

Red River Métis On-Farm CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM



ACTIVITY#2 FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION AND ON-FARM IMPLEMENTATION OF COVER CROPPING BMPS

Through this program, the MMF will provide non-repayable funding (up to \$100,000, pending available funds) to Red River Métis Citizens engaged in agricultural production. To support the adoption and on-farm implementation of BMP's related to (1) Nitrogen Management (2) Cover Cropping or (3) Rotational Grazing.

Cost-share ratio:

95% non-repayable contribution
5% in-kind contribution required

For all inquiries on the program, please email: agriculture@mmf.mb.ca. To ensure we are able to contact you, please provide us with your phone number(s).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be a Red River Métis Citizen.
- Applicants must currently be engaged in agricultural production (anywhere in Canada) on lands at least 50% owned by a Red River Métis Citizen(s), and must provide proof of at least 50% ownership only of the lands where project activities will be conducted.
- Applicants who wish to utilize project funds on rented or non-Crown lease lands are required to provide the MMF with signed consent from landowner(s), and proof of possession extending at least until March 31, 2028. Documented proof must be provided at the time of application submission to ensure eligibility and prevent delays.
- Applicants who must use rented land not owned (50% or more) by a Red River Métis Citizen(s) or who must utilize Crown lease lands should first contact agriculture@mmf.mb.ca to discuss eligible activities.
- Applications from Red River Métis businesses with less than 50% Red River Métis ownership will be considered only after those with 50% or greater ownership.
- All project costs and activities must first be approved by the MMF before any expenses incurred by the Applicant are to be eligible for payment to the Applicant.
- All MMF approved project activities submitted by the Applicant must demonstrate BMPs that are either a new practice or an improvement to the Applicant's existing practices.
- All Applicants must be able to demonstrate either a new practice or an improvement to existing practices on the land in which the activity would take place and should provide a clear benefit to the health of the land and surrounding ecosystem. Applicants who have previously received program funds must propose projects that adopt or implement new BMPs, or expand previously adopted BMPs onto new hectares.
- Applicants may incorporate Red River Métis values and traditions into eligible activities if they can justify how these align with the project's objectives.
- Costs associated with the creation of an Applicant's action plan, and the labour costs to perform approved activities will be permitted with defined limits (details included within application).

Eligible Costs & Activities:

- Utilizing the services of licensed Professional Agrologists (P.Ag), with demonstrated competency, or alternatively include professionals with a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) designation. **Note: The MMF will utilize a Professional Agrologist for project application approval and provide sufficient virtual and on-farm supports as needed.**
- Planning, technical assessments, and engineering or technical design fees and costs of other agronomic support.
- BMPs that focus on the use of regionally appropriate cover crops in field crops and horticultural operations to protect soil from erosion, enhance soil organic matter and provide undisturbed cover over winter and early spring months.

Red River Métis On-Farm CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM



- Fall planted cover crops as well as spring planted cover crops underseeded with the main crop (intercropping).
- Full season annual and/or perennial cover crops in a rotation.
- Costs associated with seeding and planting. **Note: all equipment purchases or upgrades will be limited to no more than \$30,000 per Applicant for the lifetime of the program. Applicants who are approved for the purchase of equipment must also report on related BMP implementation that is possible through the use of the equipment.**

Ineligible Costs & Activities:

- Planting winter cover crops that do not meet program objectives or eligibility.
- Crops that will be harvested or grazed leaving less than 6 inches (15cm) of cover crop growth over winter.
- Crops intended to be harvested in the next growing season for market (e.g. winter cereals).
- Cover crops planted to take land permanently out of production. Note: Applicants may rationalize their traditional knowledge and practices to accommodate for what they define as not considered taken permanently out of production.
- Costs where the proposed practice is not a new practice (i.e., has been recently used by the Applicant on the acres included in the application).
- Lift kits to convert low clearance equipment to high clearance, unless the lift kit is part of a proposed project to install equipment to support intercropping.
- Costs related to mechanical or chemical termination of the cover crop (e.g., roller crimpers).
- GPS components related solely to a guidance system (e.g., autosteer systems).
- Purchase, rental, lease, or sale of land, buildings, facilities, inventory, and associated taxes and fees.
- Normal operating costs associated with conducting or expanding a business.
- Any cost that is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund.
- Purchase of new or used farm equipment or other assets that are deemed non-essential to implementing eligible activities as approved by the MMF.
- Purchasing livestock, feed, seed, or any costs associated beyond what is listed under eligible costs and activities.
- BMPs applied to a specific farm area prior to the program are ineligible; however, an expansion of a BMP application on a farm area where these BMPs have not recently been used are still eligible.
- Gifts and incentives.
- Costs related to activities that directly influence or lobby any level of government.
- Costs of training and skills development that fulfill any academic requirements.
- Costs of travel, hospitality, meals, and/or accommodations.
- Tile drainage systems.
- Crop storage facilities (e.g., grain bins, seed storage), TMR mixers, feed pushers and automated feeding systems.
- Multi-use items that go beyond the scope of the project (e.g., computers, printers, hand or power tools and attachments, etc).
- Materials or products produced by the Applicant's farm business (e.g., seed).
- Invoices not issued in the Applicant's name or business.

Red River Métis On-Farm CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM



In-Kind Eligible Activities:

All in-kind activities require the approval of the appropriate MMF program staff and will be determined together with Applicants on or after the date of their application approval. In-kind activities must be completed by the Applicant by no later than June 31, 2026.

- **Recommended:** Mentoring of a Red River Métis young agrarian or established producer looking to improve their knowledge (age 18-39). *Note: A mentor may to also receive mentorship to gain new perspective and knowledge to improve their business. Details on mentoring costs that can be claimed toward in-kind will be detailed during the application approval phase. Note: Immediate family members are typically not eligible to receive mentoring.*
- Labour or equipment hours associated with implementing eligible activities (if they are not already claimed by the Applicant).
- Maximum 3 hours at \$25 per hour can be claimed toward in-kind to complete the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). This process remains voluntary and confidential; the MMF will not request confirmation of completion.
- Provide a gift to be distributed to Citizens in-need (e.g. meat processed in certified facility, feed, fur/hides, Red River Métis traditional offerings including artwork, Traditional Knowledge, bison skulls, food).
- Other activities as determined on a case-by-case basis with each successful Applicant.