

Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
Terms of Reference for the Partners Table
Last updated October 31, 2023

Founding Partners

The founding partners of the Cross Commodity Leadership Support Project are:

- BC Cherry Association
- BC Fruit Growers' Association
- BC Grapegrowers' Association
- BC Wine Grape Council
- Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program

Project Vision

The Vision of the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project is a strong and vibrant agricultural sector in the southern interior with a balance of multiple profitable commodities. Agriculture stakeholders work together in a spirit of cooperation to make the region a world leader in environmentally sustainable and profitable production. Agricultural lands and the people that grow our food on the lands are valued by our communities and the region's agricultural capacity is protected for future generations.

Project Guiding Principles

1. Balance Multiple Priorities
2. Think Regionally and Think Long-Term
3. Anticipate Change – Plan Accordingly
4. Support Competitiveness and Resiliency of Agriculture

Project Mission

The Project's mission is to provide a forum for industry associations and agricultural stakeholders to coordinate and collaborate on cross-commodity issues while also providing capacity to make meaningful progress on these issues.

Project Goals

The goals of the Project are to:

1. Provide a forum for inter-agency coordination and collaboration including the regular review of cross-commodity priorities.
2. Increase the capacity of the tree fruit and grape sectors.
3. Provide a pathway for the Tree Fruit Stabilization Initiative to evolve from a Ministry-led process to an industry-led initiative.
4. Provide financial resources and staff capacity to make meaningful progress on the priorities.

Function and Structure of The Partners Table

The Project is a voluntary partnership of industry organizations—a coalition of willing Partners. The Partners Table will provide governance for the Project. Each Partner organization may send one representative to the Partners Table. It is suggested, though not required, that the representative be the

most senior staff person or contractor of the association. The Chair and Vice Chair will be determined by the Partners Table members.

The Partners Table is responsible for:

- 1) Ensuring the Project meets the requirements of the agreement with the funder.
- 2) Hiring and reviewing the performance of the Project Director.
- 3) Regularly reviewing and approving the Project's financial records.
- 4) Establishing the Project's annual workplan in consultation with the Project Director.
- 5) Reviewing and approving communications released on behalf of the Project.

Code of Conduct

The Partners agree that:

1. Participation in the Project is optional. They will participate fully and in good faith.
2. They will bring concerns or criticisms about the Project to the Partners Table for discussion, and they will do so early, honestly, and before addressing their concerns elsewhere.
3. The heart of the Project is collaboration, including collaboration with governments—the Project will not be used to lobby or pressure any level of government.
4. They will not speak or act on behalf of the Project or the Partners without the approval of the Partners Table.
5. The Partners Table may remove a Partner that behaves counter to the code of conduct. The procedure to do this is as follows:
 - a. The aggrieved Partners submit their concerns in writing to the President or Board Chair of their Associations and request that disciplinary action be taken;
 - b. The Presidents and Board Chairs meet to discuss the grievances and decide on the most appropriate action – 1) require complete removal of the offending Association from the Partners Table or 2) request that the Association delegate a new representative to the Partners Table; and
 - c. The Presidents and Board Chairs prepare a letter to the offending Association outlining their decision.

Funding and Resources

The Project was made possible through the generous support of the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). The grant provides two years of funding for two staff positions: a Project Director and a second support position to be selected by the Director, in consultation with the Partners Table. Grant funds will also support meeting and administration costs for the project. Additional funds to support the Project may be available and any further applications to support the Project must be approved at the Partners Table.

Partners Table Procedures

1. Two-thirds of the Partners must be present to constitute quorum.
2. Decisions at the table are made by consensus if possible, and otherwise by a majority vote.
3. The Partners will elect a Chair and Vice Chair for each calendar year of the Project.
4. Workplans will be created annually.
5. The Partners will meet quarterly, or at the call of the Chair.
6. A Partner may opt to leave the Project at any time.

7. A new Partner may be added to the table if most of the Partners determine this would be in the best interest of the Project.
8. The Chair will ensure that proposals and decision being considered are well understood by everyone; that all objections or reservations have been heard before affirming that agreement has been reached or calling for a vote.
9. Objections may be registered in the minutes through:
 - a. Reservations or Non-Support – the Partner disagrees with the decision, but they will not stop the group from supporting it.
 - b. Request for Postponement – if a Partner strongly objects to a decision, they may request the Chair to postpone action on the item until the next meeting (scheduled at the Chair’s discretion), to allow for a period of negotiation and sober second thought. Following the postponement period and additional discussion at the Partners Table, the group may move forward with a decision based on majority opinion.

Communications Protocol

The Partners Table may communicate with the public in the following way:

1. The Project Director may speak to the public on behalf of the Partners Table. The Project Director will make every attempt to include the Partners Table, or its Chair or Vice Chair at a minimum, in an initial discussion beforehand to ensure messaging is on point.
2. In consultation with the Project Director, the Chair of the Partners Table, or Vice Chair in the Chair’s absence, or designate (as noted in 3 below) may speak to the public on the Partners Table behalf.
3. In consultation with the Project Director, the Chair may designate another member of the Partners Table to act as spokesperson on a particular issue.
4. Individual members may not communicate with the public on behalf of the Partners Table, excepted as noted above.
5. Media releases, web-postings and other outreach materials produced by the Partners Table must be approved in advance by the Project Director.
6. Members must clarify that they are not speaking for the Partners Table when they speak for themselves or their organization on a Partners Table-related issue.

Signatures & Acknowledgements

As a member of the Partners Table, I have read and agree to abide by the details outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project.

BC Cherry Association

Name: Beth Covers

Signature: 

Date: 6 / Feb / 2024

BC Fruit Growers' Association


Name: Helissa Tesche

Signature: 

Date: March 11, 2024

BC Grapegrowers' Association

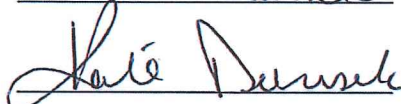
Name: Tynan Miskell

Signature: 

Date: Feb 29/24

BC Wine Grape Council

Name: Kate Davisek

Signature: 

Date: February 6, 2024

Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program

Name: Michelle Cook

Signature: 

Date: March 11, 2024