

January 29, 2024

## Call for Letters of Intent

As part of Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' (OGVG) commitment to ongoing research, OGVG is looking for letters of intent for projects to be part of an Ontario Agri-Science Project (ASP), based on the research vision below, aimed at advancing innovative technologies and improving the production equation for greenhouse vegetable growers in Ontario. Letters of intent received through this process and not selected for inclusion of the ASP will be considered for other research initiatives in the medium to long term.

### General Guidelines

Projects can be between 1-4 years in length, starting September 1, 2024, until March 31, 2028.

Letter of intent (LOI) are welcomed from:

- Educational, academic and research institutions or centres,
- For-profit organizations,
- Other interested stakeholders.

To be considered, an LOI submission must include a project description and budget. Applicants who are successful in this process will be invited to submit a full proposal. Regardless of the outcome, all applicants will be notified of decisions. Please see the Deadlines and the How To Apply section for relevant information.

Unsuccessful and late submissions will be retained and may be considered for future funding opportunities as they become available. Incomplete LOIs will not be reviewed. Please keep your receipt of acknowledgement for your records. LOI submissions are confidential and will not be shared outside of the internal decision committee.

### Deadlines

January 29, 2024	Call for letters of intent is open.
February 29, 2024	Deadline to submit completed LOI. (See How to Apply for full details.)
March 8, 2024	Internal deadline for LOI review and decision.
April 8, 2024	Deadline for submission of full proposals.
April 19, 2024	Internal deadline for full proposal review and decision.
May 1, 2024	OGVG submission of project to Agri-Science Program.

## OGVG's Research Vision

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*Autonomous, sustainable and resilient – Ontario's greenhouse vegetable sector*

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*Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers are getting ready for the future. By 2035, fully autonomous greenhouse-growing will be reality. A diverse selection of fresh fruits and vegetables are grown 365 days a year in Ontario greenhouses and distributed across North America. Harnessing the tech boom of the roaring '20s, growers are integrating lighting, climate control, logistics, energy, food safety and labour.*

*OGVG members are world-class stewards of the land and waterways with standards that set us apart from competitors, locally and internationally. OGVG growers are resilient, adopting best practices that keep greenhouse farming profitable and benefiting local economies with new opportunities. OGVG members have reached net-negative production, offsetting local industry in advance of 2050 goals. The circular economy created for plant and plastic waste supports new products, businesses and industries.*

*Greenhouse crops are protected through proactive biosecurity programs and rely on biological controls, RNAi solutions and advanced biotech tools, such as gene editing, for residue-free produce. Greenhouse production leads horticulture as the most accessible choice for all Canadians looking for food choices that meet their ideological preferences, while also recognizing their economic realities.*

OGVG would like to thank all applicants for their interest and submission. A staff member from OGVG will contact each applicant to let them know the results of their LOI.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your research idea further, please contact Niki for more information.

Niki Bennett  
Innovation, Adaptation & Plant Protection Lead  
519-326-2604  
[nbennett@ogvg.com](mailto:nbennett@ogvg.com)

## How to Apply

There are two (2) parts to a complete LOI submission. A complete submission will include a project description and a budget. Instructions and guidelines are included below. Send the completed submission to Niki Bennett, [nbennett@ogvg.com](mailto:nbennett@ogvg.com), by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Project Description

A summary of the details below submitted in a single pdf, word (or equivalent) file.

- Project Title
- Key Information:
  - Applicant Name
  - Name of Organization
  - Street address, city, province/territory, postal code
  - Email address
  - Telephone number
  - Mandate/mission of organization
- A description of the proposed project and approach:
  - Objectives: Describe the objectives and activities to be undertaken by the project.
  - Rationale: Describe why this research or activity is important and how the project aligns with OGVG's research vision.
  - Approach: Describe how this project is applying a coordinated, collaborative and/or multi-disciplinary approach, as applicable. Please **do not** describe experimental design and/or methodology here.
  - Results: Describe the results and/or outcomes that will be generated by the project or activity, including benefits to Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers.
- Impact of the project:
  - Describe the potential for the creation of new knowledge/technology or use of existing knowledge/technology in innovative ways.
  - Describe how this project will directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector, if applicable.
  - Outline the originality of the project (ex. approach, methodology, novel technologies or applications, location, community involvement)

- Knowledge Translation & Transfer (KTT)
  - Briefly describe how the knowledge gained through this activity will be communicated to stakeholders/end-users, scientific community and other, relevant and interested groups.
- Community and/or Partner Involvement
  - Indicate any partners and/or end-users involved and describe the nature of their role.
- Team Expertise and Experience
  - Explain the relevant expertise and experience of your organization and/or team members related to this project; include that of your partner(s), if applicable. **Do not** submit CVs as part of this application.

### Budget

A high-level budget, submitted in a single Excel (or equivalent) document, no more than a one-sheet summary including the details below.

- Vote 1 or 10 funding eligibility, if applicable
- The anticipated number of Highly Qualified Personnel students (i.e. Masters or PhD)
- Annual estimates of the following:
  - Labour – e.g. research scientists, technicians,
  - Materials and supplies – e.g. consumable items, rentals, office supplies,
  - Conferences and travel,
  - Capital costs,
  - Other costs – please provide details of any costs falling outside of the above categories.