## ACS Living Labs Strategy for Socio-Economics

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Agricultural Climate Solutions

British Columbia
Peace Region
Alberta
Western Prairies
Bridge to Land Water Sky
Central Prairies
New Brunswick
Nova Scotia
Newfoundland and Labrador

Living Laboratories Initiative

Eastern Prairies
Ontario
Quebec
Prince Edward Island

# Analyzing barriers & incentives to adoption in Canadian agricultural sectors

#### **On-farm** level enterprise analysis

- Working with core producers to collect detailed <u>cost of production data</u> about innovative BMPs that are the focus of the Living Labs projects
- **Examples** adapting existing cost of production calculators to incorporate specifics of BMPs like cover/inter cropping, crop-livestock integration, manure management, winter feeding (e.g. <u>Enterprise</u> <u>budgets Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</u>

### Whole farm analysis to identify synergies and trade-offs with BMPs for climate change mitigation

- Partial budget analysis of some BMPs in isolation may indicate higher costs, but whole farm benefits from increased carbon sequestration/soil health can offset this for whole farm picture
- Tracking dynamics by looking at cost of production changes <u>over time</u> for core producers
- Highlight short run vs long run economic impacts of BMPs

# Analyzing barriers & incentives to adoption in Canadian agricultural sectors

#### **<u>Regional/industry</u>** level analysis of diffusion of innovation

Working with project leads to survey broader <u>periphery</u> stakeholder communities on BMP adoption

**Year 1:** ACS Living Labs are fielding a <u>baseline survey</u> of existing use of BMPs in stakeholder producer communities beyond the core participants in the Living Labs themselves

• Some groups are using existing producer events to gather this information to get data from an appropriate peer group beyond the core participants

Year 5: ACS Living Labs will field a final survey of the periphery on BMP implementation levels

• Compare adoption rates over the lifespan of the ACS Living Lab to study how innovative BMPs studied during the project might diffuse into the broader industry

### Additional socioeconomic questions

ACS Living Labs projects may have additional socio-economic research objectives and variety of methods to achieve them

- Additional qualitative interviews with key informants and core producers on experiences/challenges with BMPs
- Workshops and focus group sessions on additional socio-economic challenges in different project regions
  - **Example:** marketing challenges, stress and mental health associated with farm management and innovation, building new social support systems for different agricultural regions to facilitate agricultural innovation





TEAM: UBCO, ACARN, AAFC, Okanagan College, industry consultants with input from industry leads





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