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Creation of a Network Specialized in Large-Scale Organic Farming

TÉMISCAMINGUE

Investment:
\$8 million

FUQAT contribution:
\$1.5 million

THE PROJECT

Climate change, consumer environmental awareness, and the willingness to curb pesticide use will lead to the significant expansion of organic agriculture in the years to come.

There are many opportunities for economic development in this sector, and in order to seize them, UQAT is working to implement a specialized agricultural network that will rally regional stakeholders (producers, processors, distributors, etc.) around the expansion of large-scale organic farming in the territory.

To ensure that research efforts are making a positive and effective contribution to the growth of companies which are part of this network, the development of knowledge and expertise, innovation, technology transfer, as well as the economic and environmental aspects of the network will be taken into account from the beginning.

TIMETABLE

The project will take place over **an 8-year timeframe** to include three preparatory years and five years of research work and economic analyses.

Its roll-out is expected in **May 2023**.

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Field:
Agriculture



THE OPPORTUNITY

The pandemic has underlined the importance of food self-sufficiency. Add to this reality other important issues related to the production of food (reducing harm to the environment, public health, and others). Organic farming is a worldwide response to several of these issues.

Taking into account available land, soil fertility, and the low cost of land in comparison with other regions of the province, organic farming is a niche with high potential for the region's economic development. The development of knowledge and the introduction of state-of-the-art practices in this sector will enable the region to innovate and to contribute significantly to regional economic development.

IMPACT

- This important project will increase research and collaboration between the team of researchers and professional staff in the Agrifood Research and Development Unit (URDAAT) at UQAT.
- The scientific benefits of this project will have an impact on UQAT's influence as an institution of higher education, and on its contribution to the territory's economic development.
- It will also contribute to the training of highly qualified personnel, besides creating a minimum of 5 professional positions, which should contribute to new families settling in the territory.
- Over time, this new network will position Abitibi-Témiscamingue as a leader in organic farming at the provincial, national, and even international levels.