

# Living Lab – Nova Scotia

Led by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Living Lab - Nova Scotia is part of the Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs program, funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

## What is a Living Lab?

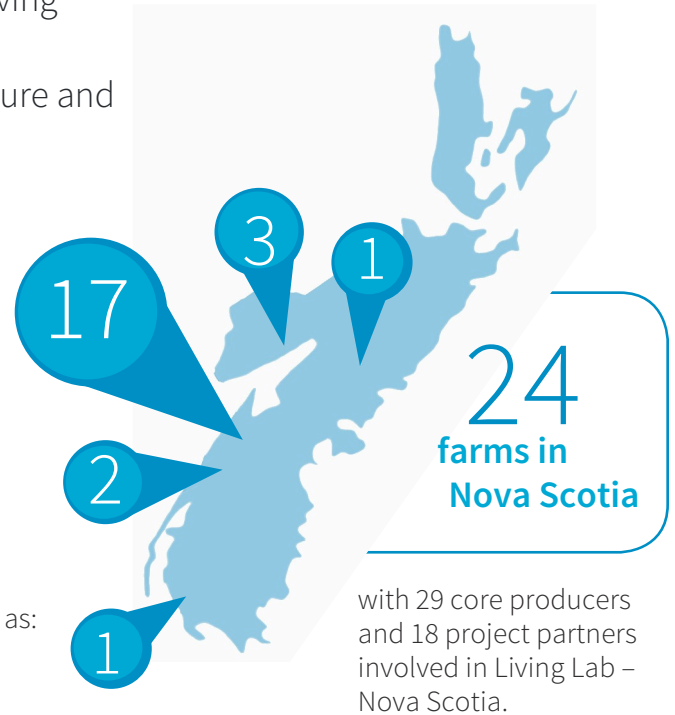
Living labs is a new approach to agricultural innovation in Canada, which brings together farmers, scientists, and other collaborators to co-develop, test, and evaluate beneficial management practices and technologies right on their fields.

## Objectives

of the Living Lab – Nova Scotia project :

Develop solutions that will:

- Increase carbon sequestration
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide environmental co-benefits such as:
  - Soil health
  - Water quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Habitat capacity

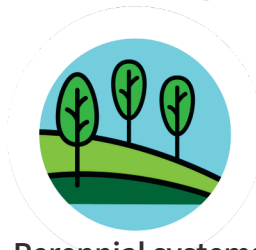


## 4 categories of beneficial management practices being developed and tested



### Cover crops in annual systems

Cover crops reduce erosion, build soil organic carbon, improve nutrient cycling and water holding capacity, and reduce loss of nutrients from the soil.



### Perennial systems floor management

Management of the laneway between the rows of woody perennial crops (apples and grapes) through tillage, mowing, and species management can increase soil carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve soil health and biodiversity.



### Riparian zone and shelterbelt establishment

Woody species like trees and shrubs store carbon as they grow. Riparian zones act as a natural filter that reduces runoff like fertilizer and pesticides from entering waterways. Shelterbelts in crops (such as wild blueberry) provide protection from high winds and increase pollination services.



### Land swap

Incorporating pasture with grazing livestock into vegetable production systems helps to protect soil from erosion, builds soil carbon to improve soil health, and increase biodiversity.