
AGREEMENT FOR PROCESSED VEGETABLES « BEANS - SWEET CORN - PEAS » 2024

BETWEEN

Producteurs de légumes de transformation du Québec (PLTQ), a federation of professional syndicates duly incorporated, having its place of business at 555 Roland-Therrien Boulevard, Suite 355, Longueuil, responsible for administering the processing-vegetable growers' Joint Plan,

hereinafter called: "PLTQ"



AND

Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec (CTAQ), a legally constituted association certified by the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec* to represent all Buyers of vegetables for processing produced in Québec, having its head office at 216 Denison East Street, Granby,

hereinafter called : "The Association"



This document was prepared for reference purpose only.
Please see the French document for the original version.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

- 1.1 This agreement is made in accordance with the provisions of the Quebec Agricultural Products Marketing Act within the framework of the Joint Plan of Processing Vegetable Growers for (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Plan") **and considering the Regulation Imposing Special Assessments on Processing Vegetable Growers.**
- 1.2 The object of this Agreement is to determine and regulate the relationship between growers and Buyers of Quebec peas, sweet corn, beans and edamame for processing.

2. APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 2.1 This Agreement is binding on:
- (a) all growers governed by the Joint Plan;
 - (b) the PLTQ as administrator of the Joint Plan; and
 - (c) the Buyer of processing vegetables.
- 2.2 In this Agreement, the following words and expressions mean:

"Regulated products"	Wax and green beans, sweet corn, green peas and edamame
"Joint Plan"	The Plan conjoint des producteurs de légumes destinés à la transformation (processing vegetable growers' Joint Plan)
"Buyer"	Processor or intermediary who purchases the regulated product
"Processor"	Person engaged in the business of processing a regulated product
"Intermediary"	A person who purchases the regulated product and resells it to a Buyer
"Categories"	Regular peas, small peas, sweet corn, regular wax beans, regular green beans, large green beans, medium-small wax beans, medium-small green beans, extra-small green and wax beans irrigated and extra-small green and wax beans non-irrigated
"Total gross revenue from production"	Total gross revenue (or equivalent computed according to the Agreement) obtained from a product regulated under the processing vegetable growers' Joint Plan, means the total monetary value of the harvest delivered, including adjustments, if any, premiums, lump sum payments, indemnities and all other money paid by a Buyer to the grower
"Field value"	Revenue potential of the crop of products left unharvested, established according to the price set out in the Agreement, multiplied by the unharvested area and the estimated field yield. This is estimated jointly by the Buyer and the grower either through a manual sample or mechanical harvesting

- 2.3 Should one or more of the clauses in this Agreement be null with respect to the provisions of the Act, the other clauses shall not be invalidated by such nullity unless such null clause directly invalidates any provision of this Agreement.
- 2.4 All information provided by the Buyer to the PLTQ in accordance with this Agreement is strictly confidential and shall be used only by upper management, the Board of Directors and the production committees. It shall not be divulged, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, to whomever, in a manner that could reveal the sales figure and/or any other confidential information specific to a grower or Buyer, without the prior written consent of the grower or Buyer concerned.

3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GROWERS AND BUYERS

- 3.1 The agreement between a grower and a Buyer is established through a written contract entered into between such grower and Buyer.

Upon the signing of a contract, the Buyer shall give a copy of the signed contract and the Annexes to the grower.

Such grower shall provide the farm plans of *La Financière agricole du Québec* for the lot contracted with the Buyer.

The Buyer is responsible for subcontractor hiring. The Buyer remains the direct link with the subcontractor. It remains his responsibility to require the subcontractor to have liability insurance to cover the costs in case of crop damage. A grower's representative must be present at the beginning of the fertilization/seeding and weeding activities and report any problems in writing on the contract worker's work order. If a grower's representative is not present, the grower may be denied the right to claim any compensation for damage to the crop. In the event of a problem, the grower and the Buyer's representative will document the problem so that they can take action with the insurer of the defaulting subcontractor.

The grower may suspend work of the subcontractor if he believes there is an issue and contact the field supervisor rapidly.

A document with the quotation for the service (including equipment, contact information) must be given to the grower prior to the execution of the service.

The standard contract for hiring subcontractors will be made available to the PLTQ.

- 3.2 The provisions of any contract or agreement between a grower and a Buyer must not be inconsistent with those of this Agreement. Where there is inconsistency the provisions of this Agreement shall govern and be binding upon the parties.

3.3

3.3.1 Each year, as soon as possible, but not later than April 1, and always at least 10 days prior to its signature by the grower, the Buyer shall forward a duplicate of his original contract per production to the PLTQ.

3.3.2 The Buyer shall forward to the PLTQ, no later than May 15 of each year, the list of varieties he plans to use for each product category.

3.3.3 The Buyer shall forward to the PLTQ, on or before May 15 of each year, a list of all his growers per production with their complete addresses, telephone numbers, email, and the acreage contracted. The individual yield allotted for the current year must also be transmitted.

Should other growers enter into a contract with a Buyer after that date, the Buyer shall notify the PLTQ of this as soon as possible and no later than 15 days after completing the planting of each of the contemplated products.

3.4 No later than October 5 for peas crop and no later than November 15 for bean and sweet corn crops, and, exceptionally, 30 days after the date of the end of the harvest in the case of a late year for beans and sweet corn crops, the Buyer shall provide the PLTQ with:

3.4.1 The contributions withheld on all regulated products purchased or received from each grower, in accordance with the order respecting such levies, as well as any other sum withheld from growers and owed to the PLTQ or owed by the Buyer to the PLTQ in accordance with this Agreement. Any late payment shall be subject to an interest charge of 1% per month (12% per annum) from the date of payment specified in this Article;

3.4.2 Upon request, the PLTQ shall support Buyers in their efforts to collect amounts owed to them by certain growers for goods and/or services covered by this Agreement;

3.4.3 A copy of the statement of account accompanying the final payment to the grower;

3.4.4 A statement per production showing the name of all growers, and for each grower, the number of gross and net short tons received for each category of products specified in this Agreement, the variety seeded, the acreage planted and harvested, the average tenderness reading of the peas delivered, the total gross revenue from production and the amount of all contributions withheld;

3.4.5 The total number of gross short tons received from the growers for each category of products specified in this Agreement;

3.4.6 The total acreage planted and harvested for each category of products specified in this Agreement.

3.5 Contract & production standards

3.5.1 Each grower, upon signing a contract with a Buyer, shall produce the variety of vegetables agreed upon, in accordance with the standards determined by the Buyer to ensure that both the yield and the quality meet the requirements of the Buyer.

3.5.2 Pesticide spraying report: Upon signing the contract, the grower agrees to declare to the Buyer which pesticides he used the previous year on the contracted plot of land.

The grower agrees to use, on the contracted farmland and on the crop itself, only pesticides that comply with government standards and that meet the approval of the Buyer as specified in his individual contract.

Furthermore, the grower shall forward, prior to harvesting and as specified in the individual contract, a copy of the duly completed "Pesticide Use Record", stating which pesticides he has applied or had applied. If this is not done, the Buyer shall be under no obligation to harvest the crop or can delay payment until such time as the report has been received.

3.5.3 Any specifications introduced by a Buyer must be developed in co-operation with the PLTQ.

Such specifications must not be at variance with the rules and conditions of this Agreement and the standards and regulations in effect in Québec.

3.5.4 Whenever practical, any new variety introduced into Québec by a Buyer, i.e. any variety produced for the first time in Québec, must undergo prior testing on an experimental plot and/or on farmland before it can become the subject of a contract with a grower.

Should circumstances not permit such preliminary trials, the Buyer agrees to inform the grower and the PLTQ of the characteristics known about this variety and to conclude a special agreement.

3.5.5 Any individual contract must include a provision stipulating that both parties reserve the right to end the agreement before April 15.

3.5.6 Crop insurance shall not be a condition of contracting.

3.5.7 In the event a Buyer or his representative wishes to conduct an analysis of the soil to determine the presence of diseases or pests, he shall notify the grower thereof in advance and obtain the latter's written authorization before taking any samples.

3.6 The minimum selling prices are listed in the Annexes in this Agreement.

3.7 Payment guarantee

3.7.1 The Buyer shall provide a performance bond each year before May 31, to the satisfaction of the PLTQ.

3.7.2 Where a Buyer, for any specific reason, fails to comply with the payment provisions specified in the Annexes, he shall first be required to give written notice thereof to the PLTQ and the Association. An agreement respecting the payment provisions and conditions applicable to such Buyer solely for the current year shall then be concluded to the satisfaction of the PLTQ and the Buyer concerned. The above-mentioned written notice and agreement shall be required prior to the signing of any contract and no later than March 15.

Failing agreement by such date, the PLTQ or the Association shall refer the matters in dispute to the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec* for conciliation and arbitration, the payment provisions and conditions applicable to such Buyer to be known no later than April 1;

3.7.3 Should the Buyer fail to comply with the prescribed dates of payment, any net amount due to the grower shall bear interest for each day of default from the dates specified in the Annexes or in any agreement with the PLTQ pursuant to paragraph 3.7.2 at the following annual rate: basic rate plus 3%. (The basic rate is the prime rate of the National Bank of Canada on the last Friday of September at closing).

3.8 The special provisions for each regulated product are specified in the following Annexes and shall apply to and form part of this Agreement:

ANNEX 1 → Wax and green beans

ANNEX 2 → Sweet corn

ANNEX 3 → Green peas

3.9 It is expressly agreed that the following clauses shall apply to and form part of the respective Annexes and shall not be amended other than by the Committee which negotiates the general provisions of this Agreement:

- ⇒ Seed clauses
- ⇒ Receiving slip
- ⇒ Grower's statement of account
- ⇒ **Abandoned fields**
- ⇒ The payment terms

4. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

- 4.1 Individual sales between grower and Buyer shall be based on weights and measures within the meaning of the Civil Code of Québec.
- 4.2 The grower's crop shall be delivered to the Buyer's factory or receiving station once it has been weighed, graded and approved.
- 4.3 Weighing, determination of foreign materials and grading shall be carried out by the Buyer upon delivery, at the scale and at the factory or receiving station, unless otherwise provided for in the Annexes.

The sampling method and the standards for determining foreign materials prescribed by the Buyer shall apply to and form part of the Buyer's individual contract, in accordance with the Agreement with the PLTQ.

- 4.4 The crops delivered by the grower shall be weighed on scales that comply with the standards set out in the Acts and regulations in force in Canada and in compliance with such Acts and regulations.
- 4.5 Where applicable and subject to the "International system" (I.S.) equivalency, the unit of measure shall be the pound (lb) and the short ton (sh tn = 2,000 lb).

Businesses that have adopted the I.S. may weight and grade all vegetable crops and make their payments and statements accordingly.

The conversion factors recognized under the Agreement are as follows:

1 hectare (ha)	=	2.471 ac
1 acre (ac)	=	0.4047 ha
1 kilogram (kg)	=	2.2046 lb
1 pound (lb)	=	0.4536 kg
1 short ton (sh tn)	=	0.9072 mt
1 metric ton (mt)	=	1.1023 sh tn

- 4.6 The grower or a representative of the PLTQ may at any time be present during the weighing, sampling and processing of the vegetables, but without interfering with the operations of the Buyer and at no cost to the Buyer. The grower or his representative shall notify the Buyer prior to his arrival and shall be accompanied by a duly authorized representative of the company or shall comply with any other rules set by the factory. It is expressly agreed that the Buyer may request that the representative bring identification issued by the PLTQ. All visitors must comply with the health and safety and food safety requirements in force on the Buyer's site.

The PLTQ shall assume full responsibility for its representative and shall be jointly and severally liable for all damages and interest for which its representative may be held responsible. It is expressly agreed that the representative shall enter the factory at his own risk and that the Buyer shall not be held responsible for any material damage or physical injury the representative may have suffered while in the factory and for any specific reason.

5. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 5.1 The Buyer shall not intimidate and/or penalize any grower who assumes a function on behalf of the PLTQ or who has instituted proceedings by virtue of this Agreement.
- 5.2 Any lawsuit, grievance, claim or dispute (hereinafter called "grievance") with respect to the interpretation or application of this Agreement between one or more growers and/or the PLTQ, on the one hand, and between one or more Buyers and the Association, on the other hand, shall, if unresolved, be settled in accordance with the following procedure:

Preliminary Steps

- 5.2.1 Should there be matter for dispute, the grower shall notify the Buyer in writing, and forwarding a copy to the PLTQ, within the next 10 calendar days. Both the Buyer and the grower shall try to settle their grievance amicably. The grower may request the assistance of a representative of the PLTQ in settling the grievance between himself and the Buyer who may also be assisted by a representative of the Association. The Buyer and the PLTQ may call upon external expertise to document the problem. In order for this external expertise to be valid, all parties must be informed and have the opportunity, as far as possible, to attend. Failing agreement or a meeting, either party may submit a grievance notice, which triggers the first phase of the grievance procedure.

The grower's dispute regarding the final payment, as described in section 2.2 of the various annexes, shall be submitted on or before the 60th calendar day from the date the final payment statement is sent.

First Phase

- 5.2.2 Growers submit their grievance notice to the PLTQ. Should it find a grievance justified, the PLTQ notifies the Buyer concerned and the Association in writing within twenty (20) days following the incident.

Buyers grievances shall be submitted to the Association, and if the Association finds them to be well-founded, it shall notify the PLTQ and the grower concerned, as the case may be, in writing within twenty (20) days of the incident giving rise to the grievance.

Second Phase

- 5.2.3 Should the Buyer concerned and the Association receive a written grievance notice from the PLTQ, or should the PLTQ and the grower concerned receive a written grievance notice from the Association, the representatives of the PLTQ and of the Association must meet within the next twenty (20) days to settle the dispute.

Third Phase

- 5.2.4 Failing agreement, the party who submitted the grievance notice may within fifteen (15) days refer matters in dispute to the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec* or to any person appointed by the Régie for arbitration and shall notify the other party thereof in writing.

6. ACT OF GOD

- 6.1 The Buyer shall subscribe, at their cost, to an insurance covering the value of field vegetables in the event of a disaster preventing fulfillment of the contract with the grower; the deductible, if applicable, for all vegetables, may not exceed 0.75% of the insured value.

“Disaster,” means an occurrence beyond the Buyer’s control such as fire, explosion, major breakdown of production equipment, internal power failure or interruption of the water supply system due to an internal problem.

6.1.1 The Buyer shall submit a copy of the insurance certificate to the PLTQ.

6.1.2 The Buyer shall pay to the growers concerned any indemnity granted under the terms of this insurance, in proportion to their respective field value.

6.2 An act of God is any unforeseeable event beyond the control of the contracting party. This includes in particular, natural disasters, epidemics, wars, uprisings, riots, terrorist acts, orders of civil or military authorities, an external power failure, interruption of the water supply system caused by an external problem, and lack of transportation facilities.

In the event of inability, due to force majeure, to honour a commitment set out in this Agreement and/or in the signed contract between the grower and the Buyer:

- the party concerned shall inform all parties in writing within 12 hours;
- the party concerned shall be excused for non-fulfilment of its commitment to the extent that it took, where possible, all required action to resolve the situation and reduce the damage;

7. DURATION, TERMINATION AND RENEWAL

7.1 This Agreement comes into force upon its signature by the parties and shall be submitted forthwith for ratification by the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec*. Subject to the provisions specified hereafter respecting the reopening of this Agreement and its renewal or termination, this Agreement shall continue indefinitely.

7.2 This Agreement shall be terminated permanently upon a decision to that effect by the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec*, or by mutual agreement by the signatory parties.

7.3 Every year, no later than January 15, the PLTQ and the Association shall forward to each other in writing their proposed amendments to the Convention.

7.3.1 Both parties shall meet to negotiate the aforesaid amendments. The negotiations shall be concluded no later than March 10.

7.3.2 Upon agreement, the Agreement shall be submitted for ratification by the *Régie des marchés agricoles du Québec*.

7.3.3 Failing agreement within the time period specified under paragraph 7.3.1, either party or both parties jointly shall refer the matter in dispute, before March 15, to the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec* for conciliation and arbitration as soon as possible. Both parties agree to make themselves available on the dates proposed by the *Régie*, since the prices and conditions of the Agreement must be known no later than March 31 of each year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE HAVE SIGNED ON THIS 29TH DAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024.

Conseil de la transformation alimentaire
du Québec (CTAQ)
(Association)

Producteurs de légumes de transformation
du Québec (PLTQ)

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Annexes