



IAPO 2022 Beginning Farmers Program

The Beginning Farmers Program (BFP) is a multiyear program designed to support new beginning First Nations farmers between the ages of 16 and 40 through all stage of farm business start up. BFP will support the creation, development and investment in the new farm businesses.

Eligible farm businesses include: livestock, crop, vegetable, fruit, maple syrup, honey, floriculture and nursery production, mixed farming and aquaculture. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact IAPO if they are unsure whether their new farm business idea qualifies.

The program has two distinct areas of focus:

- Workshops and Training
- Start Up Financing up to \$50,000
- Grants - 30% up to a maximum of \$15,000

Successful applicants will take part in an evaluation to establish current business and skill levels. This information, in conjunction with formal training and support, will be used by the participants in the creation and support of their multi-year business plan.

Workshops & Training

Business Workshops

Workshop 1 : Introduction to Farming - October, 2022

Workshop 2 : Farm Business Management - December, 2022

Participation in all workshops throughout the program is mandatory.

Start up Financing

Eligible participants will be able to access financing and cost share funding to finance their new farm business. Eligible costs include livestock, equipment, machinery, materials, inputs, building costs, storage etc. On approved projects, participants are eligible for financing up to \$50,000 and a 30% cost share grant.



From business planning to implementation, participants will be supported by mentors and IAPO staff regularly providing help and guidance including farm visits.

Applications and Next Steps

IAPO is accepting applications until September 30, 2022. Participation is limited and selection will be based on applications submitted.

- All applications will be reviewed and those selected based on program criteria and available funding will be advanced to the next step.
- Those advanced will be required to attend Workshop 1 : Introduction to Farming scheduled for October 2022 and complete a business plan.
- Final acceptance into the program will be based on the approval of the business plan and application.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must be First Nations with Registered Status, be between the age of 16 and 40 years old and reside in Ontario.

Applicants must not have owned or operated a significant farm business previously. Eligible participants include those individuals who have worked on farms owned by family or others, individuals who have small scale farm businesses (less than \$5000 in sales/value of production per year), or individuals who have not previously farmed or owned a farm business.

Applicant must contribute a minimum of 5% equity.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they have the capability and capacity to start a farm business and participate in all scheduled workshops and meetings conducted in conjunction with the Beginning Farmers Program.

Applicants must be willing to work with IAPO staff, mentors and others as required throughout the program. Mentors are an important source of support for Beginning Farmers Program participants and participants are expected to find a local mentor (with IAPO staff assistance) to work with.

For more Information:

Contact IAPO at 1-800-363-0329 or info@indianaq.on.ca

