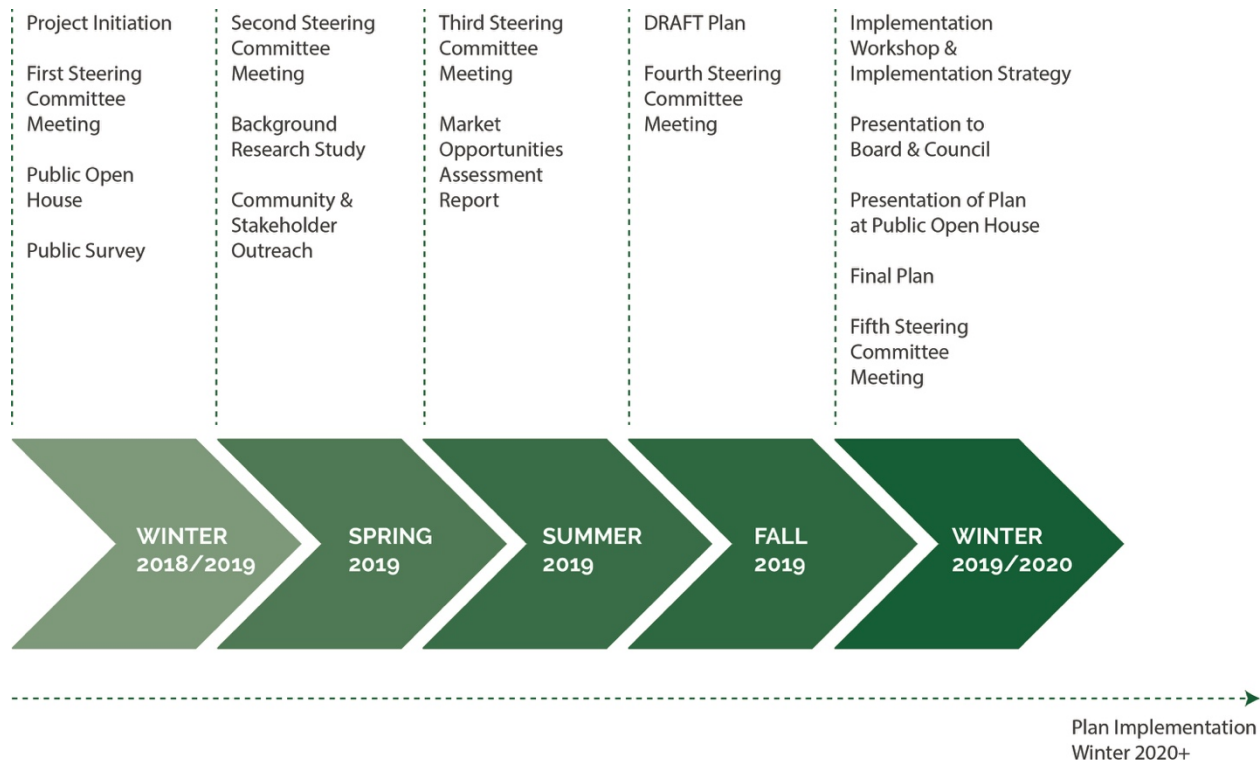


Figure 5. Plan development and public engagement process timeline.

A variety of public engagement methods were used to solicit feedback for the SVAP throughout 2019 and early 2020. The goal of the engagement was to develop a vision statement for the project and to receive input on a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats (SWOT) analysis to identify issues and opportunities for improving the local food system. The engagement strategy was based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)’s engagement goals and spectrum, including: Inform, Consult, Involve and Collaborate levels of engagement.

Throughout engagement, multiple efforts were made to reach out to, and include, Squamish First Nation in the Agricultural Plan. However, the project team did not receive any response from leadership or staff. Some input from Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) members was received and incorporated through the broader engagement program, including an elder’s lunch visit at Totem Hall. This involved hosting a table at Totem Hall to discuss food system issues and host conversations around food security, food traditions, and a vision for the plan. Acknowledging that the Nation has multiple projects at this time, project partners will continue to reach out on an ongoing basis throughout implementation to

establish connections and strengthen relations. The Agriculture Plan sets intention to hold space and work with the Nation wherever there is mutual interest to grow our understanding of and integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives in any future agriculture and food system initiatives.

The *Engagement Summary Report*, published as a separate document, details the range of activities undertaken in the SVAP process within the IAP2's engagement spectrum. They included:

- Multiple Steering Committee meetings;
- A community survey that was distributed and made available online;
- A kick-off meeting and open house in Squamish;
- An information table at Totem Hall during a Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Elder's lunch;
- An information booth at the Squamish Farmers' Market and the Brackendale Fall Fair;
- Farm and site visits in the Squamish Valley;
- A presentation to the Ashlu Creek Community Foundation community meeting; and
- Individual phone calls and emails.

Highlights of feedback that was provided include:

Personal connection with farming

- Through the survey, many stakeholders indicated a personal connection to farming: they garden (69%), forage for food (22%), or have other connections to farming including previous generations of farmers.

Top strengths of farming and food production in the Squamish Valley

- Input received both directly from farmers and the survey indicated the two top strengths of farming and food production were 'access to markets – local and regional' and 'good support from local consumers,' followed by 'public is well educated about local food,' and 'strong cultural history of farming' and 'good soils and water supply.'

Top challenges affecting farming and food production in the Squamish Valley

- Survey responses indicated the most significant challenge was the 'high costs and capital inputs of land,' followed by 'limited supporting infrastructure,' 'flooding and other natural hazards,' and 'local government land use policies and regulations (and lack of enforcement).' Additional input included threat of land development.

2.0 Vision, Goals, and Objectives

The *Agricultural Background Report*, *MOA*, and *Engagement Summary Report* all contain detailed information and data that inform the vision, goals, objectives, and actions of the plan. The SVAP includes an Implementation Strategy that sorts actions into prioritized categories and timelines. A Monitoring and Evaluation plan will be used to identify measurable performance indicators to track the progress of the SVAP over time. Appendix A outlines funding opportunities available to help support the recommended actions.

2.1 Vision Statement

The vision statement describes a clear, comprehensive future state and intention for agriculture in the Squamish valley, while anticipating possible future events and developments with imagination and wisdom.

The Squamish Valley supports an ecologically sound and economically diverse agricultural sector, where foodlands and water resources are accessible, protected, and productive. Farmers and processors have the knowledge and skills to be nimble in a dynamic economic environment, are adaptive to a changing climate, and are part of the solution to mitigate climate impacts while contributing to food security. Growers, foragers, and fishers are supported by well-developed harvesting, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing systems. A combination of traditional and innovative practices ensures that a legacy between generations is sustained. Nutritious food is plentiful and appreciated as part of a resilient food system that reinforces human, ecological, and economic health.



Figure 6. Members of the community gathering to discuss the draft plan.

2.2 Key Goals

The six key goals presented here reflect the vision statement and overall aims articulated and amalgamated through feedback received during engagement. These goals provide direction to identify specific actions to strengthen the Squamish Valley agriculture and food sector. The goals and associated actions are not presented in order of importance; all are critical for improving agricultural capacity. A climate and environmental stewardship lens is applied throughout to encourage agricultural practices and food system initiatives that are ecologically sound and sustainable.

Goal 1: Expand and Encourage Agriculture and Food Production

(4 actions)

Goal 2: Improve Sector Growth and Market Viability

(5 actions)

Goal 3: Promote Stewardship of Natural Resources and Regenerative Agricultural Practices

(7 actions)

Goal 4: Plan and Prepare for Climate Change and Emergencies

(6 actions)

Goal 5: Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations for Agriculture and Food

(8 actions)

Goal 6: Increase Communication, Awareness, and Education

(8 actions)

Each SVAP goal represents an ideal or condition to be achieved. The associated objective describes the statement of intent, or the means to achieve the goal. A detailed list of recommended actions follow, along with their identified priority levels. The actions are intended to be achievable, measurable, relevant and time-bound where possible. The alignment of each action with current initiatives by local, regional or provincial governments and local organizations is listed whenever possible. Actions within each goal area are presented in the order of urgency:

- **Ongoing:** This action may have already begun but requires continued, renewed support to achieve success.
- **High:** Requires urgent action within the next couple of years for progress to be made and/or for other actions to succeed.
- **Medium:** Not critical for actions to move forward, but necessary and important. Target to complete within five years.
- **Low:** Less important, but still necessary for improvements in the local agricultural system. Target to complete within ten years.

In Section 4, options for implementation are identified for further discussion. Through discussions with the SVAP Steering Committee, it has been determined that the Squamish Food Policy Council (SFPC) will act as the lead for the shared implementation of many of the SVAP recommended actions as well as communicating with stakeholders about action progress. Therefore, SFPC is listed as a lead organization responsible for many of the recommended actions.

3.0 Recommended Actions

3.1 Expand and Encourage Agriculture and Food Production (Goal 1)

Objective: Increase agricultural land productivity and improve access to foodlands in the Squamish Valley, by removing barriers to support existing farm businesses, encourage new entrants, and attract new producers to the area.

One of the top concerns from agricultural stakeholders consulted for the Plan is the high cost of land and high cost of capital inputs into land for viable farming operations. With appropriate policies, regulations and community initiatives in place, some of these land access challenges may be alleviated. In order to ensure land continues to be farmed and accessed for farming, local planning and partnerships with other agencies can result in the removal of barriers and increased support for farmland protection policies, regulations and sector growth. The biophysical characteristics of the Squamish Valley, such as good soils and climactic conditions, present many opportunities for a variety of crops to be grown successfully. While climate change may challenge future growing conditions and increase flooding and droughts in the Squamish Valley, there are also opportunities for innovative growing practices that focus on maintaining and enhancing the natural environment.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
1.1	<p><i>Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally.</i></p> <p>A. Work with Young Agrarians to facilitate land linking with a focus on already cleared land, agro-forestry and highlight the fact that there are some large parcels (16-64 ha) that are potentially available for agricultural activities. Promote farming opportunities in Squamish through this provincial network.</p> <p>B. Discuss with existing landowners of agriculturally viable land about what can be grown and opportunities to lease or rent their land out to growers. Engagement can be done through a workshop or information brochures.</p> <p>C. Publish annual reports regarding match-making endeavours to further encourage and highlight successful partnerships.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFPC work with BC Young Agrarians 	<p>Lead: SFPC BCYA</p> <p>Support: AGRI BFI ACF</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
1.2	<p><i>Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and determine the feasibility of a community farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.</i></p> <p>A. Use the results from the ALUI and the work undertaken by SFPC (e.g. Food Asset Map, Community Farm proposal, and conversations with SD48) to identify lands with opportunities for increasing agricultural production. This could include land in public parks (or other public lands), schools, developments, and other institutional lands. Ensure agricultural production practices also consider methods to avoid potential wildlife conflicts.</p> <p>B. Host a discussion between farmers, AGRI, FLNRORD, SLRD, and DoS to share results and seek creative opportunities to farm these areas.</p> <p>C. Determine feasibility of a community farm and/or farmland trust for the Squamish Valley.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRI mandate to increase farmland productivity • ALUI mapping and data resources • DoS OCP “Food Production” objectives and policies, Objective 24.9, Policies 24.10(d & e) • SLRD Area D OCP Policies 4.1.8 and 5.5.20 • SFPC Community Gardens and Food Asset Map • SquamishCAN Community Farm Proposal • DoS Wildlife Friendly Landscaping 	<p>Lead: SFPC AGRI</p> <p>Support: DoS SLRD SD48 Post-Secondary Institutions</p>	High
1.3	<p><i>Deepen dialogue with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) on foodlands and agricultural activities.</i></p> <p>A. Engage with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) members to outline results of this plan, the potential market opportunities highlighted in the MOA, and agricultural initiatives the communities are interested in pursuing, and highlight opportunities for sustainable agricultural practices such agro-forestry.</p> <p>B. Explore existing funding opportunities to initiate a new project or expand upon an existing project related to food security (e.g. traditional foods practices, community vegetable plots).</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Objectives and policies Section 26.9, Policy 29.10h) • SLRD Area D OCP Section 5.5 (Objective 5.5.1) • Federal Funding: Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative Guide • Provincial Funding: BC Indigenous Agriculture Development Program 	<p>Lead: SFPC DoS Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw</p> <p>Support: SLRD AGRI</p>	Medium

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
1.4	<p><i>Disseminate information about range of crops that can be grown in the Squamish Valley.</i></p> <p>A. Create a succinct resource to build knowledge regarding the range of crops suitable to Squamish with the potential for market growth. Make this information available to existing and potential new farmers online and/or through print and connect farmers with the Market Opportunities Analysis and Agricultural Background Report completed for this project and AGRI farm business resources.</p> <p>B. Promote existing information on regionally adapted successful crop varieties available from regional seed suppliers, AGRI, and universities; support local seed saving and seed adaptation initiatives.</p> <p>C. Set up a meeting with the BC Eco Seed Co-op and UBC Seed Trial group to discuss appropriate test crop varieties best suited to Squamish Valley.</p> <p>D. Invite AGRI to hold sessions under Canada Agriculture Partnership funds to workshop on crops best suited to Squamish Valley.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Young Agrarians initiative • UBC BC Seed Trials & BC Eco Seed Co-op • Squamish Seed Library and Seedy Sunday 	<p>Lead: SFPC BFI</p> <p>Support: AGRI SES BCYA</p>	Medium

3.2 Improve Sector Growth and Market Viability (Goal 2)

Objective: Enhance agricultural market viability of the Squamish Valley through strengthened value chains, labour market, and relationships.

One of the top challenges for Squamish Valley producers is accessing retail and restaurant markets and the limited supporting services (e.g. abattoir, commercial kitchens for food processing, distribution methods) in the region for agricultural and food activities. Squamish Valley food growers and processors currently sell their products within the Sea-to-Sky and Vancouver markets. Selling consistent quantities to grocers and restaurants can be a challenge. However, success may be achieved by growing and marketing in a collaborative manner and adding agriculture services and processing infrastructure closer to Squamish, to close the food system loop locally with regard to production, processing, consumption, and waste management. Residents in the Squamish region have expressed interest in purchasing and supporting local food production and initiatives. Local retailers have a keen interest in offering local products for sale and have expressed that there is strong demand for Squamish Valley products. Many of the actions recommended within Goal 2 could be undertaken as part of a larger agriculture sector strategy that focuses on connecting local and regional producers and businesses to optimize shared resources for collaboration. Emphasis can be placed on the ecological benefit of a localized system (e.g. reduced Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) from transportation) to align with the DoS Climate Emergency Declaration and Climate Action Plan. A sector strategy would allow for a strengthening of the economic development lens and aligning with the Market Opportunities Analysis.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
2.1	<p><i>Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Squamish Valley.</i></p> <p>Use the results of the Market Opportunity Analysis report in the development of a broader economic development strategy for agriculture in the Squamish Valley, aligned with the sector strategy work emerging within the DoS. Opportunities that could be highlighted include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Aggregation, processing, and packaging ii. Food Hub feasibility iii. Retail and restaurant relationship-building iv. Distribution strategy v. Jobs and labour skills vi. Traditional Foods & Culturally Diverse Foods vii. Import Replacement <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRI Business Development Workshops • Investment Agriculture Foundation: Agri-Food Futures Fund and Canada-BC Agri-Innovation • SFPC Food Asset Map • DoS OCP Objective 26.13 and Policies 26.14(a & b), 26.10f 	<p>Lead: DoS EcDev Office</p> <p>Support: SLRD SFPC BFI AGRI IAF</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRI BuyBC and FeedBC initiatives • Capital Region's Closing the Supply Gap initiative • SLRFTF initiatives • DoS Employment Lands Needs Assessment Study • AGRI Agricultural Co-operatives A Start Up Guide 		
2.2	<p><i>Identify and secure a location and develop a funding strategy to establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market.</i></p> <p>A. Assess work completed to date on the establishment of a year-round permanent farmers market. B. Engage with the SFMS and vendors to examine suitability and interest. C. Obtain funding for a feasibility strategy (if required) and a business plan.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP Objective 26.9 and Policy 26.10(g) • SFPC Squamish Food Charter • BC Association of Farmers Markets resources • DoS Employment Lands Needs Assessment Study 	<p>Lead: SFPC SFMS DoS EcDev Office</p> <p>Support: BC Association of Farmers Markets</p>	High
2.3	<p><i>Identify and pursue viable solutions for local meat processing.</i></p> <p>A. Engage with local meat producers to find solutions to the regional need for meat processing, such as Class D licensing to allow on -farm slaughter and mobile 'truck and gun' services. B. Work with representatives of provincial and local agencies to provide support for creation of slaughter and food safety plans and to educate market and agri-food sector about legality concerns. C. Investigate a collaborative and/or cooperative approach to developing an abattoir if and when the amount of local production merits this infrastructure. Consider methods to mitigate potential increase in attracting dangerous wildlife.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-Scale Meat Producers Association • Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society abattoir feasibility study 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support: BFI SSMPA LAFS</p>	Medium

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
2.4	<p>Support local procurement initiatives. Continue to advance ongoing work by supporting the SFPC’s development of a Regional Food Procurement Pledge and Policy in partnership with the SLRFTF to create opportunities to bring more local food into local institutions (e.g., schools, health centres, community events, etc.).</p> <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policy 26.10i) • SLRFTF initiatives • AGRI BuyBC and FeedBC initiatives 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support: AGRI SD48 SLRFTF VCH</p>	Medium
2.5	<p>Create a “Made in the Squamish Valley” branding and marketing strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create a regional farm guide, updated annually using data from the existing Food Asset Map, to be distributed at tourist info, local food establishments, farmers markets, etc. B. Develop and implement a marketing strategy that will help purchasers identify local Squamish Valley products, with the goal of improving consumer awareness locally and wherever Squamish Valley products are sold. C. Work with local government and local businesses, and encourage the use of their online presence to show their support for local products and producers through social media, websites, and other digital platforms. <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Fresh Guide • SFPC Food Asset Map • AGRI BuyBC and FeedBC initiatives • Squamish Economic Steering Group Brand & Marketing Working Group • Chamber of Commerce • Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society “Lillooet Grown” branding initiative • Squamish Craft Beverage Association • Squamish Farmers Market Society 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support: SFMS BFI DoS EcDev Office Squamish Chamber of Commerce Tourism Squamish</p>	Low

3.3 Promote Stewardship of Natural Resources and Regenerative Agricultural Practices (Goal 3)

Objective: Steward natural resources and the environment through sustainable and regenerative agricultural management practices.

The Squamish Valley is fortunate to have a warm summer climate and fertile soil, and the ability to support a wide variety of crops. Farmers and residents in the Valley note the benefit and importance of the local natural ecology of the land. Environmentally sound farming practices will help to conserve water, replenish the soil, and provide habitat for pollinators. However, there are some environmental challenges facing farmers in the region. Ungulates (deer, elk), dangerous wildlife (bears, wolves, cougars, coyotes, bobcats), and even waterfowl pose threats to farmers’ livelihoods.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
3.1	<p><i>Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health.</i></p> <p>A. Continue to support the health of native pollinators through habitat preservation and adoption of agroecological principles. This will also have a positive impact on other pollinators.</p> <p>B. Ensure that educational information is available (e.g., online) on types of local pollinators and plants that enhance their habitat, and on how pesticide use impacts pollinators.</p> <p>C. Consider funding initiatives to increase pollinator habitat in both urban and rural areas.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP “Food Production” objectives and policies • SLRD Area D OCP section 5.5 • Bee BC partnership through Investment Agriculture Foundation and AGRI • Quest University pollinator corridor research • City of Vancouver Neonicotinoid Pesticide Use report and municipal ban • BC Landscape Architects Society • BC Landscape and Nursery Association 	<p>Lead: SFPC DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI IAF Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council</p>	Ongoing
3.2	<p><i>Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.</i></p> <p>A. Support the agricultural community by enforcing SLRD Noxious Weeds Control Bylaw #1542, which prohibits the accumulation of noxious weeds on private property and provide for cost recovery.</p> <p>B. Support the agricultural community by enforcing the District of Squamish Invasive Plant Disposal Protocol, developed in partnership with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS Invasive Plant Disposal Protocol • SLRD Noxious Weeds Control Bylaw #1542 	<p>Lead: SLRD DoS</p> <p>Support: Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
3.3	<p><i>Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.</i></p> <p>A. Meet with agricultural operators and urban growers to examine their experiences with wildlife conflicts. Use this opportunity to share existing local and provincial resources regarding harm reduction between dangerous wildlife, ungulates, waterfowl, and the agricultural community.</p> <p>B. Continue to participate in local, regional and provincial discussions that seek management solutions to passively and actively deter wildlife populations from damaging crops, fencing, and livestock.</p> <p>C. Explore and promote innovative ways to reduce wildlife conflicts. Provide resources about best management practices related to reducing the potential for human-wildlife, livestock-wildlife and crop-wildlife conflicts in an effort to ensure harm reduction and mitigate human-caused wildlife destruction.</p> <p>D. Organize workshops on electric fencing and other measures to mitigate attracting wildlife and create a list of resources for farmers regarding wildlife-related risk reduction programs and regulations.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLRD Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1551, 2018 • DoS Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 2053, 2009 • DoS Wildlife Coordinator • ENV's Natural Resource Officers' mandates • BC Wildlife Act • SLRD Area D OCP section 5.5 • BC's Environmental Farm Plan program • BC Agriculture Council: Wildlife Program Development – Final Report • AGRI Farm Practices: Wildlife Control • Resources for farming in bear habitat: Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee 	<p>Lead: SFPC DoS Wildlife Coordinator</p> <p>Support: AGRI DoS Wildlife Working Group ENV</p>	Ongoing
3.4	<p><i>Encourage farmers to participate in the Environmental Farm Plan Program.</i></p> <p>A. Provide information to landowners and farmers about the benefits of participating in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program, a provincial-federal initiative that allows members to access funding to enhance sustainability on the farm. The EFP Reference Guide provides over 400 pages of environmental best practices and regulatory compliance information for producers.</p> <p>B. Provide resources to farmers about Integrated Pest Management for small-scale farms.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC's Environmental Farm Plan program • SLRD Area D OCP section 5.5 • BC Climate Action Initiative – IPM research Project in Squamish-Lillooet 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	High

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
3.5	<p><i>Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.</i></p> <p>A. Promote regenerative agriculture as an important means for mitigating climate change through viable production methods. Host workshops and presentations for farmers and the general public and provide online and print educational resources. Ensure farmers are aware of the provincial environmental management best practices and regulations, particularly the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice.</p> <p>B. Explore and promote innovative ways to integrate regenerative agriculture into the Squamish context, such as through agroforestry on treed ALR land, as well as Market Viability and Sector Growth (Goal 2). Opportunities that can be highlighted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Made in Squamish” Branding ○ Compost facilities ○ Carbon Credit Programs <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS climate emergency declaration • Certified Organic Association of BC • BC Association of Regenerative Agriculture Certification • BC Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management 	<p>Lead: SFPC Local farmers</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	High
3.6	<p><i>Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.</i></p> <p>A. Implement water conservation measures using Environmental Farm Plan best practices and encourage agricultural landowners to apply for water licences through FrontCounterBC.</p> <p>B. Educate agricultural landowners by providing links to online resources and/or distributing printed materials, such as brochures, during mail-outs (e.g. with annual property tax information).</p> <p>C. Provide educational materials to producers on the protection of watercourses, riparian areas, efficient use of irrigation and fertilizers.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC’s Water Sustainability Act • BC’s Environmental Farm Plan program • DoS Outdoor Water Use Bylaw No. 2325, 2014 • SLRD Area D OCP section 5.5 • AGRI’s online resources: Farm Water Supply & Conservation • Align with DoS Environmental Coordinator 	<p>Lead: SFPC FLNRORD BFI</p> <p>Support: AGRI BC Hydro DoS SLRD</p>	Medium

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
3.7	<p>Promote agroforestry and other environmental best management practices (BMPs) for land clearing to increase agricultural land access and production.</p> <p>Connect agricultural landowners and lease holders to information regarding agroforestry opportunities and sustainable land clearing while ensuring sound ecological practices are used. This may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include information on using treed areas for production, such as silvopasture. ○ Include information on methods to clear land while conserving sensitive natural ecosystem or using agroforestry practices to increase agricultural capacity. ○ Include information on the Squamish Valley context, which includes considerations of flood hazards, climate change, habitat protection and connectivity, and wildlife corridors. <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRI Farm Practices: Land Clearing • AGRI Biodiversity Guide • AGRI Agroforestry Resources • BC's Environmental Farm Plan program • Community Resilience Investment FireSmart program 	<p>Lead: SFPC AGRI</p> <p>Support: BC Climate Action Initiative SES</p>	Medium

3.4 Plan and Prepare for Climate Change and Emergencies (Goal 4)

Objective: Include the agricultural community in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and emergency preparedness to create a more resilient food system.

It is estimated that, by 2050, the SLRD will experience climatic shifts that include an annual average rise in temperature of approximately 1.7°C, an increase in precipitation by 6%, and a decrease in snowfall by 15%. Climate change is projected to cause flooding in the spring and drought conditions in the summer, putting pressure on irrigation infrastructure during the summer. Increased wildfire risk and alterations to precipitation patterns, due to climate change, will affect wildlife populations and movement patterns. Emergency planning efforts related to impacts of climate change must continue to consider the more frequent occurrences of floods and wildfires. Emergency management and preparedness planning should include an agricultural perspective and communicate plans to producers, especially because there is only one road into and out of the Upper Squamish Valley. Even small shifts may have significant consequences for farm viability and food production. Agricultural activities such as livestock and poor manure management are also contributors to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. It is estimated that 4% of BC’s total GHG emissions come from agricultural activities. At the same time, agricultural soils hold large amounts carbon in soil organic matter and regenerative farming practices can promote carbon sequestration. While climate change will present challenges for farmers in the Squamish Valley, there is an opportunity for regenerative agricultural methods to adapt to and mitigate impacts from climate change.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
4.1	<p><i>Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.</i></p> <p>A. Create a list of resources for farmers regarding wildfire-related risk reduction programs and regulations. This should include best practices regarding land clearing, brush burning techniques and alternative waste disposal methods to ensure environmental stewardship of lands.</p> <p>B. Make resources, reports, and maps available at local government offices and online.</p> <p>C. Partner with Squamish and SLRD Emergency Programs and provincial organizations (e.g. BC Wildfire Service) to host a community workshop on fire risk management for agricultural stakeholders at a time of year when farm operators are most available to participate (e.g. November/December).</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS Wildfire Working Group • DoS Wildfire Development Permit Area (under development) • Ashlu Creek Foundation fire suppression initiatives • DoS and SLRD Community Wildfire Protection Plans • Community Resiliency Investment FireSmart Program • Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation 	<p>Lead: SFPC EMBC</p> <p>Support: DoS SLRD ACF</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FireSmart BC • BC Wildfire Service – Wildfire Prevention 		
4.2	<p>Explore and partner on opportunities to encourage emissions reductions and carbon sequestration in agricultural practices.</p> <p>A. Work with AGRI to review agricultural emissions data and promote reductions in carbon emissions related to agriculture. Consider emissions associated with different aspects of agriculture, notably CO₂ (mechanization), N₂O (fertilizers) and CH₄ (livestock).</p> <p>B. Explore and support actions related to improved farm management practices for emissions reductions across the region and for site-level mitigation (more efficient management of carbon and nitrogen flows i.e. Livestock and manure management, soil conservation and carbon sequestration; energy conservation, fuel switching and on-farm renewable energy systems).</p>	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	High
4.3	<p>Incorporate agriculture in ongoing DoS and SLRD Community Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.</p> <p>Include agriculture sector in local government and regional district climate change plans and strategies, and consider the connection between emergency preparedness and food supply reliability. Acknowledge agriculture as both as a contributor to climate change, as well as part of the solution for mitigating impacts.</p> <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS Community Climate Action Plan (underway) • DoS climate emergency declaration • SLRD Integrated Sustainability Plan (Food & Agriculture Strategy) • SLRD Regional Growth Strategy <p>BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative</p>	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	High
4.4	<p>Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.</p> <p>Work to reduce risk to loss of life and property during an emergency such as a flood, earthquake, or debris flow.</p> <p>A. Improve agricultural stakeholders’ disaster risk awareness and understanding of the potential hazards in their region.</p> <p>B. Ensure all producers are aware of existing emergency plans and strategies by hosting meetings and/or directly visiting agricultural operations.</p> <p>C. Ensure all producers know emergency exit protocols as there is only one road into and out of the Upper Squamish Valley. Consider livestock owners and necessary trailer access in the event of an</p>	<p>Lead: EMBC DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: BFI ACF</p>	High

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<p>evacuation. Emphasize that the responsibility for livestock during an emergency belongs to the livestock owner.</p> <p>D. Ensure that the road and associated trees/vegetation alongside it are maintained to minimize the threat of fire and road blockages.</p> <p>E. Include a producer perspective when reviewing local emergency response plans.</p> <p>F. Revise the SLRD Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide to be relevant for the Squamish Valley by aligning with SLRD and DOS policies.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Management BC Livestock Relocation Policy • SLRD Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide • SLRD Upper Squamish Valley Emergency Plan • DoS Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan • Sea to Sky Multimodal Evacuation Plan • Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund • DOS Community Risk Assessment Report 		
4.5	<p><i>Host educational events and workshops about flood risk management for agricultural stakeholders.</i></p> <p>A. Topics can include: flood hazards, development permit areas, the benefits of maintaining trees/riparian buffers to mitigate flooding impacts, water conservation strategies, groundwater management plans, etc.</p> <p>B. Identify and disseminate information on crops that do well in wet and brackish zones.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS Integrated Flood Hazard Management Plan • SLRD Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment: Upper Squamish report • BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative resources for producers on flood emergency planning 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: SFPC BFI ACF</p>	High
4.6	<p><i>Develop a climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices strategy for the Squamish Valley.</i></p> <p>Encourage AGRI to partner with agencies and organizations to highlight strategies for local farmers to mitigate, prepare and adapt to climate change (e.g., longer growing season, more irrigation, less available water, native crops, cover cropping, crop rotation, drainage over landscape, sustainable soil management, seed saving).</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p>	<p>Lead: SFPC BC Climate Action Initiative</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	Medium

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Climate Action Initiative Regional Adaptation Plan includes potential funding opportunities with the Farm Adaptation Innovation Program (2018-2023). Examples of completed strategies include: Kootenay & Boundary, Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley, Cariboo, Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George, Okanagan, Peace, Delta, and Cowichan. • BC Agriculture Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN) • DoS OCP (Policy 26.6d) 		

3.5 Align Policies and Strengthen Regulations for Agriculture and Food (Goal 5)

Objective: Build on existing local and regional food policies and amend bylaws to strengthen regulations that will in turn stimulate agricultural production.

The location of productive farmland in the Squamish Valley, both within and outside the ALR, provides for a range of overlapping regulations between the Province, the SLRD, and the DoS. Trying to manage development expectations for urban and rural residents living adjacent or near to farming operations can be a challenge, particularly as local bylaw enforcement resources are stretched. Continuing to align local and regional planning policies and regulations with provincial regulations will help to minimize conflicts between producers and non-producers and support farming activities. Current Official Community Plans (OCP) and Regional Growth Strategies in the DOS and SLRD Area D support agriculture. However, within DoS and SLRD Area D, there are several parcels of ALR that are undertaking economic activities that are not directly related to farming. Agriculture should always be a permitted and priority use within the ALR. Although recreation trails, camping, outdoor education, parks and protected areas are often supported by the public, when occurring on ALR lands they can weaken or impede the development of a viable agriculture sector in the area. This is because these non-farm uses that were once temporary, become entrenched and permanently established which limits the amount of land available for agricultural development. The actions recommended here will help inform the supportive policies and regulations to ensure sustainable growth management, farmland protection and environmentally sound agricultural development.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
5.1	<p><i>Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection.</i> Create a Development Permit Area for Farmland Protection on parcels located adjacent to the ALR and/or agriculturally-zoned land. This will help to manage expectations of landowners and ensure that non-agricultural development minimizes impacts on current and future farming activities. This can also be used as a tool for edge planning to reduce conflicts between neighbours. Amend bylaws and policies as necessary to ensure that setbacks are required for non-farming and non-ALR lots to maximize agricultural production. Include in the DPA wording around protection of wildlife corridors, wetlands, water courses and riparian areas from agricultural activities and potential setback from environmentally sensitive areas for agricultural activities.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policy 26.4e) • DoS OCP DPA1: Environmental Review Areas Mapping • DoS Zoning Bylaw (current update underway) • AGRI Guide to Edge Planning • SLRD Development Permit Application for Farmland Protection • Align with DoS Environmental Coordinator 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
5.2a (DOS) 5.2b (SLRD)	<p><i>Ensure zoning supports appropriately scaled processing and value-added activities.</i></p> <p>Continue to ensure that local policies and zoning facilitates and incentivizes the establishment of appropriately-scaled value-added processing and retail activities in industrial zoned areas and farmland, in alignment with ALC policies and regulations.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policy 26.8b) • DoS Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) • SLRD Area D OCP • SLRD Area D Zoning Bylaw • Farm Product Processing in the ALR – ALC Policy L-01 • DoS Employment Lands Needs Study 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: ALC</p>	Ongoing
5.3a (DOS) 5.3b (SLRD)	<p><i>Continue to include agriculture as a permitted use in non-ALR urban and residential areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When updating OCPs and zoning bylaws, continue to permit non-intensive farming on all non-ALR land, where appropriate (e.g. urban or residential areas). • Consider including flexible language that would support innovative and emerging food production methods (e.g., agroforestry, rooftop gardens, aquaponics, community greenhouses) in specific zones as appropriate. • Ensure wildlife implications from increased food in urban areas are considered and look to other local government policies and AGRI for best practices and examples. • Include wording around the need for agricultural activities to not negatively impact natural habitat, water quality and ecosystem services. <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policies 26.6 a,e) • DoS Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) • SLRD Area D OCP • SLRD Area D Zoning Bylaw • SFPC's urban agriculture initiatives • SLRD Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 1551, 2018 • DoS Wildlife Attractant Bylaw No. 2053, 2009 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: SFPC ALC</p>	Ongoing

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
<p>5.4a (DoS)</p> <p>5.4b (SLRD)</p>	<p>Update OCP and zoning bylaws to better align with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.</p> <p>A. Update definitions and permitted uses to match ALC policies and regulations. Within local bylaws and regulations, definitions and permitted uses on designated farmland must match ALC policies and regulations.</p> <p>B. Recognize agriculture as a priority use within the ALR, restricting recreational and non-farm uses, aligning definitions of agri-tourism, and restricting residential development within the ALR.</p> <p>C. Follow, or exceed, ALC requirements and AGRI recommendations regarding sizing and siting of residential uses on farmland and look to other local governments for examples and best practices.</p> <p>D. Refer draft OCP and zoning amendment bylaws to the ALC. The ALC must be provided with any draft OCP or zoning bylaw (or amendments) for an opportunity to comment. The ALC’s Guide to Bylaw Development in Farming Areas and AGRI’s Guide to Edge Planning are key resources.</p> <p>E. Work opportunistically to integrate and update the agricultural aspects into bylaws when other bylaw amendments are occurring.</p> <p>List of policies and bylaws that may require updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP and Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) • DoS Filming Policy; Accessory Dwelling Unit Permits; Special Event Permits; Development Permit Areas; Fire Service Bylaw; Floodplain Management Bylaw; Soils Management Bylaw; Tree Management Bylaw; Wildlife Attractant Bylaw • SLRD Regional Growth Strategy • SLRD Area D OCP and Zoning Bylaw • SLRD Agri-tourism Policy; Micro Cannabis Production Policy; Bed & Breakfast Policy; Soil Deposit and Removal Bylaw; Wildlife Attractant Bylaw; Farmworker Housing Application; Development Permits 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: ALC</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>5.5</p>	<p>Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.</p> <p>A. Work with the ALC to develop and resource a coordinated joint compliance and enforcement strategy for land within the ALR to address ongoing non-farm use issues over the longer term.</p> <p>B. Prioritize compliance and enforcement for residential and recreational activities that are non-compliant within the ALR.</p> <p>C. Work together to identify enforcement issues related to non-ALR agricultural land.</p> <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS and SLRD Bylaw services • ALC Compliance and Enforcement initiative 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: ALC</p>	<p>High</p>

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
5.6a (DoS)	<p>Ensure that existing and/or future bylaws related to cannabis production and processing protect farmland.</p> <p>A. Ensure that any current or future proposed cannabis facilities in the Squamish Valley do not negatively affect the future agricultural viability of any parcel.</p> <p>B. Consult the community and ALC as needed when developing cannabis-related policy and regulations.</p> <p>C. Ensure that the soil base is protected from industrial-style buildings and development within the ALR.</p> <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP • DoS Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) • SLRD Area D OCP • SLRD Area D Zoning Bylaw • SLRD Micro Cannabis Production Policy 	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI ALC</p>	High
5.6b (SLRD)			
5.7	<p>Support efforts to review and educate on farm tax policies.</p> <p>A. Work to support provincial agencies, such as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) and BC Assessment to review farm tax policies, with the overall goal to stimulate production of the land base.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Explore increasing the income threshold required to claim Farm Tax Status.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Work to prevent non-farm uses and incentivize bringing underutilized farmland into agricultural production through lease arrangements.</p> <p>B. To incentivize land in production and explore developing a range of mil rates based on agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver Farm Tax Policy Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging Agricultural Production through Farm Property Tax Reform in Metro Vancouver ○ Farm Tax Class Income Threshold Investigation ○ Property Tax Scenario Analysis ○ Farm Property Tax Investigation • BC Assessment Farm Tax Status Policy 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support : Metro Vancouver BC Assessment MAH DoS SLRD</p>	Medium
5.8a (DOS)	<p>Create clarity around options for agricultural burning for land clearing and crop disease management.</p> <p>A. Develop clear communication regarding opportunities and requirements for open burning for agricultural land clearing and crop disease management within the ALR in the Squamish Valley, in consultation with AGRI and ENV.</p> <p>B. Ensure that local zoning aligns with these provincial requirements but do not create an outright ban on open burning for farm operators.</p>	<p>Lead: DoS SLRD</p> <p>Support: AGRI</p>	Medium
5.8b (SLRD)			

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<p>C. Adopt best management practices to minimize emissions and wildfire risk.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS Fire Service Bylaw • Dos Development Permit Areas – agricultural exemptions • SLRD Howe Sound East Land Clearing Debris Pollution Management Bylaw • Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation • AGRI's Right to Farm Act 	ENV	

3.6 Increase Engagement, Communication, Awareness, and Education (Goal 6)

Objective: Improve awareness of local agriculture and access to local food and support farmers who wish to increase agricultural skill set.

The support for a local food system is largely based on general public knowledge and awareness of local food products and processes. While many residents suggest there is good local support for local food, there is room in the Squamish region to increase the demand and support for local food. The need for more educational resources for both producers and consumers were key concerns raised by stakeholders in meetings and through the results of the community survey. Organizations that focus on the local food system and partnerships therein are established in the Squamish Region and are well positioned to continue to work on advancing the vision of a local, sustainable food system. Building upon and expanding partnerships with other organizations and institutions are crucial in continuing to build awareness and education to support farmers, food processors, and residents.

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
6.1	<p><i>Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Update map at least once annually to keep database current. B. Continue to work with DoS by supplying data for Squamish Community Performance Indicator dashboard, and analyzing areas of improvement and concern C. Export relevant data from the map to create an annual Squamish Food Guide which includes farms, farm stands and markets, & local food processors. D. Expand existing database to include information specific to producers, such as agricultural services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider creating a sister webpage that includes funding opportunities for individual producers, local organizations, and governments related to agricultural and food activities <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SFPC Food Asset Map ● DoS OCP (Policy 26.10 a) ● DoS Community Performance Indicator Dashboard 	<p>Lead: SFPC</p> <p>Support: BFI</p>	Ongoing
6.2	<p><i>Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Meet with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to grow understanding about how to better support traditional food systems and food security in the Squamish Valley. B. Look for partner opportunities and initiatives of mutual interest and value with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) towards supporting growing, foraging and harvesting outside of existing conventional 	<p>Lead: SFPC BFI Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw</p>	High

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<p>agri-food systems. This may include collaboration on land use projects, seed saving, food foraging, canning, and preserving, and other economic development opportunities.</p> <p>C. Build greater community knowledge and awareness about traditional food systems, especially in partnership with SD48 (see also Action 6.5).</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS OCD (Policy 26.10h) 	<p>Support: AGRI SD48</p>	
6.3	<p><i>Support provincial-level stakeholder engagement to improve communications and education about agricultural rules and regulations.</i></p> <p>A. Centralize information about rules and regulations for ALR and other agriculturally-zoned lands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online through a dedicated local government(s) webpage or resource; In person with a designated staff member at DoS and SLRD who is well versed in rules and regulations, and can provide consistent support to anyone seeking assistance; and In print, develop and distribute a brochure to explain the responsibilities of landowners within and adjacent to the ALR. <p>B. Host meetings, as needed, with local and provincial representatives to provide a forum for discussion and answering questions regarding rules and regulations pertaining to the ALR as well as lands adjacent to the ALR. Meeting dates can be triggered by regulatory changes.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS OCP DoS Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) SLRD Area D OCP SLRD Living in the ALR brochure AGRI's Countryside and You AGRI's Strengthening Farming Team 	<p>Lead: AGRI ALC</p> <p>Support: DoS SLRD</p>	High
6.4	<p><i>Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses.</i></p> <p>Engage with local knowledge holders, experienced farmers, AGRI and Small Business BC to host workshops for producers on business development training, food processing and safety certification, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, etc., in order to be nimble in the marketplace and to gain confidence in production and processing capacity. Topics may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Farm Start-Up Guide High Intensity Market Farming Taking Stock Assessment Workbook 	<p>Lead: SFPC BFI</p> <p>Support: AGRI BCYA</p>	High

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing Start-Up Capital • Small Scale Processing • Good Agricultural Practices certification • Guidance on Federal and Provincial Food Safety and Labelling • Certification Process: Organic, Halal, Kosher, Gluten-Free <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policy 26.12b) • AGRI's Strengthening Farming Team • AGRI Business Development Workshops 	Community Futures SSFPA VCH	
6.5	<p><i>Identify and support opportunities for school-aged children to learn about and engage in the food system.</i></p> <p>A. Support schools, camps, and clubs in continued participation in the Farm 2 School, BC Fruit and Vegetable, and similar Programs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Facilitate procurement partnerships between local farmers and schools to supply fresh food for snacks or cafeterias.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Assist in inter-school communications and aid opportunities for centralizing and sharing resources and volunteers</p> <p>B. Support the production of food on school grounds (e.g., Mamquam Edible Schoolyard).</p> <p>C. Support projects that add soil or compost, fencing, or other infrastructure for these projects where possible.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (Policy 26.12d) • BC Farm-to-School Program • BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program • SFPC Squamish Food Charter • Mamquam Edible Schoolyard 	<p>Lead: SFPC SD48 Conseil Scolaire Francophone Montessori schools Independent schools</p> <p>Support: AGRI BFI Farm-to-School BC</p>	Medium
6.6	<p><i>Create an annual Squamish Valley Farm tour.</i></p> <p>Establish an annual agri-tourism event to celebrate food production in the Squamish Valley to enable the general public to get to know local farmers. Options include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A farm-to-table dinner • Slow-food cycle • Farm tours • Craft beverage manufacturing 	<p>Lead: Tourism Squamish</p> <p>Support: SFPC BFI</p>	Medium

Action #	Description	Responsibilities	Urgency
	<p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP (policy 26.12a) • Pemberton Slow Food Cycle Sunday • Tourism Squamish 		
6.7	<p><i>Engage and educate the financial sector and real estate industry in agri-sector land use issues.</i> Work with banks, credit unions, lending institutions, and the Real Estate Board or Association to provide information about land use restrictions, normal farm practices, and the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act. Include information on current state of, and potential for, agriculture in the region and efforts to grow the agri-food economy.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS OCP • DoS Zoning Bylaw (currently under review) • SLRD Area D OCP • AGRI’s Countryside and You • AGRI’s Strengthening Farming Team 	<p>Lead: SFPC SLRFTF</p> <p>Support: Real Estate Board and Associations Financial institutions AGRI</p>	Medium
6.8	<p><i>Encourage the establishment of a local 4-H club and other apprenticeship and mentorship programs.</i></p> <p>A. Promote and support apprenticeship and mentorship programs that connect new and emerging farmers with those who are transitioning into retirement or current farmers in the same field of business.</p> <p>B. Explore the establishment of a 4-H club for younger agriculture enthusiasts.</p> <p><u>Alignment with Current Policies and Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGRI’s Strengthening Farming Team • AGRI’s Youth Development Team • BC Young Agrarians apprenticeship programs 	<p>Lead: SFPC BFI</p> <p>Support: AGRI ACF 4-H BC BCYA</p>	Low

4.0 Implementation

4.1 Support for Implementation

The SVAP recommends policy and regulatory updates and actions to ensure that agricultural land is used productively and farming, foraging, and other forms of food production are valued and sustained. The implementation strategy scopes an anticipated timeline and resources required to successfully complete the actions recommended in the SVAP.

Of the 38 recommended actions, DoS is listed as a lead or co-lead for 18 and SLRD as a lead or co-lead for 13. Most represent administrative house-keeping, such as the updates and amendments to bylaws and regulations. Some actions may fall within existing departmental workplans and job descriptions.

The rate of plan implementation will largely be dictated by resources available. Collaboration, shared leadership and resourcing, along with dedicating staff resources, will enable focused efforts on key priorities with regional and community partners. Each action will include a description of the level of resources required to complete the action. A list of funding opportunities is provided in Appendix II.

4.2 Implementation Options

The following is a high-level overview of implementation options reviewed to determine the best opportunity for SVAP's successful implementation. No commitments have been made from government or non-government agencies and organizations to provide capacity to lead identified actions, however they have been identified as a first step in implementation engagement. Increased level of engagement will occur after the plan has been endorsed and adopted by the community and elected officials.

4.2.1 Local or Regional Government

A local or regional government-based coordinator-based approach may result in more focused attention on the implementation strategy and provide direct resources over a number of years. Jurisdictions that have taken this approach have often incorporated the Agricultural Plan coordinator position into an Economic Development Commission or other economic development organization.

Examples:

- The City of Kelowna implements their Agricultural Plan through their Sustainability Coordinator within the Community Planning Department.
- The Central Okanagan Regional District has channelled the work through the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (<http://www.investkelowna.com>).
- The District of Saanich has hired an Agriculture and Food Security Planner.

If it is decided that an implementation coordinator is the best way to implement the SVAP, a deeper investigation into funding sources for a coordinator's compensation, as well as and its administration, will be required. Potential could exist to leverage (joint) funding from local and regional government towards a contracted coordinator position (independent or with a non-profit organization).

Pros: Designated staff member who is focused solely on implementation. A leader and central point of contract for the projects.

Cons: Salary costs for new staff and/or time re-dedicated from existing staff workloads. May be difficult to engage with other organizations because perceived ownership. Staff member would need a special skill set including agriculture, planning, and public consultation.

4.2.2 Non-Profit Organization (new or pre-existing)

A non-profit organization could be established (or a pre-existing organization could be identified) to implement the SVAP. In order to comply with the BC Societies Act, the non-profit organization must have a recognized structure that consists of a Board of Directors (minimum 5 people), a management hierarchy, clear bylaws and a constitution, and regular meetings. Incorporated non-profits must also have a clearly defined mission and purpose. The mission must benefit the greater good of the community, society, or the world and cannot use its funds for anything other than the mission for which it was formed.

Examples:

- SLRD Area B and Lillooet (Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society) – funded in part by the SLRD
- Salt Spring Island (the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance)

Pros: Eligibility for grants, fundraising activities, and other funding opportunities. An organization with a singular mandate to implement the plan will be extremely focused. Requirement to answer to a Board of Directors ensures that motivation for success is maintained. Ability to include Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) members as staff and/or Board of Directors.

Cons: Energy and capacity may wax and wane depending on funding available and the individual characteristics of staff. Requirements from the agriculture and food security community to participate as volunteer Board members.

4.2.3. Collaborative Government and Non-Government Organization

A group or committee consisting of committed stakeholders could be formed for the purpose of overseeing implementation of the SVAP. The group would consist of local government representatives, local community organizations and individual producers and community members interested in advancing and advocating for the actions of the SVAP. This group could follow the collective impact model⁷ with a mission to implement the actions outlined in the SVAP.

Examples:

- Central Kootenay Regional District Agricultural Plan implementation lead by the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council

Pros: Shared leadership and ownership of action implementation can promote accountability. Facilitates partnerships across sectors and shares resources from across governments and already existing

⁷ Collective Impact Forum, 2019. <https://www.collectiveimpactforum.org/>

organizations. All voices can have a seat at the table; no one group takes leadership of implementation strategy.

Cons: Requirements from the agriculture and food security community and governments to participate as volunteers on the committee/group or may require a paid coordinator. Will require a committed core group of individuals to oversee the implementation group and track action progress.

4.3 Implementation Strategy

A workshop was held on December 9th 2019 with local government staff, Steering Committee members, and others who have indicated a willingness and/or interest in the implementation of SVAP. The options briefly presented above were further explored with the goal of bringing forward a recommended implementation strategy by the end of the workshop.

Based on the results of this workshop, the SVAP steering committee agreed that a non-profit/hybrid approach to SVAP implementation is best suited to the context for Squamish Valley and local and regional governments. The Squamish Food Policy Council supports and is well positioned to take the lead on the actions that are not identified as being DoS or SLRD-led. The SFPC has been advancing a sustainable local food system and food security in the region for several years and have an established organizational structure including a Board of Directions and staff. SFPC has proven its ability to accomplish projects and initiatives, including the adoption of the Squamish Food Charter, hosting community events, presenting to council on food policy issues, creating the Squamish-Lillooet Food Asset Map, assisting in the 2017 ALUI and contributing to the development of the SVAP. The SFPC has developed relationships with stakeholders throughout the region and works collaboratively with local governments, community organizations and food and agricultural community stakeholders. The SFPC is willing and ready lead implementation of the SVAP.

The non-profit/hybrid approach of the SFPC taking the lead on implementation and working with the DoS and SLRD was presented to the SLRD and DoS councillors, board members and mayors at two meeting in January 2020. At the meetings, the DoS and the SLRD government officials agreed to the implementation approach and endorsed the plan in principle. Funding for the SFPC to implement the priority actions is to be allocated for the 2020 year and additional funding will be requested each subsequent year until actions are completed. A Terms of Reference for the implementation of the SVAP will be developed to encapsulate the agreement for implementation.

A robust implementation strategy contains performance measures to track implementation. A monitoring and evaluation framework to determine progress of the implementation of actions is presented below. A set of indicators is cross-referenced with those used for the DoS OCP and SLRD Regional Growth Strategy.

The consultants will also work the DoS and SLRD to identify which actions can be achieved through OCP and/or zoning bylaw amendments and assist in crafting directives for the incorporation of these amendments into these documents. These amendments will support the full adoption and execution of the SVAP.

4.3.1 Priority Actions

The following 24 action items have been identified as high urgency and should be prioritized for ongoing or short term implementation action. Short term actions will be partially or fully addressed during the first two years of implementation. Ongoing actions will continue to be addressed throughout the entire implementation period, primarily through existing work plans.

Table 3. Priority actions for the first 2 years of implementation.

Action	Description	Leads
1.1	Continue to support and facilitate land-linking programs locally	SFPC and BCYA
1.2	Identify opportunities and locations for enhancing land access for agriculture initiatives and community farmland trust.	SFPC and AGRI
2.1	Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Squamish Valley.	DoS Ec Dev Office
2.2	Identify a location and develop a funding strategy to establish a permanent year-round Squamish Farmers Market	SFPC, SFMS, DoS Ec Dev Office
3.1	Continue to encourage policies and practices for maintaining and increasing pollinator health.	DoS, SLRD, SFPC
3.2	Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.	DoS and SLRD
3.3	Work with urban and rural producers on reducing conflicts between food production, agriculture, and wildlife.	SFPC and DoS Wildlife Coord
3.4	Encourage farmers to participate in the Environmental Farm Plan Program	SFPC
3.5	Encourage regenerative agricultural practices.	SFPC, farmers
4.1	Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders	EMBC, SFPC
4.2	Explore and partner on opportunities to encourage emissions reductions, sequestration and avoidance in agricultural practices.	DoS and SLRD
4.3	Incorporate agriculture in ongoing DoS and SLRD Community Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.	DoS and SLRD
4.4	Communicate with and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning	EMBC, DoS and SLRD
4.5	Host educational events and workshops about flood risk management for agricultural stakeholders	DoS, SLRD, SFPC
5.1	Create and maintain Development Permit Area Guidelines for Farmland Protection.	DoS and SLRD
5.2a 5.2b	Ensure zoning supports appropriately scaled processing and value-added activities	DoS and SLRD
5.3a 5.3b	Continue to include agriculture as a permitted use in non-ALR urban and residential areas.	DoS and SLRD
5.4a 5.4b	Update OCP and zoning bylaws to better align with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations	DoS and SLRD
5.5	Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection	DoS and SLRD
5.6a 5.6b	Ensure that existing and/or future bylaws related to cannabis production and processing protect farmland	DoS and SLRD
6.1	Continue maintenance of the Regional Food Asset Map.	SFPC
6.2	Work with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous food system and resource management perspectives and knowledge within food plans and initiatives.	SFPC, BFI, and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw
6.3	Support provincial-level stakeholder engagement to improve communications and education about agricultural rules and regulations	AGRI and ALC
6.4	Facilitate educational workshops for farms and agri-food businesses	SFPC and BFI

 Lead: Local Government (and others)

 Lead: Squamish Food Policy Council (and others)

4.3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed with the consultants, Steering Committee, SPFC and DoS and SLRD staff. The framework is helpful in guiding progress of the implementation of SVAP actions and in measuring success. Where relevant, current performance indicators used by the DoS and SLRD Area D are incorporated into the framework.

The following table presents descriptions of six indicators along with examples of success (what is being measured), evaluation mechanisms (how it is being measured), and data sources for each.

The indicators are presented as “performance” or “process” related:

- “Performance” indicators note the overall success of the plan as actions play out on the ground.
- “Process” indicators signal the overall implementation of specific actions over time.

The status of the indicators should be reported annually.

As it is anticipated that SFPC will be providing an annual project update to DoS Council and the SLRD Board of Directors, the annual reporting may best be developed alongside local government staff and included in these annual reports.

Table 4. Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators.

Indicators	Measures of Success	Evaluation Mechanism	Data source	Frequency of Reporting	Baseline Data
Performance Indicators					
<p>1) Total farmed area and number of farms (on ALR and outside ALR)</p> <p><i>Alignment:</i> - DoS OCP Performance Indicator #24 - SLRD RGS Goal 10 indicator</p>	<p>Increase in farm activity on parcels available for farming.</p>	<p>Track the area of farmland under production: - Total area in production - Average # of acres/farm - # of farms year over year</p>	<p>Farm classified area from Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture BC Assessment ALUI updates</p>	<p>Annually (BC Assessment Data) 5 years (Census of Agriculture Data) 5-7 years (ALUI update)</p>	<p>Baseline data sources: 2017 ALUI, 2016 Census of Agriculture, BC Assessment.</p> <p>2017 ALUI: • 68 ha of total farmed land cover</p>
<p>2) Status of the ALR and agriculturally-zoned lands</p> <p><i>Alignment:</i> - SLRD RGS Goal 10 indicator</p>	<p>Number of hectares has been maintained in ALR and other zones designated as agriculture.</p>	<p>Comparison of ALR characteristics over time: - Land removed from / included in the ALR - # of subdivisions - # of non-farm use applications approved - # of non-adhering residential use applications approved</p>	<p>ALC website Development application data from DoS and SLRD</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Baseline data sources: ALUI, ALC website, zoning changes to agricultural land in DoS and SLRD.</p>

Indicators	Measures of Success	Evaluation Mechanism	Data source	Frequency of Reporting	Baseline Data
Performance Indicators					
3) Number and distribution of neighbourhood food assets <i>Alignment:</i> - DoS OCP Performance Indicator #25	An increase in diversity of food assets is available within every Squamish neighbourhood, providing access to healthy food for all.	Comparison of the Food Asset categories year over year.	SFPC Food Asset map, prepared by the Squamish Food Policy Council.	Annually	Baseline data source: 2018 results from SFPC Food Asset Map. As of 2018, existing Squamish Food Assets: 63 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Food: 18 • School Facilities : 13 • Food retail and markets : 12 • Free or Subsidized grocery items:2 • Free or low cost meals: 2 • Kitchens & Food Programs: 6
4) Number of growers participating in the Environmental Farm Plan program and/or other regenerative practices.	An increase in use of sustainable, regenerative farming practices.	Comparison of numbers annually.	Survey of growers in the Valley. Information from AGRI staff.	Annually	Baseline Data source: No clear data currently exists, will need to establish data in conjunction with AGRI and through a survey of local growers.

Indicators	Measures of Success	Evaluation Mechanism	Data source	Frequency of Reporting	Baseline Data
Process Indicators					
5) Number of educational workshops/events hosted with the agriculture and food sector.	An increase in events held in the agriculture and food sector.	Comparison of event numbers annually.	Squamish Food Policy Council, DoS and SLRD event calendar.	Annually	Baseline Data source: SFPC, DoS, SLRD websites and staff.
6) Number of SVAP recommended actions completed	All of high priority actions completed within 2 years of SVAP adoption 50% of actions completed within 5 years of adoption	Tracking of actions completed over time.	Updates and amendments to the OCPs, RGS, Zoning bylaws and other DoS and SLRD policies. Any new projects emerging from the SVAP.	Annually	Baseline data sources: An evaluation of the actions completed to date. - No actions have been completed
7) Ongoing actions are continued or commenced along the entire timeframe of SVAP	A target of 100% of the ongoing actions are being followed by the 2 nd year	Tracking of ongoing actions over time.	Updates and amendments to the OCPs, RGS, Zoning bylaws and other DoS and SLRD policies. Any new projects emerging from the SVAP.	Annually	Baseline data sources: An evaluation of the ongoing actions completed to date.
8) Annual Budget (DoS and SLRD) allowance for continued SVAP implementation	Budget allocated each year for SVAP implementation.	Track budget allocations to SPFC earmarked for SVAP actions as well as budget for specific projects related to SVAP actions.	DoS and SLRD Council commitments for budget.	Annually	Baseline data source: The DoS and SLRD budget commitments for 2020-2021. - Budget requests are in process

Appendix I: Glossary

Agriculture

Agriculture can be defined as the systematic and controlled use of living organisms and the environment to improve the human condition. Sustainable agriculture enhances environmental quality and the resource base on which it depends; provides for basic human food and fiber needs; is economically viable; and enhances the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole over the long term.

Agricultural Land

According to the *Agriculture Land Commission Act* (the "ALC Act") agricultural land is the land resource upon which agriculture takes place due to its ability to grow food products. The agricultural land resource and the products that can be grown are based on a soils and climate combination which can vary across the landscape. Although agricultural land is primarily required for the production of food for human and animal consumption, agricultural activities also include the growing of plants for fibre and fuels (including wood), and for other organically derived non-food products (e.g. pharmaceuticals, etc).

Food Access

Access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.

Food Hub

A strategically located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products. Food hub refers to both facilities that distributes food to increase food security in the community and/or facilities that are set up to provide small farmers access to a market they would normally have be able to access.

Food Security

Food security exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, affordable food to maintain a healthy and active life. (World Health Organization).

Food Sovereignty

The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems

Food System

A sustainable community food system is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of a particular place. Farmers, consumers and communities partner to create a more locally based, self-reliant food economy. (Gafsi, Mohamed, & Favreau, Jean Luc. (2013). Indicator-Based Method for Assessing Organic Farming Sustainability. Methods and Procedures for Building Sustainable Farming Systems)

Regenerative Agriculture

Regenerative Agriculture is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, and improves watershed health. One of the goals of regenerative agriculture is to capture and store carbon in soil and biomass, thereby acting as a carbon sink.

Resilient/Resilience

The ability to anticipate risk, limit or mitigate impacts, and adapt, evolve and grow when faced with change. A resilient community is self-reliant and ensures those most in need have access to essential services such as food, housing, water, and energy to support ongoing social, economic and environmental health.

Squamish Valley

For the purpose of this document, the Squamish Valley is an area of 3,047 km² encompassing the floodplains of the Squamish and Cheakamus Rivers within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and a small portion of the District of Squamish. The Squamish Valley includes 4,066 hectares of agricultural lands. The Squamish Valley lies within traditional territory claimed by the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), as well as within some traditional territory claimed by the Tseil-Waututh Nation. See Figure 1 for a mapped representation of the area.

Sustainability

Stems from the concept of sustainable development (World Earth Summit, Rio, 1992). Today, there is no universally accepted or single definition, but in general, sustainability is a condition where ecological health, economic prosperity and social justice must be balanced for the well-being and quality of life of both present and future generations.

Urban Agriculture

In general terms, means cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a town or city or other urban setting. In Squamish, it is defined as the act of growing food on a lot and includes produce grown in a garden, community gardens, fruit and nut tree production, keeping of hens and bees, and can include agricultural retail sales.

Appendix II: Funding Opportunities

In order to implement the recommendations presented above, funding will need to be sourced. While some funding may be allocated through the DoS and SLRD, outside sources of funding have been identified to support specific initiatives within the implementation plan. Information on current funding opportunities is provided below. Note that funding programs are continually evolving and will need to be monitored on a regular basis.

Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF)

The Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organization that delivers government-funded programs to the agriculture and agri-food sector of British Columbia. Project funding is available in a variety of areas from supporting local marketing or export initiatives, to enhancing environmental sustainability, to developing a new product or process and more. Visit www.iafbc.ca for more information on how to turn your idea into reality!

Specific funding programs are available within each category to deal with specific industry issues and enhance the sectors. Current Funding programs include:

Buy BC

Buy BC Partnership Program Cost-Shared Funding is available to applicants to undertake sector/product specific marketing and promotional activities to increase consumer demand and sales of BC agrifood and seafood products within the Province.

Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program

The program allows industry, academia, value-added food processors, retailers and others to access funding for projects involving late-stage research; pilots and demonstrations; as well as the commercialization and adoption of innovative products, technologies and practices for the agriculture, food or agri-products sector.

BC Agrifood & Seafood Market Development Program

The B.C. Agri-food and Seafood Market Development Program helps B.C. agri-food producers, agri-food and seafood processors, co-operatives and associations to identify, assess, target and develop market opportunities to increase their sales outside of B.C.

Farm Adaptation Innovator Program

Delivers funding for farm-level, applied research projects that help producers adapt to the impacts of climate change. Program delivered by the BC Climate Action Initiative.

Agri-Food Futures Fund

Funding helps both established and emerging agricultural and food processing sectors to pursue opportunities and develop solutions.

Bee BC Program

Supports small scale regional/community-based projects to research, explore, field-test and share information about best management practices associated with bee health.

B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program

The B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program supports producers and processors to access the following types of business planning services:

- Business Structures: identification and evaluation of potential business structures
- Production Economics: development of production systems and/or strategies
- Business Strategy: development of a strategic plan
- Financial Analysis: development of financial analysis
- Value Added Ventures: development of a business plan for a new value added venture
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation: assessment and development of a business and financial risk management system or strategy
- Human Resources: development and implementation of a strategic Human Resource Plan
- Succession/Transition Planning: development and preparation of a Farm Succession Plan

Eligible applicants can access up to \$5,000 for individuals and up to \$30,000 for groups for business planning services from a Qualified Business Consultant.

More information here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program>

BC Climate Action Initiative

The BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative develops tools and resources to enhance agriculture's ability to adapt to climate change. The Initiative was developed in 2008 by the BC Agriculture Council to enable a proactive and pan-agriculture approach to climate change issues. The Initiative is supported by the BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation and the Investment Agriculture Foundation with funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Two programs are currently managed by the Initiative:

Regional Adaptation Enhancement Program

The ability of agricultural producers to adapt to climate change is often linked to physical resources and decision-making processes that are beyond the individual farm. Some of the most significant issues affecting future food production in BC include: water management (water supply and storage, drainage and ditching); emergency planning; land use practices; and regional infrastructure). The planning process for developing *Regional Adaptation Strategies* brings local governments and agricultural producers together to identify strategies and actions for addressing climate change impacts. Building collaboration to address agricultural adaptation issues is an important underlying goal of the process. The types of strategies and actions identified reflect the specifics of local climate change impacts, as well as the adaptive capacity and adaptation challenges and opportunities facing local agriculture.

Farm Adaptation Innovator Fund

The Farm Adaptation Innovator Program (FAIP) seeks to build adaptive capacity and encourage the adoption of effective farm practices to help mitigate impacts related to climate change by supporting projects that:

- Promote innovation in farm practices, approaches and technologies that support climate change adaptation
- Demonstrate farm practices that reduce weather related production risks, and identify new production opportunities
- Develop informational and knowledge sharing resources and support increased organization capacity to support adaptation

Project types supported through the program include applied research, pilots, demonstrations and adoption facilitation. Projects may be local, regional or provincial in scope. The resulting knowledge, practice, technology or approach must be applicable at a farm-level scale.

New Relationship Trust

The mission of the trust is to invest in First Nations in British Columbia to assist them in building their own capacity as envisioned by the New Relationship. Direct support funding is intended to help First Nation communities build capacity in the areas of: governance capacity, education, language & culture, youth & elders, and economic development.

More information:

<http://www.newrelationshiptrust.ca>

B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program

The B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program supports Indigenous communities and organizations to identify and develop agriculture and agri-food opportunities.

Eligible Activities

Agriculture Opportunities Assessment (Step 1)

The Agriculture Opportunities Assessment provides up to \$5,000 to be paid to a Qualified Business Consultant(s) to complete a feasibility assessment of agriculture and agri-food development options and/or related business planning functions.

Assessments could include:

- Reviewing the current agricultural resource base
- Providing a suite of agricultural options with economic analysis
- Identifying enterprises with the highest likelihood to succeed

Financial and Business Planning (Step 2)

Financial and Business Planning provides up to \$10,000 to be paid to a Qualified Business Consultant(s) for financial analysis and specialized business planning services for agriculture or agri-food enterprises. These services may include:

- Business Strategy
- Business Structures
- Production Economics
- Financial Analysis
- Marketing Strategy
- Value Added Ventures
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation

Additionally, technical (production related) workshops recommended through an Agriculture Opportunities Assessment (Step 1) can also be completed, if required.

More information here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/indigenous-agriculture-development-program>

The Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has developed the Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative which supports Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs who are ready to launch agriculture and food systems projects and others who want to build their capacity to participate in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. The objective of the Initiative is to increase economic development opportunities for Indigenous Peoples by building their capacity to participate and succeed in the Sector. Projects under the Initiative must be for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples and communities in Canada, as well as the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. The maximum AAFC contribution to a project will normally not exceed \$500,000 per project, per year or a maximum of \$2.5 million over five years.

Examples of agriculture and food systems projects that may be eligible for funding through the Initiative include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting an approach to producing fresh food within an Indigenous community, and helping to plan and design the means in which that agricultural production can occur.
- Developing a food system within an Indigenous community to access healthy food, while also providing an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to share their agricultural knowledge and experiences, and market and sell their agriculture products.
- Providing skills training that will help an Indigenous community or organization establish or scale up an agriculture operation.

More information here: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/indigenous-agriculture-and-food-systems-initiative/guide/?id=1544123669824#a1.1>

Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC)

The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) is a philanthropic organization based in BC that supports land use and real estate practices that contribute to resilient, healthy communities and natural environments. The grant program supports non-profit organizations (charities, societies, NGOs, universities and colleges, local and regional governments, First Nations) working to improve BC communities and natural environments through responsible and informed land use, conservation, and real estate practices. Grants support projects, initiatives, and sustainable solutions that address current land use challenges and help communities to plan for the future.

General grants are focused on the following interest areas:

- Sustainable Land Use
- Built Environment Sustainability
- Freshwater Sustainability
- Local and Sustainable Food Systems

There are two intakes per year and applications are open to any non-profit organization doing work related to land use and/or real estate in BC. Local and regional governments and First Nations are eligible to apply.

REFBC is most likely to fund projects that:

- Target real estate and/or land use professionals and planners, policy makers, decision makers, and/or key public audiences
- Encourage best practices
- Address a current or emerging need
- Increase the capacity of an organization, sector, or community to improve real estate and/or land use practices
- Have clear, achievable objectives and identified deliverables, including well-developed implementation and communication plans

REFBC funds up to 50% of the cash portion of a project budget. Application deadlines are generally in the late winter (February) and early fall (September).

More information and past projects can be found on REF's grants website at <http://www.refbc.com/grants>.

Vancouver Foundation

The Vancouver Foundation is the largest of Canada's 180 community foundations. Endowment funds are set up that can be dedicated to charitable purposes and a portion of the income generates from the fund is donated as grants to eligible charities. The Vancouver Foundation supports growth and innovation through project-based grants for new initiatives that are community self-directed and lead to measurable and sustainable impacts.

Applications must: demonstrate commitment from applicants and partner organizations, link to the organizations' mandate and strategic plan, build upon community strengths, show evidence of collaboration, funded by 50% or more from other sources, involve through affected by the proposal in the development of the proposal, and use, enhance, mobilize or expand on the skills, capacities and assets of local people and communities.

Systems Change Grants

These grants support projects that take action to address the root causes of pressing social, environmental or cultural issues by influencing the behaviours of populations, organizations, and institutions. Systems change projects must be led by a registered charity or other qualified donee listed by Canada Revenue Agency. There are three types of grants available, ranging from 20,00-100,000 over multiple years.

Neighbourhood Small Grants

Grants of up to \$500 for individuals with ideas to help connect and engage residents in their neighbourhood. A community garden, a canning workshop, an intergenerational storytelling project, a street party, or a book exchange - these are just some of the amazing ideas by residents funded each year in partnership with local community-based organizations

More information can be found at: <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants>