

FAI NEWSLETTER

Seasonal Newsletter of the Food and Agriculture Institute

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Inaugural Grounded Innovation: Agriculture and Food Summit held at UFV

In early October, Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the FAI participated in the keynote panel on the future of food at the inaugural Grounded Innovation: Agriculture and Food Summit. Gavin Dew, Chief Strategy Officer of the Abbotsford Tech District and founding sponsor of this event brought together agritech leaders, academic researchers, Abbotsford City Councillors, innovators, and industry. The event featured four panels on addressing food security through technology and a discussion on revitalizing Indigenous food production and culture. The Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Ross Siemens, Mayor of the City of Abbotsford both presented their remarks.

The event focused on collaboration, developing innovations, and tackling barriers in the agritech space both in British Columbia and across Canada.



Lenore Newman Chairs the Expert Panel on Atypical Food Production Tech for Canadian Food Security

The National Research Council of Canada and the Council of Canadian Academies appointed Dr. Newman as Chair of an Expert Panel to examine areas of advancement in atypical food production. This multidisciplinary panel will examine sustainably increasing local food production, with innovative methods to address needs and challenges specific to Canadian communities, including improving accessibility and affordability of food across Canada.

The Panel will answer the question: *What areas of scientific and technological advancement (and related investment) in atypical food production will most contribute to Canada achieving national food security within the next two decades?*



Above: Randene Neill (moderator), Dr. Lenore Newman, Dr. Evan Fraser, Paul Pryce, and Stan Vander Waal. Photo credit: Jordan Fernandez, UFV (October 2023)

Collectively, the FAI team is grateful to both live and work on the sacred lands of the Stó:lō.

FAI Participates in St'elt'elawtexw: a Celebration of Community

The FAI participated in three interactive showcase events this fall to celebrate the launch of the UFV 2023 Community Report, a publication highlighting stories and special connections between the community and UFV. Two upcoming FAI research projects were announced at the final community showcase event hosted by EcoFarm Discovery Centre in Abbotsford, including a joint research venture with Auguston and the Abbotsford Tech District for research to inform the design and programming for the proposed Agricultural Innovation Tech District.



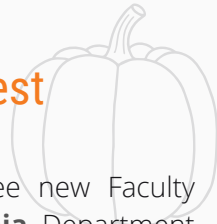
Above: Auguston Town representative, Dr. James Mandigo, Gavin Dew (Abbotsford Tech District), Dr. Lenore Newman, and Susan Mide Kiss.
Photo credit: University of the Fraser Valley (September 2023)

RBC Invests \$150K for Students Pursuing Skills in the Agritech sector

RBC's investment will fund the development of an Urban Agriculture Education program created by the FAI and in partnership with Royal Roads University. The project will involve creating a virtual vertical farm simulator to teach students the fundamentals of hydroponic and vertical growing and farm business management. The project will also develop an interactive mapping tool to teach urban and regional agriculture planning. This tool will allow students to explore where possible locations for urban agriculture (e.g., farms, markets, composting systems) can better lead to sustainable community economic development.

Introducing the FAI's Newest UFV Faculty Associates

We are so pleased to welcome three new Faculty Associates to the FAI team! **Dr. Afia Raja**, Department Head, Planning, Geography & Environmental Sciences and Associate Professor, Program Chair Geography, **Dr. Saeed Rahman**, Assistant Professor of Strategy and Sustainability at UFV's School of Business, and **Dr. Kongwen (Frank) Zhang**, Assistant Professor of UFV's School of Computing.



Cellular Agriculture

Technical and Scientific Foundations



Edited by
Evan Fraser, David Kaplan,
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Recent Publications

Fraser, E., Kaplan, D., Newman, L., & Yada, R. Y. (Eds.). (2023). **Cellular Agriculture: Technology, Society, Sustainability and Science** (1st ed.). Elsevier Academic Press.

Glaros, A., Newell, R., Fraser, E., & Newman, L. (2023). **Socio-economic futures for cellular agriculture: The development of a novel framework**. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 7, 970369. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2023.970369>

Newman, L., Fraser, E., Newell, R., Bowness, E., Newman, K., & Glaros, A. (2023). **Cellular agriculture and the sustainable development goals**. In *Genomics and the Global Bioeconomy* (Chapter 1, pp. 3–23). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-91601-1.00010-9>