AGROECOSYSTEM LIVING LABORATORIES (ALL)

Canada is establishing a network of ALL where producers, companies, non-profit groups, research organizations and governmental institutions collaborate to develop, assess and implement innovative solutions that are rapidly adopted to address agri-environmental issues.

- The purpose of ALL is to accelerate the adoption of agricultural practices and technologies, including climate-smart technologies. By engaging natural and social scientists, farmers and other interested stakeholders in the co-development and co-design of sustainable techniques and technologies on working landscapes, ALL can increase resilience in agricultural landscapes, to improve agri-environmental performance and the attainment of sustainable intensification.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is leading on this initiative, to establish a coordinated, long-term, nation-wide network of ALL. Two initial sites were launched on April 1, 2019, with three more over the next three years.
- Through phased implementation, adaptive management of this new initiative will allow for lessons learned in early stages to be applied to subsequent phases.
- Canada and the United States also co-lead an international working group to advance utilization of ALL approaches, and leverage international expertise on the subject.
- The first workshop which took place in late 2018 in Canada allowed participants to exchange views of current utilization of ALL approaches in their countries. The second workshop took place in the United States in March 2019.
- The working group's findings are being captured in a report that was discussed at the 2019 G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists.
- Potential areas for future work are identified and include data standardization and data management, the development of socio-economic and policy instruments and indicators, and alternative governance models.
- Canada hopes that future international collaboration on ALL could happen outside of the formal working group structure and could involve a broader international community of practice operating independently of MACS.



