

# OGVG Fact Sheet

OGVG represents more than 170 greenhouse vegetable farmers, growing tomatoes, peppers, & cucumbers on over 3,800 acres all across Ontario!





The greenhouse vegetable industry contributed

\$1.9 billion to Canada's GDP in 2021!



with Ontario greenhouse vegetables having a farmgate value of over



Ontario vegetable greenhouses directly employed over

10,000

people in 2021, providing more than 27,000 additional spin-off jobs throughout the community!

That's more than

# **503 Million KG**

of fresh, greenhouse produce grown in Ontario.



Most OGVG farmers are less than **1-day's drive** from a majority of the markets they serve.







#### **Licensing & Food Safety**

OGVG is regulated under the Farm Products Marketing Act (FPMA). Under Regulation 417 of this Act, OGVG is responsible for licensing all growers, packers and marketers of Ontario greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. OGVG's Food Safety program requires every member to have the following:

- Annual audits from accredited third parties in (GAP) Good Agricultural Practices and (GMP) Good Manufacturing Practices.
  - These audit schemes are Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) based and benchmarked and recognized under the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).
- In addition to the annual third-party audit, our growers' packers and marketers are licensed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the Safe Food For Canadians Act.



### Water Conservation

For many greenhouses, a fertilizer solution called nutrient feedwater is used to help grow their produce. It is recirculated throughout the facilities which minimizes the inputs into local surface water, groundwater and soil.



#### Natural Pollination

Bumblebees are used to naturally pollinate produce. This improves the quality and quantity of the produce grown, and help reduce the need for chemicals and pesticides.



#### Carbon Dioxide Recapture

In order to ensure an optimal temperature is maintained, many greenhouses use a special boiler system to heat their operations. As CO<sub>2</sub> is expelled, it can be captured and filtered, and can then be used as a natural fertilizer to feed their growing plants.



#### Year-round Efficient Production

Ontario greenhouse growers can yield up to 20 times more produce per square meter than outdoor agriculture. The controlled environment, hydroponic growing technology and other innovations like LED lights allow farmers to grow a uniform crop year round while reducing waste, maximizing yield and quality.

## Research and Innovation

OGVG's mission is to be recognized as global leaders in greenhouse vegetable farming. To this end, our small team works hard to be sector leaders on the topics noted below. We promote and connect our growers with government agencies, consumers, retailers and foodservice operators across North America to ensure success for today, sustainability for tomorrow, and fresh, nutritious, produce for all!

- Research and Innovation
- Sustainability
- Integrated Pest Management
- Market Predictive Analytics
- Business Risk Management
- US International Trade Commission
- Marketing, Communications and Public Relations
- Government Relations

