

Project Name: Planting Willow Riparian Buffers to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Organization: East Prince Agri-Environment Association Inc.

Project Start Date: January 30, 2017

Project End Date: March 31, 2021

Total Project Value: \$1,003,508

AAGP Contribution: \$895,208

Media Release

In this five year project the East Prince Agri-Environment Association (EPAA) will lead a new Greenhouse Gas research initiative to demonstrate the effectiveness of willow riparian buffer systems to store carbon thus mitigating GHGs.

It will also demonstrate the buffer systems ability to protect streams and rivers from nutrient loading. This project worth \$1,003,508 was awarded \$895,208 from AAFC's Greenhouse Gas Mitigation program with the balance covered by in-kind contributions.

"The dedication and hard work that went into planning this project we hope will pay off by creating awareness of the positive steps taken by our farmers to protect the environment and encourage additional GHG mitigation projects by the agriculture industry" said Andrea McKenna, Manager of the East Prince Agri-Environment Association.

"To broaden the demonstration we have partnered with the Kensington North Watersheds Association and the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation to reach famers beyond our area. This is a very exciting project that is made possible by our close working relationship with AAFC researchers and technicians and the financial support from AAFC's GHG Mitigation Program. "

The East Prince Agri-Environment Association is pleased to have Soil Health Specialist Dr. David Burton from Dalhousie University as a collaborator on this important research that will break new ground in promoting GHG mitigation in the agriculture industry. Two Master of Science students will be hired. One to determine the impact of a willow riparian buffer system on GHG balance of agricultural transition areas in potato cropping systems and one to examine the uses of willow biomass after potato harvest.

During the project, a total of 12 sites will be planted across the island. If successful we hope more producers will adopt this important Agro-Forestry Best Management Practice.

Contact:

Andrea McKenna

Manager, East Prince Agri-Environment Association Inc.

P: 902-303-5183

Robert Green

Chair, East Prince Agri-Environment Association Inc.

P: 902-439-4184

Barry Murray

Executive Director, Kensington North Watersheds Association

P: 902-432-4988