

Cultivating Place

PROGRESS REPORT

2010-2015

The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems is a living laboratory and agent for social change. Our work aims to understand and transform local and global food systems towards a more sustainable, food secure future.



The CSFS is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. In 2011, with the vibrant support and encouragement of students, faculty, and community members, UBC made a historic decision to protect the 24 hectare integrated farm system as a permanent land-based academic facility, re-zoning the site as “green academic.” As part of the campaign to “Save the Farm,” a visionary academic plan, *Cultivating Place*, outlined steps for the CSFS and the UBC Farm to weave a culture of sustainability, rooted in stewardship of place, into the intellectual and physical fabric of our University (ubcfarm.ubc.ca/about/cultivating-place/).

Between 2010 and 2015, we expanded our research and community networks and have begun building the social and material foundations for our living laboratory. Thousands of UBC students, academic collaborators, and community members have actively engaged with the UBC Farm fields, forests, and communities.

We invite you to learn about our progress over the last five years and join us in our next steps @ ubcfarm.ubc.ca



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Center for Sustainable Food Systems
at UBC Farm



Research

The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems is a vibrant research hub that investigates interdisciplinary, innovative and inclusive solutions to local and global food systems challenges.



Highlights 2010-2015

Honey Bee Pathogen Response

Development of molecular tools to selectively breed bees for disease resistance and increased productivity. Aims to protect the safety and sustainability of the Canadian beekeeping industry.

Contact: **Dr. Leonard Foster**
UBC Centre for High-Throughput Biology

Farm to Institution Food Procurement

Assesses potential of institutional food procurement to increase social and economic viability of the local food sector. Provides farmers, distributors, institutions, and policy-makers with tools to manage farm-to-institution food procurement initiatives.

Contact: **Dr. Lisa Powell**
Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Foodlands Access & Food Sovereignty

Examines and supports community-led initiatives to protect farm and foodlands for food security in BC. Partnership with the FarmFolkCityFolk Community Farms Program and the BC Working Group for Indigenous Food Sovereignty.

Contact: **Dr. Hannah Wittman**
Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Organic Systems Nutrient Dynamics

Quantifies the effect of organic soil amendments on crop quantity and quality, soil fertility, soil microbial activity, and greenhouse gas emissions. Helps farmers minimize the trade-offs between crop production, soil health and environmental impacts.

Contact: **Dr. Gabriel Maltais-Landry**
Faculty of Land and Food Systems

BC Seed Trials

Participatory vegetable seed trials at UBC Farm and across the province. This project aims to increase food security and resiliency through increased local seed production.

Contact: **Dr. Alexandra Lyon**
Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Adapting BC agriculture to climate change

Quantifies effectiveness of plastic mulches and low tunnels in modifying soil and atmospheric microclimate. Enables the development of models to assist BC horticultural producers to modify crop microclimates.

Contact: **Dr. Andrew Black**
Faculty of Land and Food Systems



84

Research Collaborators



25

Successful Grants



\$1,807,426

in Research Funding



29

Peer Reviewed
Publications



47

Dissertations, Theses,
and Reports

Teaching

The CSFS embodies the concept of campus as an agent of social change, where learners of all ages are immersed in land stewardship and a diverse ecology of knowledge. Our teaching and learning activities include the development of indigenous and land-based pedagogies, community and experiential learning activities, and support for course development on a range of topics related to sustainable food systems.

Highlights 2010-2015

UBC Farm Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture

An 8-month experiential learning program for aspiring farmers, urban gardeners, and environmental educators. These new farmers and educators aim to transform their communities through innovative, sustainable food systems enterprises.

Contact: Seth Friedman
Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Intergenerational Landed Learning

In partnership with the Faculty of Education, this initiative unites generations in a community learning environment to illustrate the values of lifelong learning, ecological and social citizenship, and civic responsibility.

Contact: Stacy Friedman
Faculty of Education

Indigenous Research Partnerships

The Indigenous Health and Research Garden integrates diverse indigenous knowledge systems to support programming and curricula, community engagement, and university student participation in cultural activities at UBC Farm.

Contact: Dr. Eduardo Jovel
Faculty of Land and Food Systems

Cultivating Forest Stewardship

A new undergraduate course on forest entrepreneurship at UBC integrates forest ecosystem management and student learning at the UBC Farm. The UBC Farm includes community learning space for Forestry students and community initiatives in its 30 acres of managed forest.

Contact: Dr. Stephen Mitchell
Faculty of Forestry

UBC Farm Symposium

An annual celebration of student-led teaching and learning activities open to the university and external communities. Interactive sessions include student and faculty presentations and networking with community organizations.

“Future of Food” Global Food Dialogues

The CSFS provides a home for visiting researchers and invited speakers to share their perspectives and critical insights for food system sustainability with the university community through a free public lecture series.



6812

UBC Students Engaged in For-Credit Learning



3079

Non Course-Based UBC Student Engagement



60

Courses per Year Visit UBC Farm



12

All UBC Faculties Engaged



\$201,579

in Teaching Grants

Community Engagement

Community engagement initiatives at the CSFS advance dialogue on pathways to transforming the food system, building common ground for sustainable community development.

Highlights 2010-2015

Tu'Wusht Project

Weekly community kitchens, gardening activities, and “seed-to-plate” engagement at the UBC Farm provides support, opportunities and a safe space for Indigenous people living in East Vancouver to improve their health and well-being.

Contact: **Curtis Clearsky**
Vancouver Native Health Society

Urban Farmers Volunteer Program

UBC students, staff, faculty members, and community members gain hands-on experience in small-scale sustainable farming, gardening, marketing, children's education, and traditional food and medicines. The UBC Farm Volunteer Engagement program fosters the development of a future generation of food sustainability leaders.

Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness

A support model for youth acknowledging land in a context of healing, growth, self-reflection, and personal and community development with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society and Thunderbird Community Centre at UBC Farm.

Contact: **Dr. Jeff Schiffer**
Faculty of Land and Food Systems

Local Food Production and Market Diversification

UBC Farm activities in sustainable food production reach UBC students, faculty, and staff via three farmer's markets, a 110-member Community Supported Agriculture program, direct sales to 17 UBC food outlets, and a range of workshops and short courses throughout the year. This social enterprise model supports teaching, research, and community outreach related to sustainable food systems.

FarmWonders Children's Program

Innovative, educational, and fun programs for children aged 5 to 14. Through day camps and field trips, children explore the wonders of science and investigate the mysteries of food, in turn promoting environmental awareness through science-based farm learning.

Maya in Exile Garden

Since 2000, the Maya in Exile Garden at UBC Farm has provided a place for cultural sharing and sustaining ancestral practices for Mayan people living in Vancouver. Participants aim to keep Mayan traditions alive by growing Maya crops in Canada, enabling children to learn about their culture and strengthen their identity.

Contact: **Lix Lopez**
LFS Indigenous Initiatives



55,000

Visitors per Year



9,507

Indigenous Program
Participants



1,867

Adult Education
Participants



7,000

Children's Program
Participants



80,000

Pounds of Food
Grown per Year