



ISFS is dedicated to working with Indigenous communities across BC. We recognize that we are not experts on Indigenous territories, practices, or foodways. Still, we can utilize our expertise to support community-led visions and walk alongside Indigenous communities as they rebuild food sovereignty. We see this work as an act of reconciliation, an opportunity to undo some of the harms caused by colonization and the Indian Residential School system.

Our work is guided by an Indigenous Advisory Circle, comprised of First Nations and Metis leaders, entrepreneurs, youth, and environmental experts across BC. Their voices help us to understand our role within this work and how to move forward in a good way. We raise our hands in gratitude to our partners, and advisors for allowing us to join them on this journey.





WHAT IS ISFS?

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) was founded in 2009. It is now a leader in Canadian higher education in sustainable agriculture and food systems.

The ISFS' research and education investigates and advances regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities. Our research and extension programming explores how regional food systems impact agriculture, economics, community health and development, policy and ecological integrity. We support farmers, communities, businesses, and policy makers to explore and strengthen regional food systems.

The ISFS operates Farm Schools in both Richmond and the Tsawwassen First Nation. Both programs offer unique and innovative approaches to integrated regenerative crop/livestock production research, including concepts of Indigenous food ways and reconciliation. The programs are a leader and innovator, defining the standards of excellence in field-based, collaborative agriculture training.



Current Partners

Since its inception, we routinely work with diverse partners including municipal, regional, provincial governments and Indigenous Nations, as well as with civil societies, private sector, community organizations, and other academic institutions.



Stats at a Glance

FUNDING



To date, we have successfully received \$4.5 million from 107 grants in external funding to support ISFS work

STAFF



14 full-time staff, 12 part-time staff, 4 student research assistants in 2022

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Since 2015, supported 6 master's degree students

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS



Since 2009, hired 19 student research assistants

FARM SCHOOL



200 enrolled students, 35 incubator farmers since 2010

RESEARCH PROJECTS



Completed 35 projects as of 2021 Currently working on 8 projects in 2022

Recent Achievements and Awards

- » 2018 Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Awards finalist for the Southwest BC Bioregional Food Systems project
- » Rockefeller Foundation's Food System Vision Prize semi-finalist
- » 2022 Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Awards finalist for the KPU Farm Schools Program

ISFS Impact

- » Organized the international Place-Based Food System conference in 2018 attended by 250+ participants
- » Farmers' Market: attendance at 4 farmers' markets in 2021, offer 150+ CSA vegetable boxes
- » Between 2020 to 2022, donated \$60,000 in vegetables and pork products to low-income families during the COVID-19 pandemic
- » Published 12 refereed articles
- » Published over 50 technical reports

Our Mission

The ISFS engages in multidisciplinary applied research and extension to cultivate sustainable regional food systems that advance the food sovereignty goals of diverse communities.

Our Vision

We envision a future in which empowered communities shape food systems that nurture their health and well-being and sustain thriving ecosystems.

Major ISFS Education Initiatives Sustainable Food P **Systems and Security** ☐ Establishment of ₽ Establishment of **Graduate Certificate** Richmond Farm School Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School 2012 2009 2020 2010 2015 2021 Establishment of

BSc. Sustainable Agriculture

First hire of ISFS Staff

Establishment of ISFS

Establishment of

Sik-E Dakh Farm School