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project page!

NORTHERN QUÉBEC

Design of a Northern Agri-Food Laboratory Integrating Social and Technological Innovation



CISA
SOCIAL INNOVATION
AGRICULTURE • FOOD
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About the project

The Northern Laboratory is a project first envisioned in 2021, with activities carried out between April 2022 and March 2024. It was coordinated by the CISA, in collaboration with the Centre for Expertise and Transfer in Organic and Local Agriculture (CETAB+[VP1]) and the École de Technologie Supérieure (ÉTS). The project brought together around twenty partners from Eeyou Istchee James Bay, the Côte-Nord region, and Nunavik to reflect on community needs and to co-create and test solutions adapted to local food system challenges. The action-research approach enabled the team to create a portrait of the participating communities' food systems, to assess needs with the main partners, and to test best-practice tools for northern agriculture. The research also generated many opportunities to support communities in various agri-food projects, including community gardens, greenhouses, and the organization of public consultations. The research team, together with students from the agricultural business management and technologies program at Cégep de Victoriaville, made several visits to the participating communities. These visits enabled them to support local project leaders, experiment with new approaches, and develop tools that contribute to knowledge transfer and the self-reliance of the partners involved.

[VP1] Centre d'expertise et de transfert en agriculture biologique et de proximité

PROJECT START
APRIL 2022

PROJECT END
MARCH 2024

RESOURCE PERSON

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TOOLKIT

Explore some of our achievements:

Northern Laboratory: a project for social and technological innovation in agri-food

(a collection of factsheets and research findings)

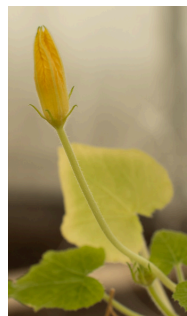
Nordic agriculture: Growing for the community

(documentary video)

Discover the complete collection
of videos filmed during the project

> 22 Meetings and/or conferences
offered in different regions

> 2 virtual forums bringing together
over 100 participants



RESEARCH PARTNERS



WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



Agence de la santé
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Location of key partners



PARTENAIRES RÉGIONAUX

- Société d'aide au développement des collectivités de Matagami
- Comité Vitalité Matagami
- James Bay Regional Administration (JBRA)
- Corporation de développement économique de Chapais (CDEC)
- Centre d'entrepreneuriat nordique (CEN)
- FaunENord
- James Bay Eeyou School (JBES)
- Community Miyupimaatisiun Centre (CMC)
- Coopérative de Solidarité Gaïa, Pointe-aux-Outardes
- Comité bénévole pour le projet de serre de Kuujuaq
- Maison supervisée (Ippigugisavik) - Kuujuaq
- École primaire Pitakallak et secondaire Jaanimarik
- Solidarité Alimentaire Matagami (SAM)
- Centre Uni-Vers-Elles
- Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James (CRSSSJ)
- Les Jardins du 53e Taiga
- Localité of Radisson
- École Jacques-Rousseau
- Stephen Grasser, projet de serre de Salluit
- Village nordique (NV) de Kuujuaq

ACTIVITY PLAN AND SCHEDULE

2022-2023

- **June-July: Stays in Radisson and Matagami.** Interviews, collaboration with community stakeholders, assistance in opening gardens, and support for setting up stone beds in the Radisson greenhouse.
- **September: Stays in Radisson and Matagami.** Workshops on food availability; filming of two videos to promote the project; co-development workshops for agricultural activities.
- **Novembre : Participation in the Forum SAT** (on territorial food systems). Workshop presentation on community greenhouses.
- **February: Production of two videos** to rally the Matagami and Radisson communities.

2023-2024

- **April: Stay in Eeyou Istchee Bay James.** Technical support for greenhouse launches and seed planting.
- **May: Stays in Nunavik (Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq).** Technical support for greenhouse launches; gardener training; hands-on workshops in elementary classrooms.
- **June: Stay in Eeyou Istchee Bay James.** Monitoring of ongoing agri-food projects; training activities.
- **August: Stays in Matagami, Chapais, and Opitciwan.** Consultations, interviews, and production of a documentary on northern market gardening.
- **Septembre-octobre :** séjour au Nunavik. Appui aux projets en cours et ateliers pédagogiques.
- **February: Two virtual forums** on northern agriculture.
- **March: Release of the northern market gardening documentary,** featuring four projects, the challenges faced, and adaptive solutions.