



# NSERC & SSHRC Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative

Supporting collaborative research to initiate or accelerate the development of solutions that will be required for a sustainable, resilient, and profitable agriculture sector in a net zero economy.

Webinar - 2023

## NSERC & SSHRC Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative

### Purpose

To help the Canadian agricultural sector contribute to Canada's GHG emission reduction goals

To reinforce, coordinate and scale up Canada's domestic research capabilities

To support partnerships between universities, colleges, and organizations and stakeholders across the Agriculture sector.

To initiate or accelerate transformative solutions for the Agriculture sector

To expand the traditional network of agriculture research partners.

To support knowledge mobilization from lab to farm.

## NSERC & SSHRC Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative

### Why apply?

- Support is available for preparation costs of applications (for ~20 grants, up to \$50,000)
- **\$72M is available in this initiative for grants of \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 per year for 4 years**
- NSERC and SSHRC support 100% of the eligible costs of research
- Awards are expected to start April 1, 2024

#### Who can apply

- You can apply as if you are a Canadian university researcher eligible to receive NSERC funds.
- The applicant must apply as **a team with two or more eligible co-applicants**

#### When to apply

- **Preparatory Funding** May 8, 2023, 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- **Full Project Funding** November 8, 2023, 8:00 p.m. (ET)



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# Research objectives

**Fundamental and applied research** required to develop a technical path to a more sustainable and resilient sector in a net-zero economy.

**Developing metrics** to better understand and report on environment and climate impacts of different production systems, and of producers' efforts in adopting innovative practices.

Improving ways to **transfer science and technology knowledge** effectively to the agricultural sector, with a view to accelerate change

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### Research topics

The list of research topics was developed in collaboration with AAFC and were informed from stakeholder consultations in May 2022 at AAFC's Transformative Workshop: **Path to 2050-Transforming Canada's Farm and Food Production Systems**

- A list of research topics is available online, please **note projects are not limited to the research topics.**
- Applications should focus on developing transformative solutions toward net-zero emissions agriculture and propose research required to develop a technical path to a sustainable and resilient sector in a net-zero economy.



Image source: all images on this slide have been retrieved from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Facebook page.

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### Research topics



Identifying practices and technologies to enable the sector to capture carbon effectively (e.g., nature-based climate solutions or technologies that enhance soil carbon sequestration)



Innovative plant health solutions that reduce the need for added amendments (e.g., biofertilizers, plant gene-editing, nanotechnology)



Alternative input management tools and technologies (e.g., pesticide/fertilizer delivery methods, precision agriculture)



Diverse production systems (crop, soil, livestock, grassland, and nutrient management systems) that maximize environmental outcomes in future climate change scenarios.



Developing and testing improved methane and nitrous oxide emission factors, measurement tools, and models



Supporting fundamental socio-economic and behavioural research toward increased adoption of practices and technologies that support greenhouse gas mitigation in the agriculture and agri-food sector



Developing metrics to better understand and report on environment and climate impacts, including biophysical and socio-economic

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# What results are we hoping for?

To fund multidisciplinary networks of researchers and partners

To support fundamental **and** applied research

To encourage transformative alternative practices, technologies, and their adoptions,

To support the development of measurement tools and performance metrics.

To increasing the speed of the adoption of technologies and practices for the Agricultural sector

To enhance collaborations between the social and behavioural sciences and humanities, with the natural sciences and engineering

To continue to fund research in Agriculture after the initiative via the Alliance program

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# How to apply

Applicants will be using [NSERC's online system](#) for both the preparatory funds and the full proposals

### Preparatory funds

Fit to the initiative

Justification of needs for funds

Eligibility of requested budget items

Partner engagement, participation  
and contributions (if applicable)

### Full applications

Relevance and outcomes\*

Partnership

Quality of the proposal

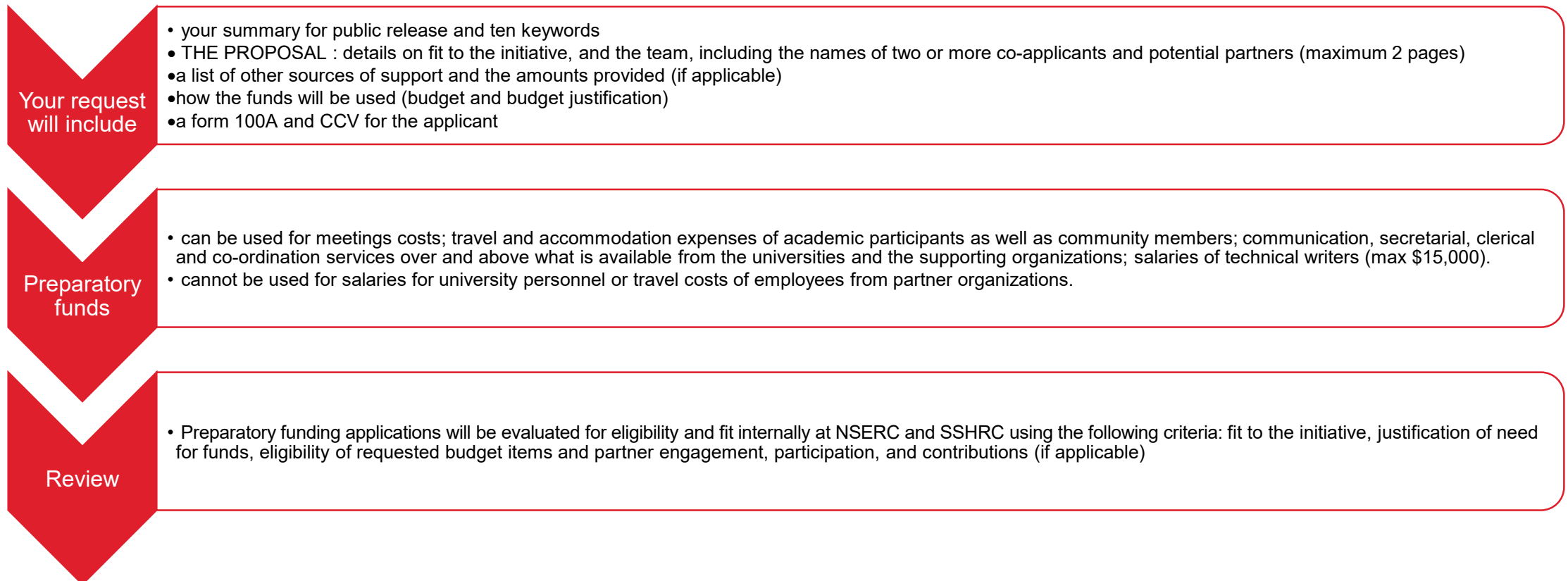
Training

\*For this initiative, the alignment with the objectives and/or research topics will be assessed as part of the **relevance and outcomes criteria**

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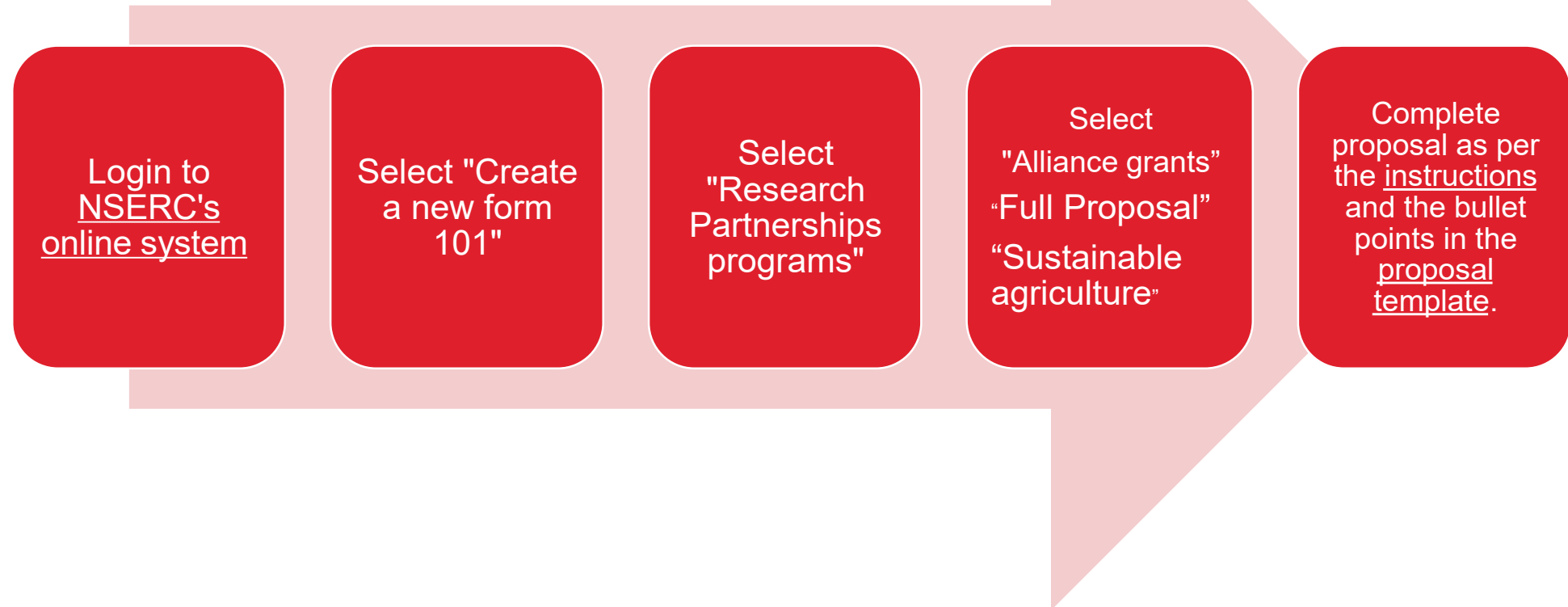
# Preparatory Funding

Login to [NSERC's online system](#) and choose Create a new form 101, select Research partnerships programs, then Alliance grants. Proposal type field = **Letter of intent**; Type of call field = **Preparatory funds for sustainable agriculture**



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### Full applications



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### Partners

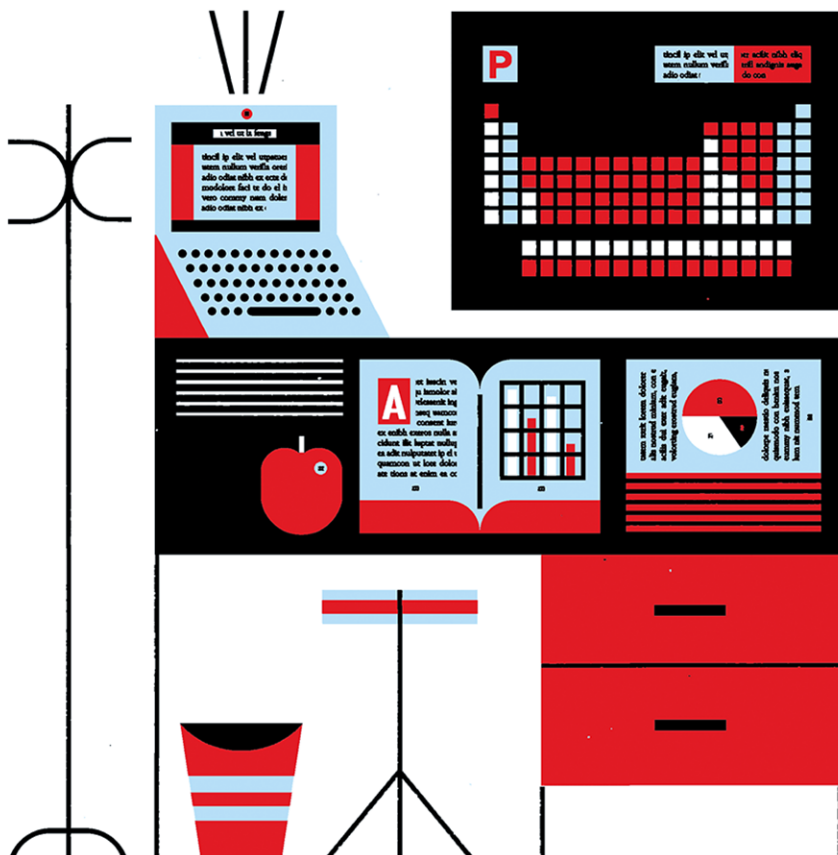
Your partner organizations must actively play a role in the project and support the project through **in-kind contributions**.

At least one partner organization must have the ability to **exploit the project's research results..**

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with knowledge users (such as agronomists, producers, smart farms, etc.) to support knowledge mobilization.

Alliance grants - Role of partner organizations





# Questions?

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