

## FSAA Strategic Research Plan 2015–2020

### Preamble

The Strategic Research Plan of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (FSAA) fits within the framework of Université Laval’s new Research and Development Plan (RDP) and seeks to uphold the university’s vision of consolidating and enhancing its status as a leader in research and innovation. FSAA researchers will work in concert with other faculties to tackle the scientific and societal challenges outlined in the RDP. Through its ongoing research efforts, the FSAA will play a key role in helping Université Laval achieve “winning conditions”: excellence, international partnerships, training, and innovation.

### Research Vision

The FSAA is an internationally recognized R&D leader in the fields of nutrition, agri-food, agri-environmental initiatives, and social innovation—a leader that makes an impact in the community and contributes to the sustainable development of society as a whole.

### Strategic Orientations

The FSAA seeks to advance knowledge and help build a progressive, sustainable society by providing high-quality education and training, coupled with world-class multidisciplinary research to anticipate the needs of tomorrow.

The FSAA has identified four main strategic orientations to guide its actions:

## 1 Create an optimal, stimulating research environment

**Context:** Creating an optimal research environment means developing not only physical facilities, but also educational, academic, research, and work surroundings to succeed and excel. The FSAA has always provided a stimulating research milieu and will continue to ensure that professors are supported and recognized for their research. The FSAA will take every measure to maintain optimal research infrastructure where top-caliber research can thrive, today and in the future.

### Objectives

#### 1.1. Acknowledge the added value of research

- Recognize the time devoted to research in professorial workloads
- Highlight the research expertise and activities of our professors
- Develop communication and dissemination tools to share our research goals and results

### 1.2. Initiate and stimulate research activities

- Develop an effective internal communication strategy
- Harmonize actions with existing communications personnel
- Organize, host, and participate in Faculty events
- Enhance the FSAA's profile (networking) and forge new ties
- Help develop a research culture

### 1.3. Make the FSAA more attractive

- Attract the best and the brightest students and postdoctoral fellows
- Facilitate visiting faculty appointments
- Stimulate exchanges and promote collaboration with other faculties
- Publicize and promote the FSAA infrastructure

### 1.4. Maintain and optimize existing infrastructure

- Maintain and update facilities
- Identify new and creative funding opportunities
- Optimize the use of our infrastructure to ensure long-term viability

## 2 Conduct innovative, world-class research

**Context:** Conducting innovative, world-class research requires the best research professors to create leading international research teams. The FSAA has implemented measures to encourage and support its professors in their pursuit of excellence.

### Objectives

#### 2.1 Mobilize resources and maximize research efforts

- Provide quality services and efficient organization at the research office
- Support and mentor young research professors
- Encourage supervision of graduate students
- Encourage researchers to apply to the three federal research councils

#### 2.2 Position and focus R&D in a concerted manner

- Work in concert with Office of the Vice Rector of Research and Innovation to support the needs of the FSAA (e.g., research chairs, Genome Canada grants, CFI funds)
- Facilitate communication among the research centres and institutes to coordinate research programs
- Align FSAA actions with university, provincial and national priorities

#### 2.3 Recruit and retain top-level researchers

- Evaluate and anticipate needs for research expertise
- Encourage applications for new research chairs during faculty recruitment
- Involve our networks

- 2.4 Encourage multidisciplinary research (intersectoral, international)
- Foster collaborative, capacity-building projects that bring together different disciplines within the FSAA
  - Encourage intersectoral collaboration in the pursuit of research excellence
  - Network internationally and facilitate collaborations
  - Encourage faculty members to participate in research teams, centres, and institutes
- 2.5 Boost recruitment of graduate students
- Align efforts with the Office of the Associate Dean of Studies
  - Recruit students with the best potential
  - Provide students with support and information on scholarships
  - Develop effective tools for distributing information
  - Be active in the social media
  - Support student travel

### 3 Build on our strengths and priority sectors

**Context:** Focusing on our research strengths will provide a solid foundation for growth to ensure that the FSAA achieves excellence and establishes itself as a research leader. The FSAA's greatest strength is unquestionably the diversity of our activities, which enables us to position ourselves within many global currents. By adopting intersectoral approaches and striving for social innovation, we can help tackle some of today's most pressing challenges. The FSAA's four priority sectors are **food and nutrition, sustainable health and disease prevention, sustainable development and the environment, and ethical challenges.**

#### Objectives

- 3.1 Strengthen and consolidate our priority sectors
- Identify and monitor trends in our priority sectors
  - Position and orient activities in all sectors strategically based on larger trends
  - Make our priority sectors a showcase of excellence
  - Engage and support our researchers and groups of excellence
- 3.2 Strengthen our strategic position based on our priority sectors
- Participate in Université Laval's reflection on strategic issues
  - Raise the FSAA's profile in our priority sectors
  - Work with our priority sectors in a political context
  - Be tactical in accessing strategic information

### 3.3 Build on our human capital to maximize partnerships

- Forge close ties and develop collaborations with industry, CCTT's, and business incubators
- Maintain high standards of conduct in collaborative projects
- Foster networking among research stakeholders
- Align our efforts with those of Université Laval's Community Liaison Office (BLUM), Research Partnerships and International Collaboration Office (BIPER), and International Office (BI)
- Develop international collaborations

## 4 Be a major asset for society

**Context:** Conducting meaningful research that impacts the community is an ongoing concern for the FSAA's professors and researchers. Working in strategically important priority areas for our society enables us to train the next generation and successfully translate knowledge with pertinent end users. The FSAA is proactive in building an extended network and forging ties with the community.

### Objectives

#### 4.1 Consolidate our presence within the university community

- Align our actions with those of the Vice Rector of Research and Innovation (VRRIC) and Communications and Philanthropy (DCP)
- Develop a green image of the FSAA related to sustainable development
- Work within the university community to publicize the impact of our research
- Play a key role in the overhaul of Université Laval's policy on research integrity

#### 4.2 Make research more accessible to the general public

- Support research communication activities
- Be recognized for the added value we provide to the Québec City area
- Enhance the visibility of our work to industrial partners
- Develop technologies and knowledge resulting from research

#### 4.3 Promote social innovation

- Recognize all forms of social innovation
- Celebrate social innovation within the Faculty
- Increase awareness regarding social innovation

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