

FAI NEWSLETTER

Seasonal Newsletter of the Food and Agriculture Institute

FAI Announces Partnership with U of G's Arrell Food Institute



A significant milestone in advancing sustainable agri-food innovation was achieved through the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UFV and the University of Guelph (U of G). Naming Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) at UFV, and Dr. Evan Fraser, Director of the Arrell Food Institute at U of G as co-leads. This partnership signifies the commitment of both universities to collaborate and share resources focusing on enhancing Canada's agricultural technology sector.

This collaboration aims to address challenges within the current food system by prioritizing the development of a future food system in Canada that will yield healthier, more secure, and more sustainable food for all. Dr. Newman and Dr. Fraser, known for their collaborative efforts, are already engaged in projects like [Feeding the Future with Canadian Technology](#) and their recently published book, "Dinner on Mars." To read more about the direction and priorities of this new partnership, read the full article in [UFV Today](#).

Exploring the Cultural Implications of Cellular Aquaculture



Cellular agriculture and other genome technologies pose challenges and opportunities in the areas of food security, conservation, and resource stewardship. This project aims to facilitate opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to engage in critical conversations around emerging technology, assessing risks and benefits according to their own values and criteria.

In our Genome BC funded project entitled [The Cultural Implications of Cellular Aquaculture: Building inclusive and ethical research spaces in BC](#) we aim to explore and develop the idea of 'technology sovereignty' as a way of understanding the implications of emerging technology for Indigenous self-determination, Indigenous laws, and cultural resurgence.



Collectively, the FAI team is grateful to both live and work on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the Stó:lō.

Farmer's Den at Pacific Ag Show

In the first-ever Farmer's Den event, Dr. Newman was among four judges evaluating pitches from up-and-coming and established agri-businesses, including one pitch from an [Agriculture student at UFV](#). Maia Farms, a North Vancouver company specializing in mycoprotein production through biomass fermentation received \$50,000 for first prize. Maia Farms efficiently produces a highly versatile complete protein by feeding mushroom spores to agricultural by-products that normally go to waste. Insporos Technologies Inc., secured second prize for their seed sorting technology that detects and eliminates diseased and defective seeds, enhancing planting success for farmers.



Above: Dr. Lenore Newman sits on the judges panel at the Abbotsford Tech District's Farmer's Den at the Pacific Ag Show, January 2024

FAI Wraps up First Project with BCCAI

FAI is wrapping up its first research project funded by the [B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation \(BCCAI\)](#) at Simon Fraser University. Established in 2022, with support from Pacific Economic Development Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation, BCCAI collaborates with post-secondary institutions in BC, including the University of Fraser Valley, to empower small and medium-sized businesses and agri-producers to develop and adopt technology solutions that build resilient supply

chains and generate global solutions for food security and climate change. Dr. Colin Dring, a Postdoctoral Researcher with Royal Roads University, led a collaborative team that included the FAI's Dr. Glaros, Dr. Pizzirani, and UFV Student Researcher Alara Cremer. Together, the team conducted a series of workshops engaging industry stakeholders and post-secondary students to assess interest in establishing a vertical agriculture education program.

Recent Publications

Glaros, A., Newell, R., Benyam, A., Pizzirani, S., & Newman, L. (2024). [Vertical agriculture's potential implications for food system resilience: Outcomes of focus groups in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia](#). *Ecology and Society*, 29(1), art12.

Glaros, A., Pizzirani, S., Newell, R., & Newman L. (2024). [Planning Considerations for Vertical Agriculture](#). University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, Canada.

Julseth-White, S., & Glaros, A. (2024). [Vertical agriculture in the classroom: A global assessment of educational and training materials](#), Directed Studies Report. University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, Canada.



PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR VERTICAL AGRICULTURE

