

Terms of Reference

Information Review on Alternate Crops of Interest to Ontario's Immigrant Communities

The Centre for Land and Water Stewardship at the University of Guelph, and its partner FarmStart, are beginning a major outreach and training initiative to support involvement in agriculture by the GTA's immigrant communities.

As one starting point we wish to fund a short initial literature and information review to develop a list of alternate crops and crop varieties (especially vegetables) that are both of interest to these communities and potentially grown in southern Ontario. The timeline is short, as we wish an initial report by Nov. 23, 2007; further phases of the research will be planned based on the success of phase one. Funding available is \$3000.00 or \$20.00 per hour.

The review of information conducted should include not only scientific literature, but interviews with selected experts and farmers currently experimenting with these crops. It should involve the development of both a long list of 'possibilities', and a short list of 'first priorities'. Consideration must be given to:

- alternate varieties of crops,
- different cultural names for crops of interest,
- seed sources,
- soil and climate requirements,
- current and recent research efforts.

We hope to include consideration of both crops and varieties that can be grown in the field in an open season, and crops that may require an extended season through greenhouse cultivation.

Interested applicants should submit a brief letter outlining qualifications and availability with a resume, to:

Dr. Stewart Hilts, Director, Centre for Land and Water Stewardship at shilts@uoguelph.ca, and

Christie Young, Executive Director, FarmStart at Christie@farmstart.ca.

Deadline Wed. Oct. 3rd.