



2023 Agricultural Enhancement Grants Summary

BC Honey Producers' Association (BCHPA)

Bee Colony Health

\$35,000

The parasitic varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*), are one of the main causes of high colony mortality. This project evaluates the effectiveness of using a novel acaricide for the control of varroa mites in honeybee colonies that are used for pollination services in Abbotsford, BC.

British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) & Volatus Aerospace

Science Experiential Aerial Research (SEAR) Crop Disease Project

\$50,000

The SEAR project introduces youth to drone and machine learning technology in how it may be applied to the collection, processing and analysis of crop research data through utilizing aerial remote detection technologies. The information collected can then be organized to develop a novel process for identifying crop types, growth stages and diseases.

Invasive Species Council of BC

Agricultural Invasive Species Mitigation

\$35,000

To develop a best management practices (BMP) guide to provide high-level invasive species techniques for those in the agriculture sector. An accessible resource will also be developed that will be printed and displayed in offices and greenhouses for efficient invasive education and awareness.

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) & Ramsar Berry Farms

Can we grow a profitable, high-quality Saffron in the Fraser Valley?

\$10,000

Saffron is a highly desirable crop, used in the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, perfumery and textile industries. The project is to determine what factors are needed to improve the productivity and quality of saffron crops grown in the Fraser Valley.

TOTAL: \$130,000