

## **From Farm to Future: Career Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems**

The SAFS degree is formative and relevant for the pursuit of careers and positions in a broad range of sectors which include:

- **Production & Farm Management**
- **Policy & Advocacy**
- **Research & Education**
- **Business & Entrepreneurship**
- **Environment & Restoration**
- **Community & Social Programs**

More generally speaking a large portion of jobs in Canada and the world are related to food systems in some way; “Close to 1.3 billion people, or 39.2 percent of the global workforce, were employed in agrifood systems in 2021.” (FAO,2024) [https://www.fao.org/statistics/highlights-archive/highlights-detail/employment-indicators-2000-2022-\(september-2024-update\)/en](https://www.fao.org/statistics/highlights-archive/highlights-detail/employment-indicators-2000-2022-(september-2024-update)/en)

Globally, agrifood systems are currently organized in a dangerously unsustainable way given the part agriculture presently plays in greenhouse gas emissions and the breakneck speed of deforestation for agricultural purposes.

Conversely, the potential for agriculture to be a solution to climate change is massive. As opposed to conventional methods that degrade soil fertility and release massive amounts of soil-carbon into the atmosphere, the use of agricultural land as a carbon sink represents a meaningful mitigation strategy. This is one of the many reasons why SAFS is one of the most critically important areas of study in history.

A few examples of career paths and job titles that have been or are currently held by graduated SAFS students include:

- Climate adaptation planner
- Coordinator for a food justice non-profit farm
- Due diligence researcher/adviser for companies looking to invest in biofuels
- Edible landscape urban planner
- Farm manager
- Farm assistant
- Graduate studies in Fields like agroforestry, climate change, environmental impact assessment, forestry, mycology, & sustainable agriculture
- Homestead planner
- Environmental impact assessment
- Intern assisting a politician on the agriculture committee of the Canadian government
- Permaculture landscape project designer/manager
- Policy analyst/impact assessment officer for natural resources Canada
- Researcher/developer in forever-chemical treatment
- Surveyor for a conservation authority
- Teacher
- Technician/worker in invasive species management

**One fact worth repeating is that more than a billion people work in agrifood systems. Pursuable career and job possibilities in SAFS may, therefore, seem almost endless. To have a clear idea of what these can look like, please consult the extensive list of possible SAFS job titles and career paths that follow in this document.**

## 1. PRODUCTION & FARM MANAGEMENT

Agroforestry Specialist  
Agrotourism Experience Designer  
Agritourism Manager/Operator  
Agricultural Consultant\*  
Animal Welfare & Sustainable  
Husbandry Advisor/designer  
Apiarist  
Aquaponics Technician/Developer  
Carbon Farming Project Manager  
Chef  
Compost Producer  
Composting Facility Manager  
Cover Crop Specialist\*  
Crop Diversification Advisor\*  
CSA Program Manager  
Ecological Farm Designer  
Edible Insect Production Technician  
Edible Landscaper  
Farm Cooperative Manager  
Farm Data Systems Technician  
Farmers' Market Director  
Farmer  
Farm Manager  
Food Forest Designer  
Food Hub Coordinator  
Food Hub Developer  
Greenhouse Technician  
Hydroponic Systems Developer  
Beneficial Insect Producer  
Market Gardener  
Mushroom Producer  
Permaculture Designer  
Plant-Based Product Developer  
Regenerative Grazing Manager  
Restaurant Owner  
Silvo-Pasture Manager  
Smart Farming Technology Advisor  
Sustainability Advertiser  
Urban Farmer  
Vertical Farming Developer  
Vertical Farming Specialist/Technician

## 2. POLICY & ADVOCACY

Agricultural Policy Analyst  
Agricultural Social Impact Analyst  
Agricultural Trade Policy Advisor  
Bioregional Food Network Developer  
Citizen Engagement Coordinator  
Climate Policy Researcher  
Corporate Food Responsibility Manager  
Corporate Regenerative Strategy Advisor  
Environmental Justice Organizer  
Environmental, Social, Governance Analyst  
Fair Trade Certifier  
Fair Trade Compliance Officer  
Food Justice Organizer  
Food Policy Analyst  
Food Sovereignty Advocate  
Food Sovereignty Analyst  
Indigenous Agriculture Liaison  
International Agriculture Policy Consultant  
International Agroforestry Program Officer  
International Development Agent  
Land Use Policy Consultant  
Local Agriculture Investment Analyst  
Local Food Systems Planner  
Public Awareness Campaign Manager  
Regenerative Fisheries Advocate  
Rural Development Consultant  
Urban Agriculture Policy Analyst

## 3. RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Agrochemical Alternatives Researcher  
Agroclimatic Data Technician  
Agroecological Field Trials Coordinator  
Agroecological Systems Modeler  
Agroecology Researcher  
Agricultural Climate Risk Modeler  
Agricultural Museum Curator  
Alternative Protein Developer  
Citizen Science Coordinator  
Climate Adaptation Specialist  
Climate Policy Researcher  
Climate Resilient Crop Breeder  
Climate-Smart Agriculture Advisor  
Climate-Smart Agriculture Trainer  
Climate-Resilient Seed Specialist  
Curriculum Developer  
Drone Mapping Technician  
Educator for Community Agriculture

Environmental Communications Specialist  
Environmental Educator  
Environmental NGO Project Manager  
Environmental Consulting Project Manager  
Environmental Field Technician  
Ethical Supply Chain Strategist  
Extension Service Researcher  
Food Security Analyst  
Food Security Researcher  
Food Technology & Sustainability Liaison  
Food Traceability Analyst  
Participatory Research Facilitator  
Pollinator Conservation Specialist  
Precision Agriculture Data Analyst  
Researcher  
Science Writer  
Sustainable Food Innovation Researcher

#### **4. BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Agribusiness Developer  
Carbon Offset Program Manager  
Cold Chain Efficiency Specialist/Consultant  
Community Food Procurement Advisor  
Community Kitchen Developer  
Corporate Food Responsibility Manager  
Corporate Regenerative Strategy Advisor  
Documentary Film Maker  
Farm-to-Table Program Manager  
Food Chain Transparency Specialist  
Food Technology & Sustainability Liaison  
Food Waste Reduction Specialist  
Impact Farming Fund Manager  
Regenerative Real Estate Developer  
Resource Manager  
Seed Bank Manager  
Sustainable Agribusiness Developer  
Sustainable Biofertilizer Developer  
Sustainable Branding Specialist  
Sustainable Catering Coordinator  
Sustainable Product Developer  
Sustainability Program Manager  
Sustainable Retail Product Specialist  
Sustainable Supply Chain Auditor  
Supply Chain Manager

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL & RESTORATION**

Biodiversity Conservation Officer  
Environmental Impact Assessor  
Habitat Restoration Planner  
Invasive Species Management Technician  
Land Restoration Specialist  
Myco-remediation Technician  
Nature-Based Solutions Planner  
Pollinator Habitat Designer  
Rangeland Restoration Specialist  
Regenerative Ranching Specialist  
Renewable Energy Consultant for Farms  
Riparian Zone Specialist  
Soil Carbon Analyst  
Soil Carbon Farming Specialist  
Soil Health Technician  
Soil Microbiologist  
Soil Regeneration Specialist\*  
Soil Remediation Technician  
Sustainable Development Consultant  
Sustainable Farm Infrastructure Designer  
Sustainable Irrigation Systems Designer  
Sustainable Livestock Systems Advisor  
Sustainable Packaging Developer  
Water Conservation Specialist/Technician  
Watershed Management Coordinator  
Wetlands Restoration Technician

#### **6. COMMUNITY & SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

Citizen Engagement Coordinator  
Community Garden Coordinator  
Community Garden Developer  
Community Kitchen Coordinator  
Community Resilience Hub Coordinator  
Community Seed Saving Coordinator  
Farm-to-School Program Coordinator  
Food Rescue Program Director  
Food Waste Reduction Coordinator  
Global Nutrition Program Officer  
Mutual Aid Food Organizer  
Sustainability Certifier  
Youth Agriculture Program Leader  
Zero-Waste Kitchen Program Manager  
Public Awareness Campaign Manager

*\*Our current SAFS programs do not culminate in an agronomy certification in Quebec*