

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Agriculture Initiative advances sustainable agriculture across the region's States and Provinces to strengthen the region's agricultural economy; promote sustainable management of natural resources; and, increase resilience and food security.

## Why Agriculture Must Be Sustained

Agriculture in our region feeds people and fuels the economy. Yet, it faces increasing risks to operate and grow including rising production costs, uncertain international markets, an aging farming cohort, loss of available farmland, decreased labor availability, and less predictable weather and more extreme events. Supply chain uncertainty also increases the risk for producers interested in expanding or diversifying their operation.

Additionally, beginning farmers experience barriers to entering the industry, including high cost of land and equipment, and lack of access to financial resources, technical assistance, and critical infrastructure.



**+\$1 trillion (us)** in annual economic activity



**+6.5 million people** employed

## What's Happening Now

In the first year, the Initiative is laying the foundation for long-term impact:

- **Regional Research Agenda:** Developed by State and Provincial leaders to inform policy and program development
- **Action Agenda:** A roadmap to address regional challenges and catalyze multi-state and provincial collaboration.

**Coming soon:** Pilot projects to test innovative solutions and scale successful practices.

