

Vancouver Island Regional Adaptation Strategies



*Presentation to Comox Valley Regional District
Electoral Area Services Committee
Monday, November 16, 2020*



Climate Action Initiative
BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD

Outline

- Introduction to the Climate Action Initiative
- Regional program
- Vancouver Island Regional Adaptation Strategies
 - Engagement
 - Implementation priorities



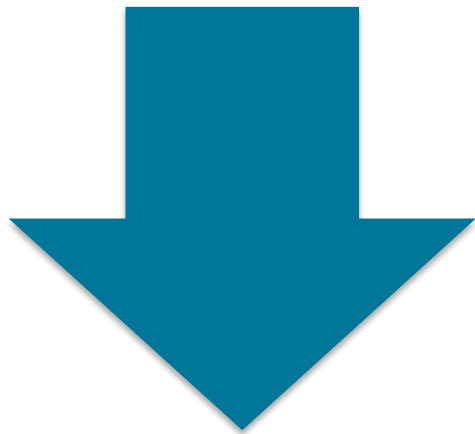
Timeline of key CAI activities



**led to development of Regional Adaptation Program*

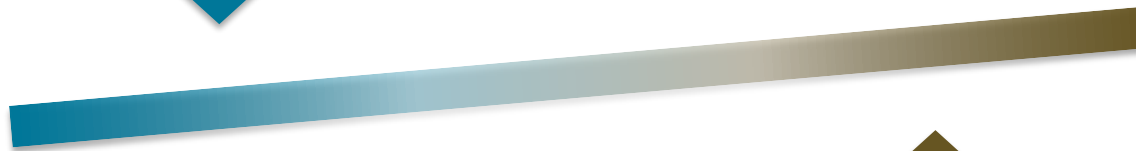
***led to development of Farm Adaptation Innovator Program*

Two adaptation programs



Regional Adaptation Program

- Broad issues (beyond the “farm gate”)
- Industry/government partnerships



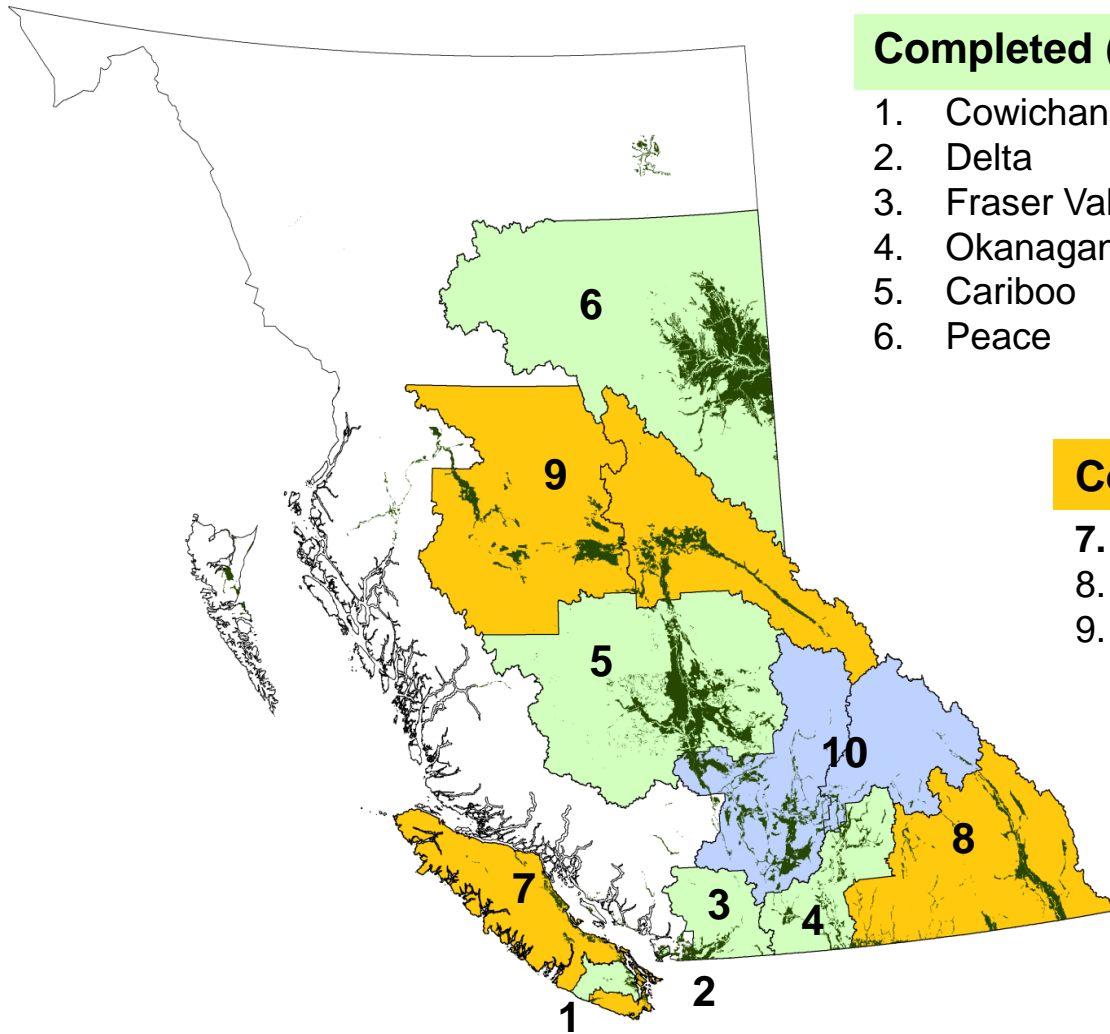
Farm Adaptation Innovator Program



- Farm-level issues
- Producer/researcher partnerships

Regional Adaptation Program

strategies



Completed (GF2)

1. Cowichan
2. Delta
3. Fraser Valley
4. Okanagan
5. Cariboo
6. Peace

Completed (CAP)

7. Vancouver Island
8. Kootenay & Boundary
9. Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George

To be done

10. Thompson-Nicola & Columbia-Shuswap

Regional Adaptation Program *projects*



Deepen knowledge of specific risks, opportunities and appropriate adaptations



Develop tools and resources that enable adaptive decision-making at the regional and farm levels



Strengthen collaborative relationships and capacity for future delivery of adaptation actions

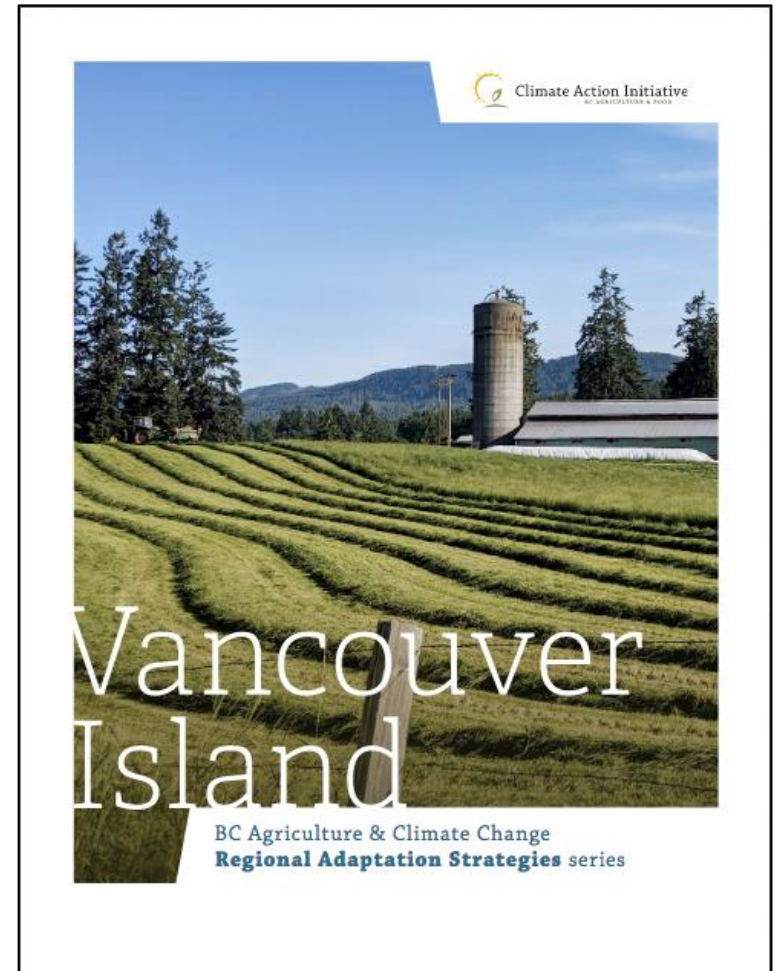
Vancouver Island Strategies Engagement

- **16** initial interviews
- **6** focus groups
- **1** implementation meeting
- **3** advisory committee meetings
- **89** participants
- **19** Advisory Committee (Working Group) members



VI Strategies

- Agricultural and regional context
- Detailed climate projections for region
- Four impact areas:
 1. *Warmer & drier summer conditions*
 2. *Changing pest & beneficial insect populations*
 3. *Increasing variability & shifting crop suitability*
 4. *Increasing precipitation & extreme rainfall events*
- **11** Strategies and **32** Actions



Warmer and drier summer conditions

climate changes

- ↗ average temperatures
- Possible ↘ summer precipitation
- ↗ frequency of warm and hot days
- ↗ winter minimum temperatures



Potential Actions:

- Support agricultural input into watershed planning
 - Support watershed planning in agricultural areas
- Create/support multi stakeholder roundtables/councils with focus on water

Changing pest & beneficial insect populations

climate changes

- ↗ annual average temperature
- ↘ summer precipitation
- ⑩ ↗ winter minimum temperatures



Potential Actions:

- Gather baseline information on pests, pollinators and beneficial insects
- Increase monitoring for emerging pests, pollinators and beneficial insects

Increasing variability & shifting crop suitability

climate changes

- ⑩ ↗ in Growing Degree Days
- ⑩ ↗ in Growing Season Length
- ⑩ ↗ extreme events
- Shifting precipitation patterns



Potential Actions:

- Support crop suitability trials/research to determine viability under future conditions
- Modelling, research, and knowledge transfer for changing suitability
- Provide information regarding crop selection

Increasing precipitation & extreme rainfall events

climate changes

- ⑩ ↗ annual precipitation
- ⑩ ↗ extreme rainfall events
- ⑩ ↗ autumn, winter and spring precipitation



Potential Actions:

- Document runoff impacts on agricultural lands and expand awareness and understanding with a range of stakeholders
- Support producers with implementation of runoff and drainage management practices

Implementation

- Now until Jan 2023
- \$300,000 Canadian Agricultural Partnership Funding
- Goal to leverage min \$100,000 in additional funds
- Overseen by local Working Group and approved by provincial-level approval committee
- Collaboration with project-specific funders and partners such as:
 - *Producer associations*
 - *ICET*
 - *Local governments*
 - *Individual producers*
 - *FLNRORD*
 - *Ministry of Agriculture*
 - *Agriculture and Agri Food Canada*
 - *Pollinator Partnership Canada*
 - *Educational Institutions*
 - *Environmental Farm Plan Program*



Continued Regional District Partnership Continuum

Participate in
Working
Group

Participate in
project
activities

Co-fund
projects

Assist with
project
oversight

Project
administration
and leadership



Examples of local Government Contribution

- RDFFG: \$15,000 (2019- 2022)
- RDBN: \$15,000 (2019-2022)
- Kootenay and Boundary (4 RDs) \$28,500
- Municipality of Delta: \$30,000 (\$10,000 per yr/3 years)
- FVRD: Flooding Toolkit \$5,000
 - Chilliwack: Water Supply \$5,000
- PRRD: Co-funded weather station project: ~\$7,000 & Pest Monitoring Enhancement: \$5,000
- RDOS: Invasive Species website \$6,000
- RDCO: Planning & Information Exchange for Wildfire Impact Reduction \$5,000



Media:

- Minister visit to Haliburton Farm
- Fraser Basin Council: Retooling Newsletter
- Environment Journal (online)
- CTV News (online)
- Victoria Buzz (online)
- My Powell River Now (online)
- Chek News (online)
- Climate Action Community of Practice (newsletter)
- Nanaimo Water Watch
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

<https://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/RegionalStrategies-VancouverIsland.pdf>

A background image showing a lush green garden with tall trees in the background and a sprinkler system in the foreground. The text 'Break 3:15-3:45' is overlaid in a large, dark, serif font.

Break 3:15-3:45

For more information:

- resources, fact sheets, reports: www.bcagclimateaction.ca
- newsletter: www.bcagclimateaction.ca/subscribe
- Facebook: [@BCAgClimateAction](https://www.facebook.com/BCAgClimateAction)
- Twitter: [@BCAgCAI](https://twitter.com/BCAgCAI)

A close-up photograph of a garden bed. On the left, there are large, dark green leafy plants. To the right, there is dark brown soil with several small green seedlings. A black sprinkler head is visible in the center, spraying water upwards.

Foster Richardson

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