



Informed Consent Statement for Taste Trial Participants

Project Title: *Participatory variety trialing for commercial organic vegetable growers and seed producers in Canada.*

Project Nickname: CANOVI (Canadian Organic Vegetable Improvement) Variety Trials

Who is doing the study? Prof. Hannah Wittman is the **principal investigator**. She is a Professor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia (778-999-1840, hannah.wittman@ubc.ca.) Solveig Hanson is a **co-investigator** and is a postdoctoral research fellow (604-354-4670, solveig.hanson@ubc.ca). Helen Jensen is a **co-investigator** and is National Research Program Manager for the [Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security](#), a **community partner** in the research (514-433-8445, helen@weseedchange.org).

Who is funding the study? This research is part of Organic Science Cluster 3, led by the Organic Federation of Canada in collaboration with the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at Dalhousie University, supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Partnership - AgriScience Program, and by The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. Funding is also provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Why are we doing the study? The CANOVI project seeks to support resilience and growth of Canada's organic vegetable sector by characterizing and developing varieties that excel in regional organic farming systems. CANOVI variety trials facilitate variety evaluation on Canadian organic farms, and this flavour evaluation provides more information about the eating quality of the varieties being trialed.

What we are asking of you? You are asked to evaluate a set of vegetable varieties for flavour and liking using the SeedLinked platform. You are being invited to participate as a member of the public.

Participation will require 5-10 minutes. There are no anticipated risks or benefits to you. We hope that this research will benefit farmer research participants and the Canadian organic agricultural and seed sector by improving future participatory seed research.

What will we do with the findings?

Your data may be used in academic and farmer crop reports to help inform farmers on making variety choices for future crops. Flavour evaluation results are made available to participants on the [SeedLinked](#) platform upon trial completion, and trial reports, academic publications, and popular press articles about this project will be made available online with the support of the [Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security](#) and the [BC FoodWeb](#). If you would like to receive copies of final publications directly, please contact Solveig Hanson at solveig.hanson@ubc.ca or Helen Jensen at helen@weseedchange.org.

How will your privacy be maintained? Participant responses will be aggregated and anonymized to in trial reports, and your responses will not be traceable to you.

CANOVI uses the SeedLinked online platform to collect trial data. All responses will be stored securely on SeedLinked's servers in the United States, which are subject U.S. privacy laws including the U.S. Patriot

Act. Use of SeedLinked is subject to their Terms of Use (<https://seedlinked.com/terms-of-use/>) and Privacy Policy (<https://seedlinked.com/privacy/>) which include provisions that:

1. **You have the option to share your name and email with SeedLinked, but this information is not shared** with third party companies or advertisers. (The only exception is the email service connected to the SeedLinked platform.)
2. **SeedLinked may send you informational or promotional emails**, but you may opt out of these communications by unsubscribing.
3. **Your personal information is not associated with flavour evaluation data.**

How will we protect your safety with respect to COVID-19? If the event is held at a restaurant or other venue in which vaccination is mandatory, you will be required to show proof of vaccination via the BC Vaccine Card QR code and valid photo identification. For indoor venues, masks will be required except when you are tasting samples. For outdoor venues, masks will be recommended when not tasting samples. The research team will wear masks at all times. Hand sanitizer and a hand wash station will be readily available. Please read the **Notice of COVID-Related Risks During Research** for more information.

For further information with respect to this study, please contact the co-investigators listed above.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598, toll free at 1-877-822-8598, or RSIL@ors.ubc.ca.

Participant Consent

Your participation in this flavour evaluation is entirely voluntary. You have the right to refuse to participate. If you decide to start the flavour evaluation, you may choose to skip questions or stop at any time without giving a reason and without any further action by the researcher.

Ethics ID: H21-02782