

[\\$1 million for apples: ACOA loan will allow Valley farmers to modernize technology](#)

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KINGS COUNTY – Two local farmers will be getting ACOA cash to help modernize technology at their orchards.



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Van Meekeren Farms Limited is one of two local apple producers to receive \$500,000 in repayable contributions from ACOA to help modernize technology on their farms.

In total, \$1 million in repayable contributions were announced by Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison, who said in a press release that “spurring value-added opportunities in established industries, such as agriculture, is an important component of a growing Atlantic Canadian economy.”

Scotian Gold will receive \$500,000 to help with the purchase of new packing equipment. The new equipment will speed up the sorting and grading of perishable fruit and increase capacity by more than 50 per cent.

“The Scotian Gold brand is known throughout Canada and the United States as a premium product. This investment will allow Scotian Gold to significantly increase production levels to enable us to continue to supply our customers as our apple volume increases,” said David Parrish, president and chief executive officer of Scotian Gold.

Van Meekeren Farms will also receive \$500,000 to modernize its apple packing line with a state-of-the-art optical apple sorter, which will speed up the packaging process. It will also purchase Internal Frequency Analysis equipment that will detect the internal browning of apples and ensure the highest quality product is produced.

“Van Meekeren Farms Limited prides itself on distributing fresh, high-quality fruit locally and throughout Canada, the United States and overseas,” said Stephen Van Meekeren, president of Van Meekeren Farms Ltd.

“In order to keep up with industry demands we must improve our production capabilities. We plan to put this investment to work by improving our production and expanding our product line.”