



The future of food through agricultural technology

Partners

[University of the Fraser Valley](#)

Participants People from rural, remote, and northern communities; Racialized Peoples

Locations

[British Columbia](#)

Additional Partners

[New Harvest](#)

Topics

[Sectors](#)
[Tech and Automation](#)

Related Tags

[Digital Divide](#),
[disruptive technologies](#),
[future skills](#),
[shock-proofing](#)

This
ground-
breaking
research
explores
the
potential
of
cellular
agriculture

–
food
created
in
a
lab

–
to
create
a
year-
round
supply
of
nutritious
food
and
develop
jobs
in
an
exciting
new
field.

COVID-19 has revealed multiple vulnerabilities in food systems and supply chains. An emerging set of technologies known as cellular agriculture could enable local, reliable production of dairy and meat alternatives with a low environmental footprint. Cellular agriculture enables people to produce food products using cell cultures and tissue-engineering or fermentation-based techniques.



Led by the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley in BC, this initiative could improve food

security by providing a constant supply of nutritious food while also increasing job skills and employment. However, technology alone cannot comprise a food systems solution, and the creation of an effective, resilient food system strategy requires the technology to be viewed through a comprehensive social, cultural,

economic,
and
environmental
sustainability
lens.

Future Skills Centre is investing \$234,859 in this 2-year project. Using the region of BC's Fraser Valley for a case study, this research explores the potential of cellular agriculture to enhance food security, economic development, and sustainability in Canada. The research uses a community-based approach to engage local government, stakeholders, and community members and to collaboratively explore opportunities and challenges around the development of a

local
cellular
agriculture
industry.
The
results
of
the
project
will
provide
a
plan
and
roadmap
for
developing
such
an
industry
in
the
Fraser
Valley,
and
the
findings
will
provide
details
on
initiating
a
local
pilot
project.

Evaluation Strategy

This project is evaluated using tools and approaches aligned with its goals, context, and stage of development. The evaluation focuses on generating the right evidence at the right moment to move the intervention forward. [Read more about our evaluation strategy.](#)



The Future Skills Centre acknowledges that the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee share a special relationship to the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory,' where our office is located, bound to share and protect the land. As a pan-Canadian initiative, FSC operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations across Turtle Island, the name given to the North American continent by some Indigenous peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in this territory and commit ourselves to learning about our shared history and doing our part towards reconciliation.

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