



## Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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For Immediate Release

### **Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Set to Deliver the On-Farm Climate Action Fund to Ontario Farmers**

Guelph, Ontario (March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022): Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is pleased to have been selected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) as a recipient organization to deliver the federal Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) in Ontario. On February 22, Canada’s Agricultural Day, AAFC announced OSCIA as one of 12 agricultural recipient organizations across Canada that will be delivering OFCAF over the 2022 and 2023 cropping seasons. Funding will support Ontario’s producers in their ongoing progress adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and store carbon, specifically for in-field nitrogen management, expanding cover cropping, and implementing rotational grazing practices.

To support projects in the 2022 growing season, OSCIA is planning for a late-spring application intake. Funding will be available to eligible farm businesses to cost-share implementation of a wide array of BMPs to support emission reductions. Examples include professional agronomic planning services, N-fertilizer application equipment upgrades to improve N placement, and cross-fencing materials to support rotational grazing. Producers should watch for programming details to be released by OSCIA in the coming months.

As experts in the delivery of educational workshops and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, OSCIA recognizes that BMP demonstration and access to professional advice play a key role in farmers’ successful long-term adoption of new practices. The program in Ontario will couple cost-share support for BMPs with in-kind support for participation in Knowledge Sharing Events (KSEs), to be offered in a variety of formats by OSCIA and other like-minded organizations in Ontario. These KSEs will provide participants with knowledge from the latest research, first-hand experience from their peers and access to information networks supporting co-learning opportunities long-term.

Cash crop farmer and OSCIA President Warren Schneckenburger is pleased with how the new program will support the already significant efforts Ontario’s farmers are making towards climate change mitigation. “As an organization committed to seeking, testing and adopting optimal farm production and stewardship practices, OFCAF is a logical extension of the current opportunities our Association offers Ontario farmers.” Regarding the KSE element of the new programming, Schneckenburger recognizes the role it will play in promoting adoption. “As a big proponent of peer-to-peer learning, OSCIA has

developed a unique model that will encourage industry networking and integration of new learning opportunities into farmer's decision making when accessing funding through OFCAF."

Another new element of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund at the federal level, is a commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion. To better understand how marginalized farmer groups can be served by this programming, OSCIA has hired the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO), an organization committed to better meeting the needs of farmers and members who are currently underrepresented in the industry. "Young farmers, women farmers, farmers with disabilities, Black farmers, Indigenous farmers and food providers, farmers of colour, small-scale farmers, 2SLGBTQ+ farmers, and new Canadian farmers often experience additional and unique barriers to enter and succeed in our sector. EFAO is very pleased to be a partner on this program to help ensure that farmers from equity-deserving groups are supported to access and benefit from this funding." Says Ali English, EFAO Executive Director.

"Our experience in delivering Ontario's Environmental Farm Plan and the many achievements of our programming through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and various Species At Risk initiatives, have positioned OSCIA very well to succeed in OFCAF delivery," says Andrew Graham, OSCIA Executive Director. Founded in 1939, the OSCIA is a unique not-for-profit whose diverse grassroots membership has significant presence in all agricultural areas and across all major sectors. With over 34 years of stewardship programming delivery and producer education experience, the OSCIA is well-positioned to support Ontario's farmers in their adoption of climate-friendly best management practices.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the [On-Farm Climate Action Fund](#). The Fund is part of the Government of Canada's Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative under the Natural Climate Solutions Fund (NCSF). The NCSF is implemented by Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To get up-to-date information on upcoming intakes, join the program's email list at <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/mail-list-subscribe/>.

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