

**USC CANADA**



The  
Bauta Initiative  
on Canadian  
Seed Security

L'initiative  
Bauta sur la  
sécurité  
des semences  
au Canada

# **The Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security**

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**New Farmers' Roundtable**  
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# The Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

- **9 out of every 10 bites of food bites start with seeds**
- More than ever, seed diversity is needed to face our increasingly unpredictable weather.
- Our food diversity is quickly eroding- 75% of our food comes from 12 plant and 5 animal species (seeds bred for uniformity and performance in controlled situations)

## Goal:

Build a more secure, resilient and diverse seed system, one that also enhances communities.

- Strengthen regional work & build a national network
- Save and spread high quality, regionally adapted, ecologically grown, Canadian seeds



**Good food comes from  
good seed!**

# 5 Program Streams

- 1. Support for farmers:** Knowledge exchange, seed facilitation fund for seed savers, and market development initiatives.
- 1. Applied Research:** Participatory breeding, seed production methods, and climate adaptation.
- 2. Public Access:** Support for seed libraries, seed saving training, and exchanges.
- 3. Web Extension Service:** Farmer-to-farmer networking, seed saving information, and identification of valuable seeds in low supply.
- 4. Movement Building:** Building capacity to carry on regional work and national collaboration for years to come.



# What might interest New Farmers

## TRAINING

- **Peer-to-peer learning** (exchanging on particular varieties, disease prevention techniques, etc.)
- **On-farm seed apprenticeship** (1/ year)
- **Training** on both on the technical side of seed production and the practicalities of running a seed business

## ACCESS TO GOOD SEEDS & SEED MARKET

- Access to high quality, regionally adapted, ecologically grown Canadian seeds
- Support for cooperative crop planning, packaging and marketing initiatives, etc.

## ACCESS TO SEED SAVING INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES

- Support for seed cleaning & storage, seasonal staff, land rental, etc.



## TRAINING

- **On -farm learning**
- **Training for trainers** (in regions + nationally)
- **Videos and online tools**
- **Local seed saving workshops**

# Challenges

- Building capacity and momentum across the country
- Lack of knowledge and time from new farmers
- Fear of seed quality when self-saved



## What's coming up?

- Announcement of the program
- Hiring regional coordinators
- Survey for farmers
- Funds for seed events

[usc-canada.org/bauta](http://usc-canada.org/bauta)



*Thank you!!!*