



FIRST NATIONS HORTICULTURE & MAPLE SYRUP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM (FNHMS)

The FNHMS is a four year program designed to support and advance existing First Nations businesses in the horticulture and maple syrup sector. Program participants will engage in skills and business upgrades designed to lead businesses to a higher level of management, production, profitability and sustainability.

The pilot program has two distinct areas of focus:

- Education and training of First Nations farmers and business owners
- High gain capital investment

Beginning in the fall of 2012 program participants will take part in an evaluation to establish current business and skill levels. This information, in conjunction with the formal training and support, will be used by the participants in the creation of their multi-year business plan. Business plan implementation will be supported by mentors and staff. Subject to program approval, cost associated with identified skills training, equipment and machinery upgrading will qualify for cost sharing.

Key Components

- **Evaluation**
- **Business Workshops**
 - Workshop 1** (January 2013):
 - Business Management
 - Business Plan Development
 - Workshop 2** (October 2013):
 - Business Plan follow up
 - Further Business Management Training
- **Mentoring, Business Advisory and Extension Support** – From business planning to implementation, participants will be supported by mentors, IAPO and OMAFRA staff regularly providing help and guidance including farm visits.
- **Cost Share** – Participants will be able to access cost share funding for skills upgrading and high gain capital investment. Cost sharing is available on approved projects and participants are eligible to receive up to \$18,250/participant. For approved projects participants will be eligible for up to 70% of the cost of the project. Eligible projects for education and training include tuition cost for skills upgrading courses. Eligible projects for high gain capital investments will be targeted to new and innovative equipment and technology. Examples include pipeline systems for maple syrup production and trickle irrigation for market gardeners. A complete list of eligible projects will be available.



Applicant Requirements:

- Applicants must have Indian Status. Existing First Nations farmers, organizations and communities currently engaged in economic activities involving horticulture and maple syrup production will be eligible to apply.
- Contribute a minimum of 10% equity.
- Have the capability and capacity to take their business to the next level of economic activity, productivity, efficiency and profitability.
- Must agree to participate fully and share information and knowledge they gained from this project with other First Nations farmers.

Participation will be limited and selected based on applications submitted. Application deadline is November 30th, 2012.

Please note this program may only be available in areas serviced by IAPO.



For more information contact
Jen (jen@indianag.on.ca) at 1 800 663 6912

