



CANADIAN ADAPTATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Aboriginal Farm Business Management Pilot Program

Performance Report 2000-2001

PROFILE

Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario (IAPO) has assisted Status Indian farmers in Ontario since 1984, largely through a Farm Financing Program. The Aboriginal Farm Business Management Pilot Program will focus on, strengthen, and develop individual farm business management skills, develop and deliver agricultural programs for youth, and develop an agricultural database. Farm Business Management Skills development will foster long-term growth and employment in the agriculture and agri-food industry on First Nation Territories. Youth Development Programs will provide an awareness, as well as a program encouraging youth participation and leadership development. A database is needed to record the history, chart the present, and project future opportunities for present and future clients, IAPO, and other agencies. When the above three programs are developed, a model will be developed to share with other Aboriginal communities and groups across Canada to address their specific interests and needs in these areas.

REACH

Primary Target (Beneficiary)

- Aboriginal farmers and Aboriginal youth, initially in Ontario, and then across Canada.

Intermediaries/Co-deliverers

- Numerous agri-businesses in various areas across Ontario
- Partnership Development Advisors Initiative
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Wikwemikong Development Commission
- First Nations AgriGroup

SHORT-TERM RESULTS

Human Resource Capacity Building

Aboriginal Farm Business Management Skills Program

- Development of the proper training tools to foster long-term growth and employment in the agriculture and agri-food industry on First Nations Territories.
 - Development of a Demonstration Farm (five-year project) with a farm co-operator, First Nations AgriGroup, and numerous area agri-businesses
 - Demonstration field plots on various farm co-operator farms.
 - Tours, farm meetings, and preparation of record information.
 - Farm record book completion and explanations (50)
 - Development and implementation of crop-record books (28).
 - Expansion of beef herds, and development of management plans (12)
 - Community Pasture long-term plan development and management.
 - Development and mailing of "Marketing Newsletter" to specific producers (58 producers x 4 mailings per year)

Agricultural Programs for Youth

- Community Awareness Program and Youth Development programs to present agriculture in positive images, and create awareness of employment opportunities in the agriculture and agri-food areas.
 - Contacts with schools (10), teachers (172) and students (468) utilizing “Agriculture in the Classroom” resources.
 - Participating in “Career Days” programs (2)
 - Membership in The Ontario 4-H Council
 - Meetings with potential 4-H leaders (2) to establish 4-H Clubs with 32 members.
 - Development of two 4-H projects with specific First Nations reference that may be adopted and used by non-Native 4-H Clubs across Ontario

Developing a Database

- Developing a database encompassing all aspects of the agricultural industry.
 - Programmer prepared initial program based on specified requirements, and utilizing data collected annually for Farm Financial Analysis and Planning Workbook.
 - Initial data entered to test.
 - Staff involved tested and made suggestions for corrections.

Develop and Document a Model

- Staff assembling detailed information as all projects are underway. This information will be refined, and shared with other programs across Canada when specific recommendations are available.
- IAPO met with four Indian Agricultural Program Managers in Western Canada to explain project, answer questions, and obtain feedback for future application.

Long-Term Impacts

- Implement strategies to raise the skill level of Aboriginal people in the agricultural sector by first assisting Status Indian farmers in Ontario to achieve the economic utilization of the agricultural resources on Ontario First Nations Territories.
- Measured by:
 - Participation by individuals in farm business management and farm production management activities to increase skill levels (90 individuals participating in specific activities, and 102 meetings with total attendance of over 2,800)
 - First Nations Demonstration Farm – Year 2000 Report
 - First Nations AgriGroup Buying Co-operative, co-operatively purchasing \$1,185,899. inputs at substantial individual farmer savings.
 - Database information will further assist groups wanting co-operative buying by being able to substantiate acres of crops, or number of head of livestock
 - Database will record base information, and show year-by-year changes in financial and production information. The benchmark information from when a farmer’s data is first entered will show his/her annual changes.
 - Expansion of individual beef herds through financial assistance of an Economic Development Corporation when IAPO developed, and agreed to supervise a management program.
 - Utilization by schools and teachers of “Agriculture in the Classroom” resources to create an awareness of agriculture by First Nations students.
 - Information from the Ontario Pilot Project will hopefully allow participation by Aboriginal farmers across Canada in the future.

Responding to Emerging Opportunities

Farm Credit Corporation in late 2000 established a position "Vice-President, Aboriginal Business". Several meetings have been held to determine if a working arrangement is feasible. Information from the database will be critical in negotiations.

Success Stories

- These will be more apparent in succeeding years.
- Development of First Nations Demonstration Farm with major participation by area agri-businesses.
- Participation by many farmers in farm business management and production management activities.
- Very successful introduction of "Agriculture in the Classroom" resources in First Nations schools.
- Ontario 4-H Council accepting membership application by First Nations 4-H Association.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Several lessons were learned or re-learned.
- When a program submission is made, it is based on both time and financial parameters. Particularly in agriculture, many activities are seasonal. A one or two month delay in anticipated start-up can actually mean ten or eleven months before a specific program can be implemented. As long as the funding agency, as well as the host organization is aware of this, time lines can be adjusted.
- Information on Agriculture in the Classroom was originally forwarded directly to schools. In follow-up with individual teachers, it was found that in many cases the information had not been passed on. In future, as well as identifying schools, attempts will be made to contact individual teachers, and also participate where possible, in teacher professional development days.

RESOURCES

CARD Priorities

CARD Priorities	CARD \$	Industry \$	Provincial \$	Industry In-Kind	Provincial In-Kind	Total	% of Contrib.
Environmental Sustainability						0	0.0
Food Safety and Quality						0	0.0
Innovation						0	0.0
Market Opportunities						0	0.0
Human Resource Capacity Building	342,000	17,950		17,800	2,900	380,650	100.0
Rural Development						0	0.0
TOTAL	342,000	17,950	0	17,800	2,900	380,650	100.0

Note 1: Industry \$, Provincial \$, Industry In-Kind \$, and Provincial In-Kind \$ are shown for the period ending March 31, 2001. There will be ongoing contributions, but they will be on an on-going basis for project specific purposes.

Note 2: Wikwemikong Development Commission has provided funding in excess of \$296,000 for the purchase and “lease” of cattle to area beef producers. Part of the agreement to do this was based on IAPO providing guidelines, participation, and on-going management information, as well as record keeping and CCIA participation. These dollars are not shown.