



INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE NORTHERN AGRIFOOD SECTOR

June 2024

Arctic Development Expo

Inuvik, NT



Janet Dean, Executive Director

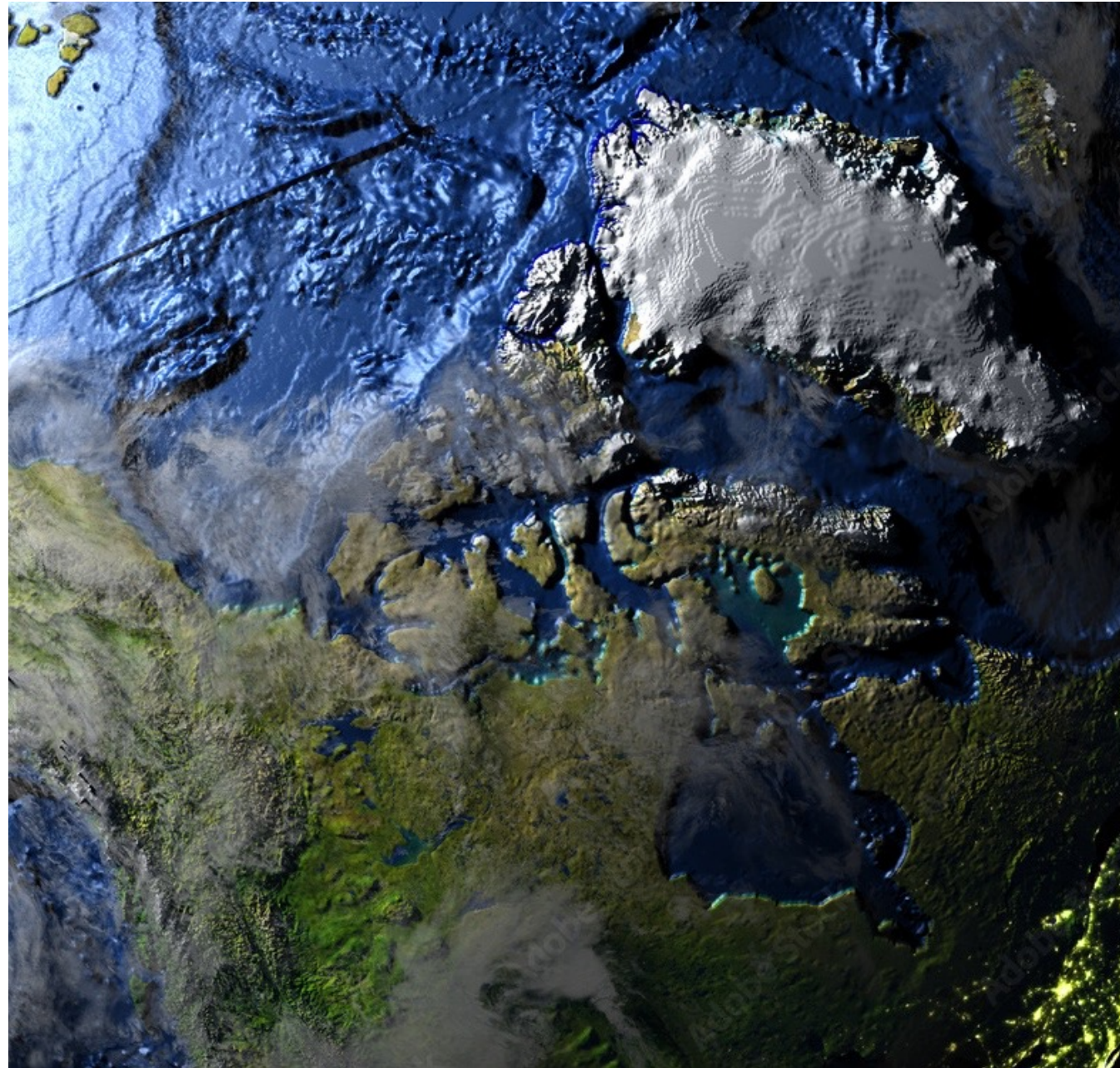
Territorial Agrifood Association

The Territorial Agrifood Association is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in the Northwest Territories that is mandated to develop and advocate for the NWT food system and represent members of the agri-food value chain across the territory.

TAA was born from the Territorial Farmers Association (1974) and the NWT Food Network.

www.nwtagrifood.ca





Our panel

Moderator: Janet Dean, Executive Director Territorial Agrifood Association

Tom Henheffer, Chief Executive Officer, Arctic Research Foundation, Naurvik Project - Gjoa Haven, Nunavut

Sonny Gray, Northstar Agriculture, Whitehorse, YT

Kim Neider, Horticulturalist, Upernaviarsuk Experimental Farm in South Western Greenland

Alissa Sallans, Manager, Inuvik Community Greenhouse



The language of agrifood

Agriculture

Agrifood

Food
Production

Community
Garden

Farm

Market
Garden

Harvesting

Food
Sovereignty

Food waste



Food is a bridge

Food represents a cultural and an agricultural act.

Conserving, protecting and regenerating natural resources, landscapes and biodiversity that provide us with food, while also supporting healthy and resilient economies and societies.



The beginning: A Community Food Plan

A community food plan is a holistic approach to improving the food system, promoting food security and sustainability and fostering community health and well being.

By addressing a range of issues related to food access, nutrition, and agriculture, a community food plan can help create a more resilient and equitable food system for all residents.





Governments must put into place programs and policies that support the agricultural economy and the future of food sovereignty in their communities and regions.

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- **Why?**
 - **Steer growth**
 - **Reduce barriers**
 - **Address sustainability**
 - **Open new frontiers**
 - **Create options for engagement**

Next: innovation

In the past 50 years, innovation in agriculture has brought tremendous benefits to producers, processors and consumers.

Recent successful innovations include AI assisted livestock feeding operations and the adoption of no-till farming but the need for sustainable innovation in the agri-food sector is pressing.

Reports by the Agriculture Institute of Canada and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have found that Canada's support for agricultural innovation **ranks seventh globally** at 0.046 per cent of GDP. Private-sector investment has also declined, with Canada **ranking 25th** globally down from a high at 18th place in 2008.

Innovation defined

(Problem + possibility + passion)

(people + perseverance + practicality)



Our speaker:

**Tom Henheffer, Chief Executive
Officer, Arctic Research Foundation,
Naurvik Project - Gjoa Haven,
Nunavut**



Our speaker:

Sonny Gray, Northstar Agriculture,
Whitehorse, YT



Our speaker:

Kim Neider, Horticulturist,
Upernarviarsuk Experimental Farm in
South Western Greenland



Our speaker:

**Alissa Sallans, Manager, Inuvik
Community Greenhouse**





Welcome to the Inuvik Greenhouse

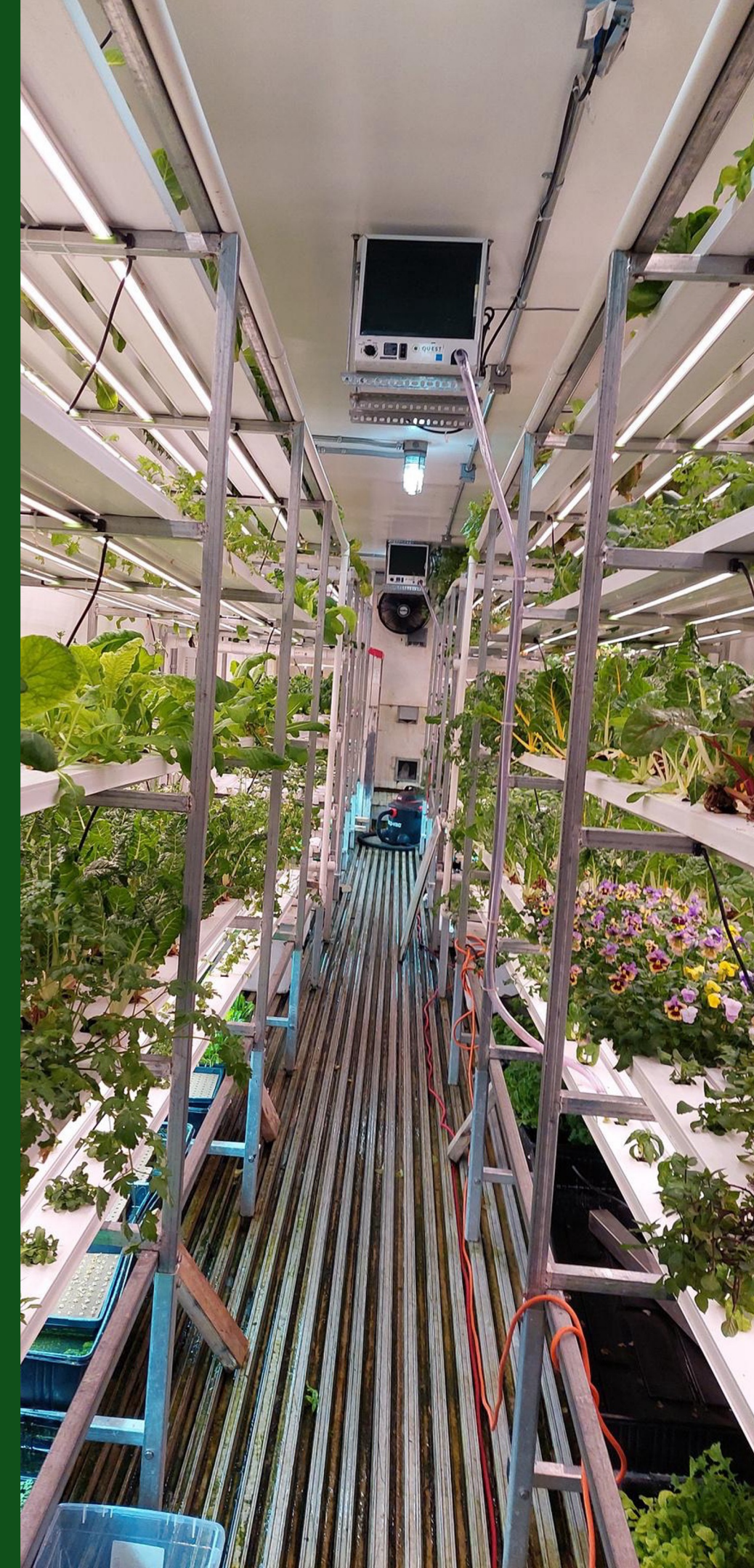


About the Inuvik Greenhouse

- Initially a hockey arena part of the Grollier Hall residential school.
- Repurposed in 1999 – this summer marks 25 years of gardening!
- Most Northern commercial and community greenhouse in North America.
- Operational April–September.
- Over 170 plots for community members and commercial growing.

How we operate

- Members can rent plots.
- We also have market plots.
- Annual plant sale to supply plants.
- Hydroponics unit for year-round growing *currently on pause*.
- Supply food through markets, partnerships with stores, and donations to food bank.



Community Programming



- Gardening Workshops
- Arts Workshops
- Special Events
- Space Rentals
- Veggie Sales & Markets
- Fall Harvest Festival



What's Next?

- Reinvigorating our composting system.
- Off-season food safety trainings.
- Community Café and Kitchen in the greenhouse.
- Hydroponics feasibility assessment.



*Inclusive, accessible gardening that promotes a strong,
food sovereign community.*

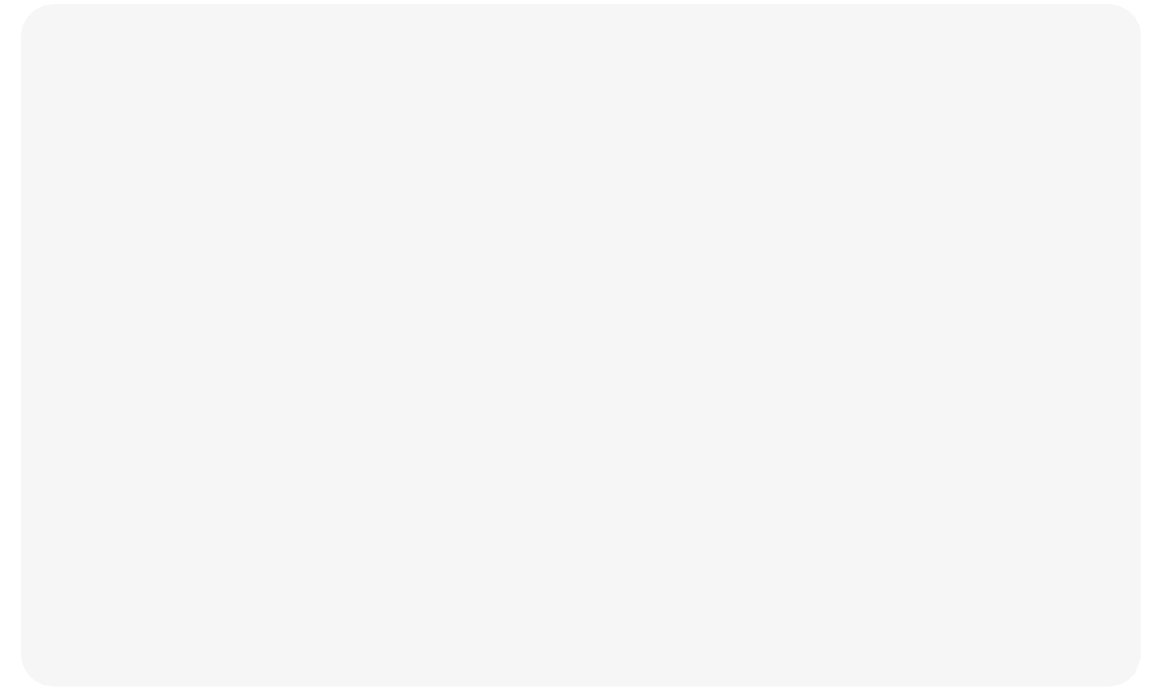


Questions?

Email Greenhouse Manager, Alissa Sallans at
coordinator@inuvikgreenhouse.com



**The takeaway from
our panel today?**



**Innovation
is already
happening**



**Regenerative
Agriculture**

**Drones,
Robotics and
AI**



Bee vectoring



Opportunities
are waiting





TERRITORIAL
Agrifood
ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU

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