

BC Agriculture Sector

Climate Change Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment



the Fraser Valley

What is the Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment, and why does it matter?

Managing through uncertainty is a common element of farming life. Weather has always been a challenge for the agriculture sector, and farmers have developed many ways of adapting. However, in the context of a changing climate, the scope and scale of change is expected to exceed anything previously experienced. Patterns of “normal” weather will shift, and the frequency of unpredictable and extreme weather “events” will increase. This will test the capacity of individual agricultural producers to respond, and is likely to push beyond the threshold of current adaptation.

A changing climate will have direct consequences for food production by affecting the health and quality of crops, pastures, forests and livestock. Compounding the uncertainty associated with climate change, impacts will vary considerably across geographic regions and many other factors influence the capacity of regions and agricultural producers to adapt.

To begin to address these challenges, the BC Agriculture Council has initiated a Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment for the BC agriculture sector. The 12 month project is being implemented through the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative.

The Assessment will be guided by agricultural producer perspectives of impacts, risks and capacity to manage



vineyards in Penticton

through climate change. Interviews and focus groups will be carried out in agricultural regions across the province. To communicate project findings, both regional reports and a province-wide report will be developed. Recommendations will be provided regarding priorities and next steps for action.

What will the project achieve?

The project will increase understanding of the potential impacts of climate change for the BC agriculture sector. It will identify risks and opportunities, as well as the practices that farmers currently use to manage difficult or extreme weather conditions. To support future work, the project will highlight gaps in the information and resources currently available.

An assessment of the BC agriculture sector’s risks, capacities and opportunities will provide a starting point for integrating climate change adaptation into planning, risk management and decision-making at many levels.

What are the next steps following project completion?

This project is the first step in a broad strategic approach to climate change adaptation, as outlined in the industry’s BC Agriculture Climate Change Action Plan. The Risk and Opportunity Assessment will contribute to the development of knowledge,

tools and resources to improve the resilience of the BC agriculture sector and individual farm operations in the context of a changing climate.



Climate Action Initiative
BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD

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