



## Informed Consent for Survey Research 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](mailto:hannah.wittman@ubc.ca).) Solveig Hanson is a **co-investigator** and is a postdoctoral research fellow (604-354-4670, [solveig.hanson@ubc.ca](mailto: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, [hjensen@weseedchange.org](mailto:hjensen@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?** We seek to understand how participants in variety trial networks use trial data and how this is influenced by dynamics of trust. Specifically, we are investigating the relative usefulness and perceived trustworthiness of personal observation, peer knowledge exchange, and aggregated data from participatory variety trials. Finally, we are exploring ways to increase the usefulness of aggregated trial data by increasing data quality, data interpretability, or trust among trial network members.

**What we are asking of you?** You are asked to complete an online survey. You are being invited to participate because of your participation in CANOVI variety trials. **The survey will take 15-20 minutes.** There are no anticipated risks or direct benefits to you. As a token of appreciation for your time, you will be entered in a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards to Dubois Agrinovation. You will remain eligible for the gift card if you decide not to complete the survey. The gift card drawing is for CANOVI trial participants across Canada, and odds of winning are about 1 in 20. 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?

Findings will be used to better understand 1.) the way trial participants use information gained from variety trials and 2.) the dynamics of trust present among participants and researchers. Survey findings will inform future interviews with participants and may be used in research reports, academic publications, and popular press articles. Publications 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](mailto:solveig.hanson@ubc.ca) or Helen Jensen at [hjensen@weseedchange.org](mailto:hjensen@weseedchange.org).

**How will your privacy be maintained?** Your responses will be seen only by the research team (Dr. Wittman, Dr. Jensen, Dr. Hanson). During analysis, your responses will be identified with a code rather than your name. Participant responses will be aggregated and anonymized to inform research findings, and your responses will not be traceable to you. Direct quotes from open-ended survey questions will be presented in anonymized form *unless you agree* that your responses may be attributed to you.

This online survey is hosted by Qualtrics, the University of British Columbia's survey tool of choice, and is subject to BC privacy laws. All responses will be stored securely and accessed in Canada. Qualtrics' Privacy Statement can be viewed online here: <https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>. During analysis, survey data will be stored on UBC OneDrive, a secure and encrypted cloud storage service maintained by UBC.

**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](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca).

#### **Participant Consent and Signatures**

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

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records, and that you consent to participate in the study. Please also indicate whether you wish to be identified in reports and outreach materials related to CANOVI Variety Trials, including academic publications.

- Yes, I agree to be identified in a research report  
 No, I prefer that my comments remain anonymized

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Participant Signature

Date

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Printed Name of the Participant

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Role/Title of the Participant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethics ID: H21-02782**