

**COLUMN**

**From cranberries to water management**

The improvement of agro-environmental management in cranberry production is a concern for the members of *Club environnemental et technique Atocas Québec*. One current project involves analysis of effluent water that may have been in contact with certain inputs necessary for production of this fruit.

The second sampling season will begin in April 2004. The data gathered will make it possible to determine whether the closed-circuit growing technique, in which the water is recovered in tanks and reused, is more efficient than the open-circuit technique, in which the water is returned to a watercourse and replaced. A grid of the main products used in cranberry fields will be developed to adjust agronomic recommendations according to acceptable discharge rates. These tools prove that water quality remains a concern for producers. In short, these new techniques minimize the impacts of cranberry growing on water quality. The CDAQ has granted \$97,122 to this project, which represents \$186,130 in total investments.

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Photo: Club environnemental et technique Atocas Québec

**A program for the environment**

The Environment program has six components, including Expertise and Technical Efficiency and Transfer and Innovation, for which the CDAQ is still receiving applications for funding. The Transfer and Innovation component allows the development of projects to encourage technological progress and sustainable agricultural practices, in addition to promoting the use of proven and innovative new technologies.

The following projects clearly illustrate the type of activities supported by this component.

**Fighting odours with straw**

The barley straw mattress technique used in Manitoba involves covering the liquid hog manure lagoons with barley straw. This simple, effective and inexpensive method controls odours. However, this technique is not yet used by Quebec agricultural producers. The Coopérative agricole des Beaux-Champs project seeks to experiment with this odour control method, adapting it to Quebec conditions to facilitate its transfer.

The results obtained after two years of tests are promising: the odour coming from the liquid hog manure storage tanks is less perceptible. Minimizing the disadvantages related to hog production will enable this sector to develop. The project, valued at \$67,472, has received \$37,000 from CDAQ.

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**To submit a project, here are the deadlines for depositing the preliminary and detailed study forms.**

Deadlines for receipt of the preliminary study	Deadlines for receipt of the detailed study	Presentation of the project to the Evaluation Committee
March 5, 2004	April 8, 2004	May 20 and 21, 2004

**We invite you to contact us for any question or comment on this column or the activities of the CDAQ**  
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To refer to the list of financially supported projects, please visit the Council's website at: [www.cdaq.qc.ca](http://www.cdaq.qc.ca)  
 Since its inception in 1996, the CDAQ administers the producers' share of provincial funds allocated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD).