



# INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE NORTHERN AGRIFOOD SECTOR

June 2024

Arctic Development Expo

Inuvik, NT





Janet Dean, Executive Director

# Territorial Agrifood Association

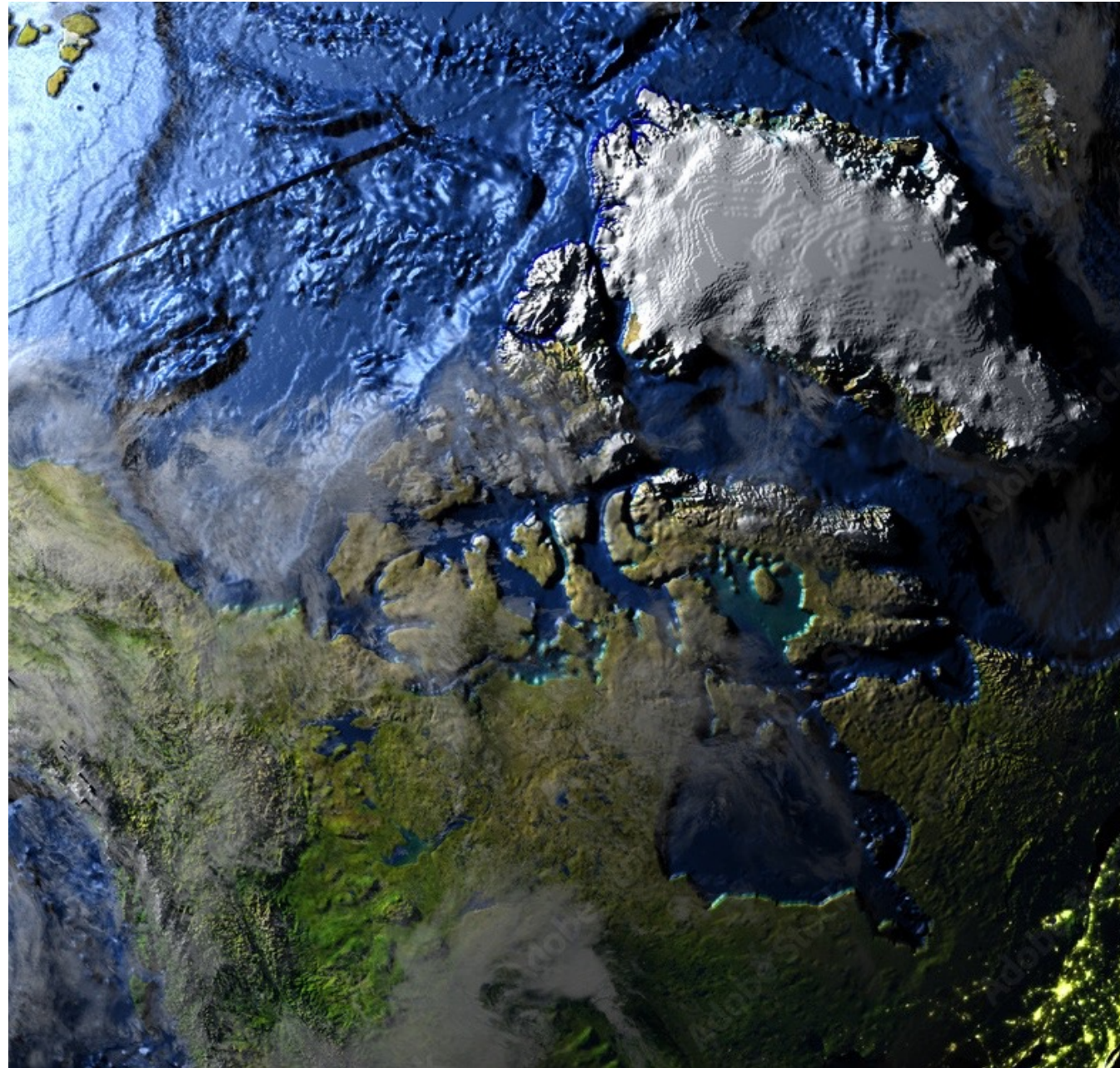
The Territorial Agrifood Association is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in the Northwest Territories that is mandated to develop and advocate for the NWT food system and represent members of the agri-food value chain across the territory.

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

[www.nwtagrifood.ca](http://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.**



- 
- **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**









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**Kim Neider**, Horticulturist,  
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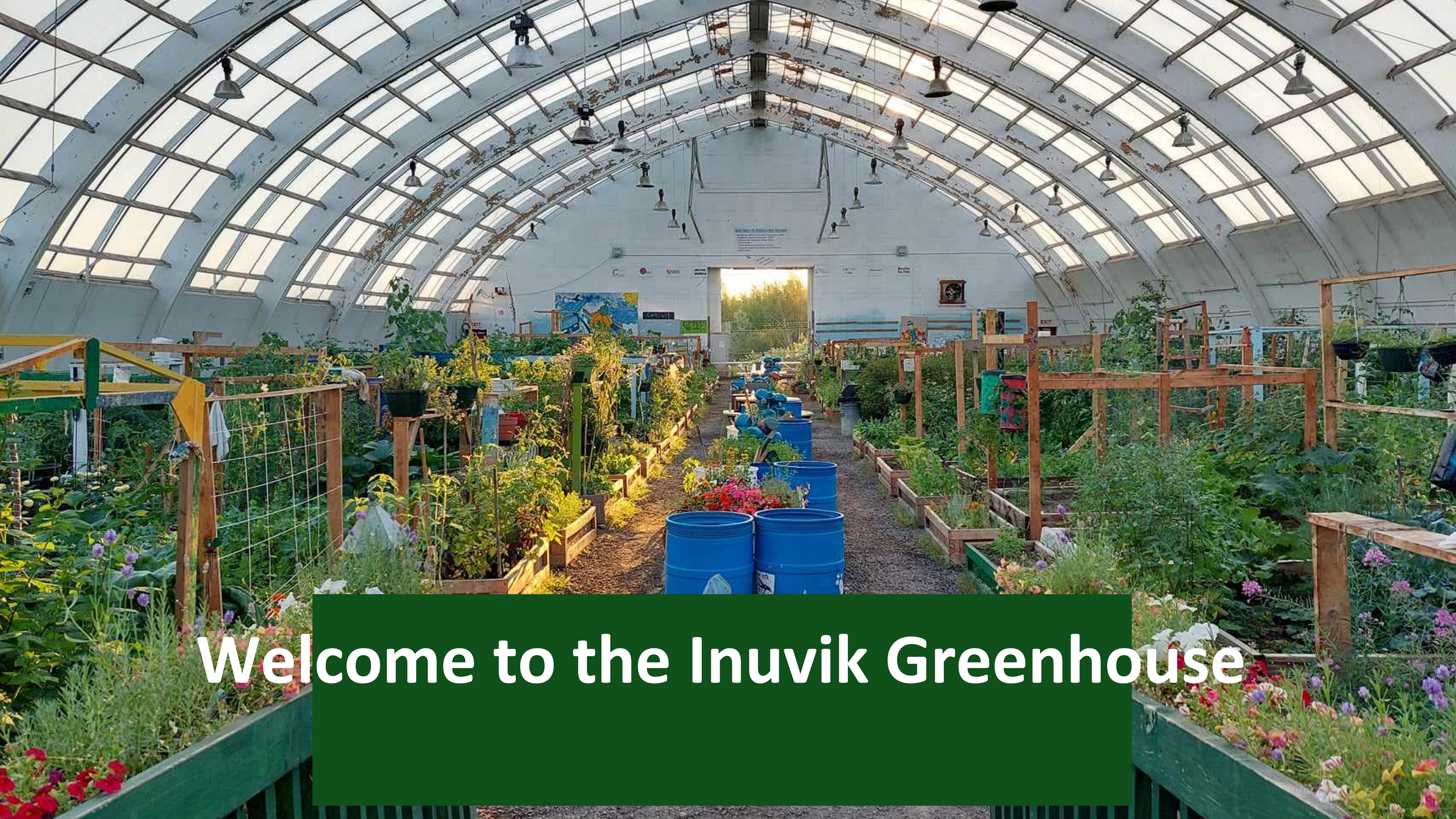


Our speaker:

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







Welcome to the Inuvik Greenhouse





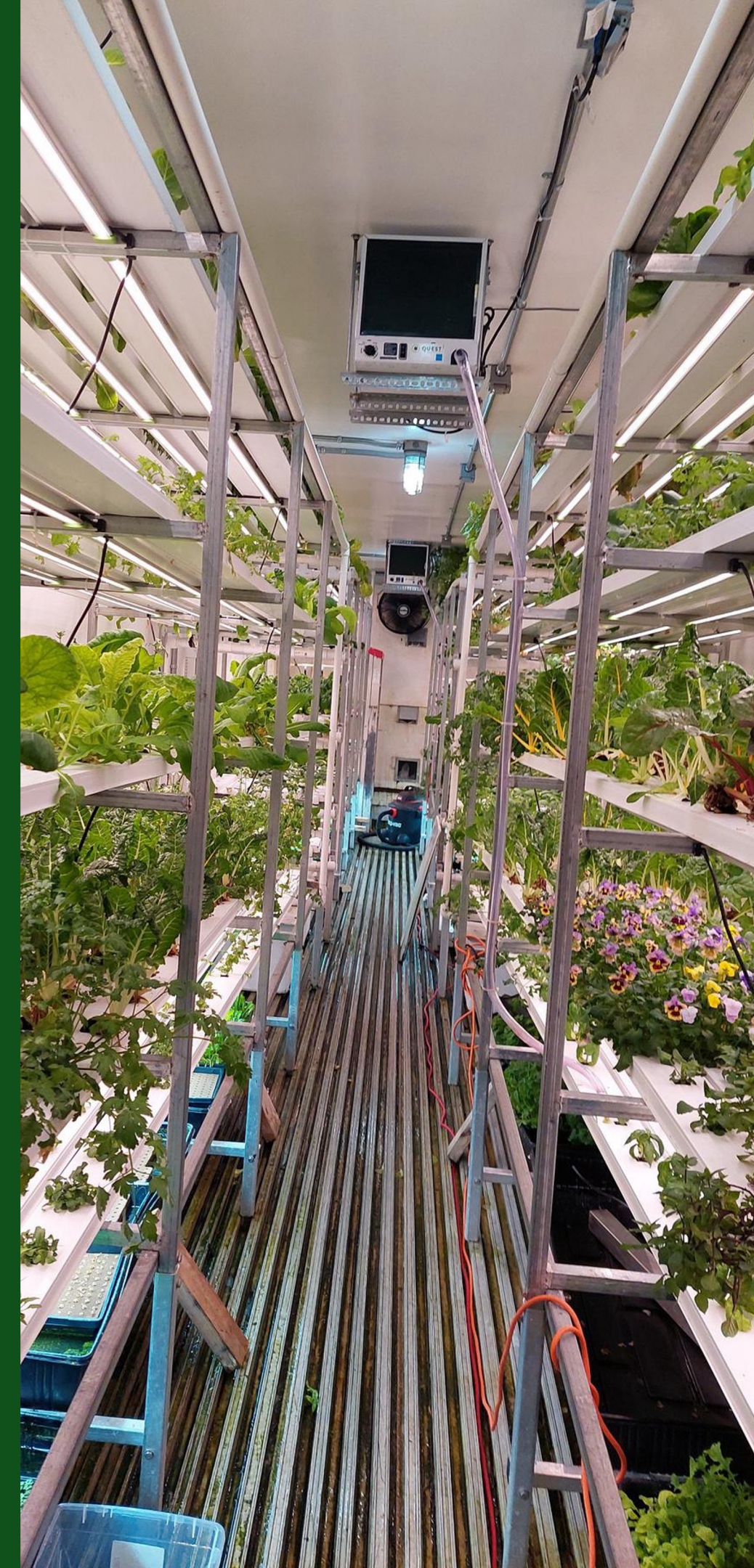
# About the Inuvik Greenhouse

- 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.

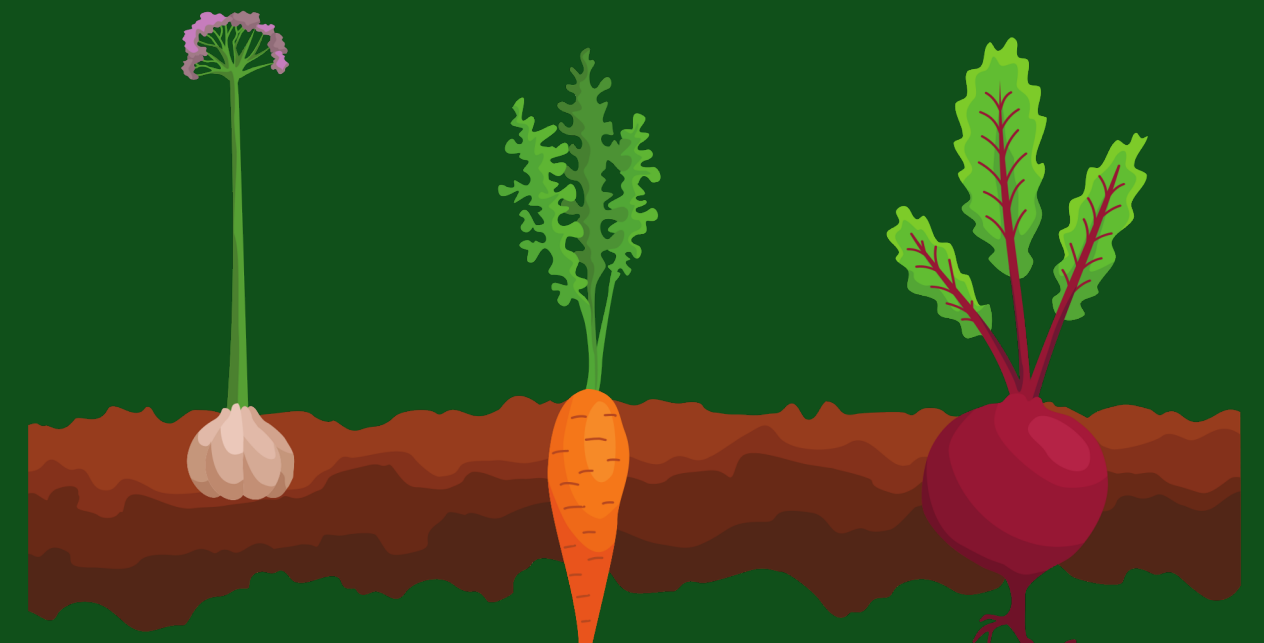




# Community Programming



- 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.



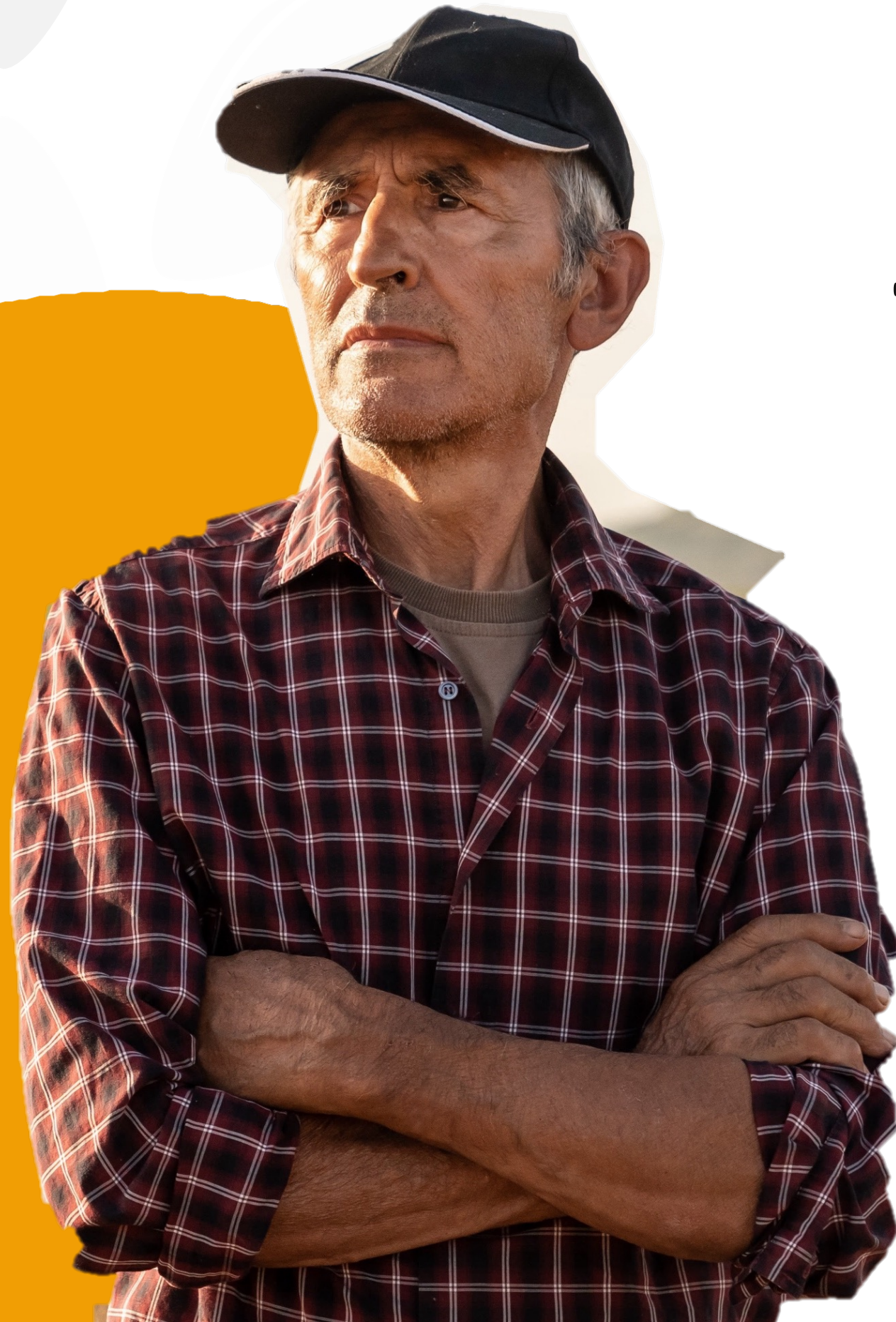


*Inclusive, accessible gardening that promotes a strong,  
food sovereign community.*

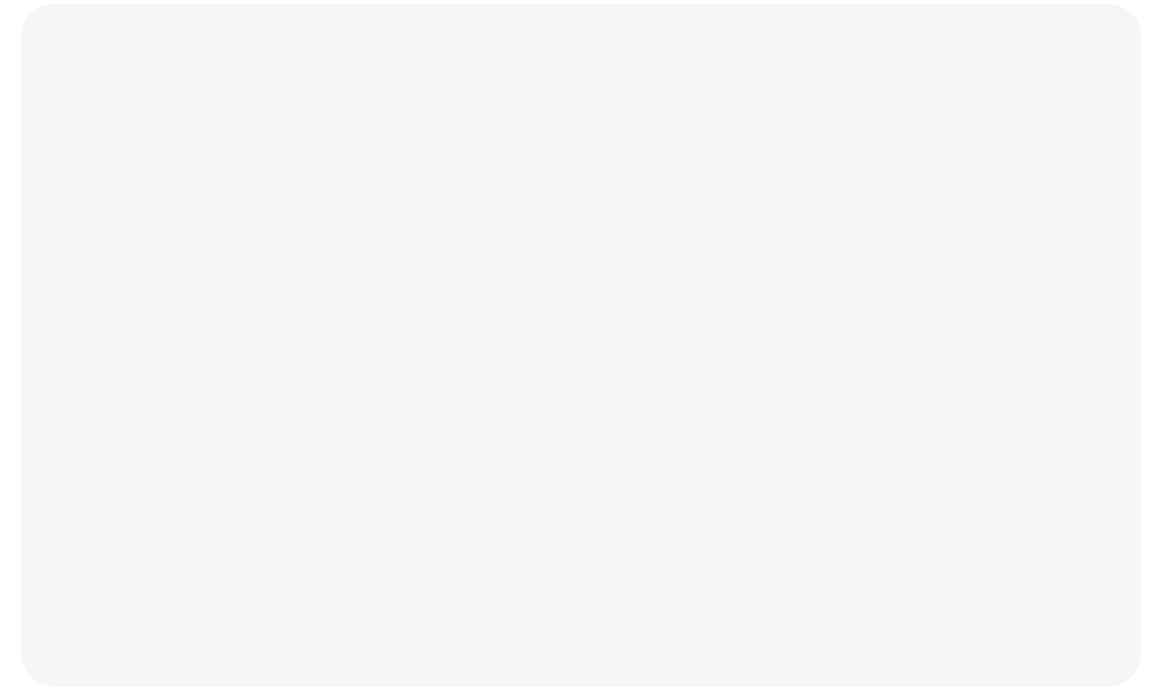


Questions?

Email Greenhouse Manager, Alissa Sallans at  
[coordinator@inuvikgreenhouse.com](mailto: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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