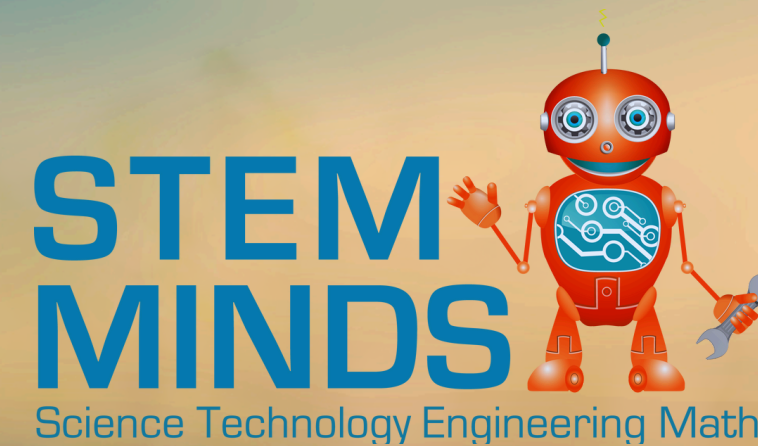


BOREAL FARMS



AGRI-FOOD AND AGRI-TECH UPSKILLING PROGRAM 2.0

***Strengthening the Agri-Food Workforce across
York Region and Ontario!***

Presented by:

Anu Bidani - CEO, STEM Minds & Brandon Hebor - President, Boreal Farms

Canada 

**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**

Ontario 

**This Employment Ontario Project is funded in part by the
Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario**

About Us

STEM Minds & Boreal Farms

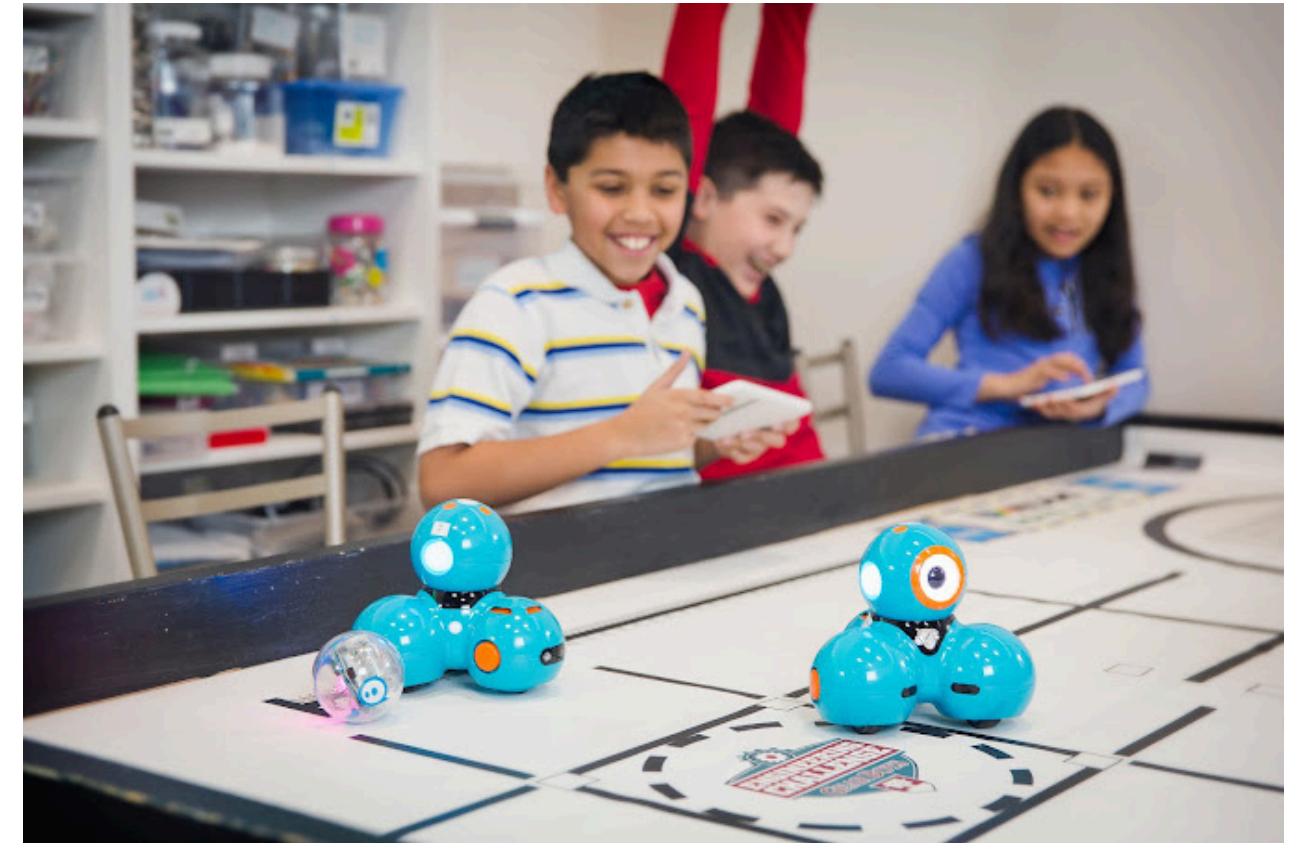
STEM Minds and Boreal Farms have continued our partnership for another year to immersive AgriFood and AgriTech workshops. The workshops are designed for students, newcomers, women and more broadly anyone who is interested in learning and building skills relevant the the AgriFood Value Chain across Ontario.



Why this
Matters

123,000
Skilled AgriFood
Workers

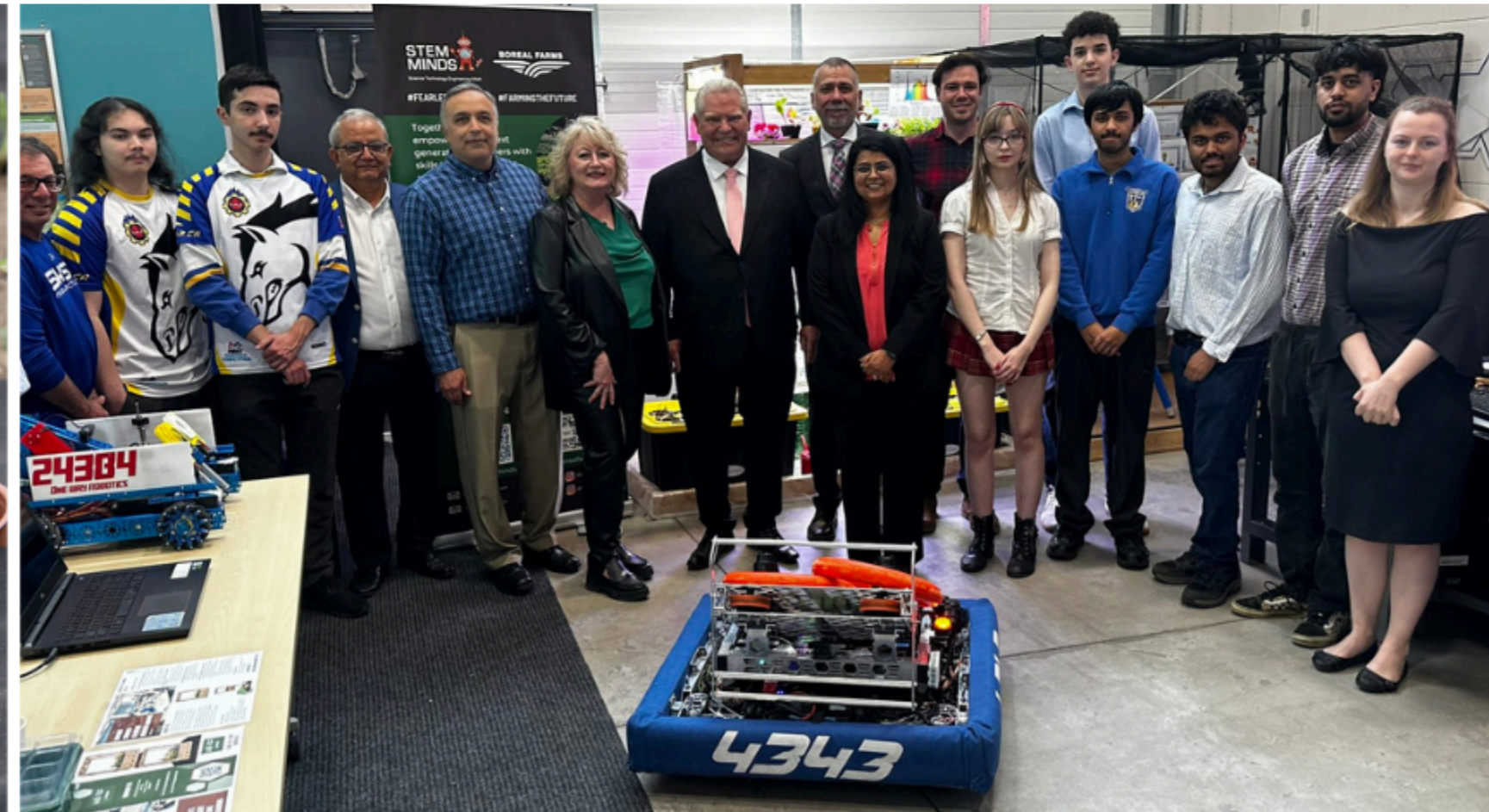
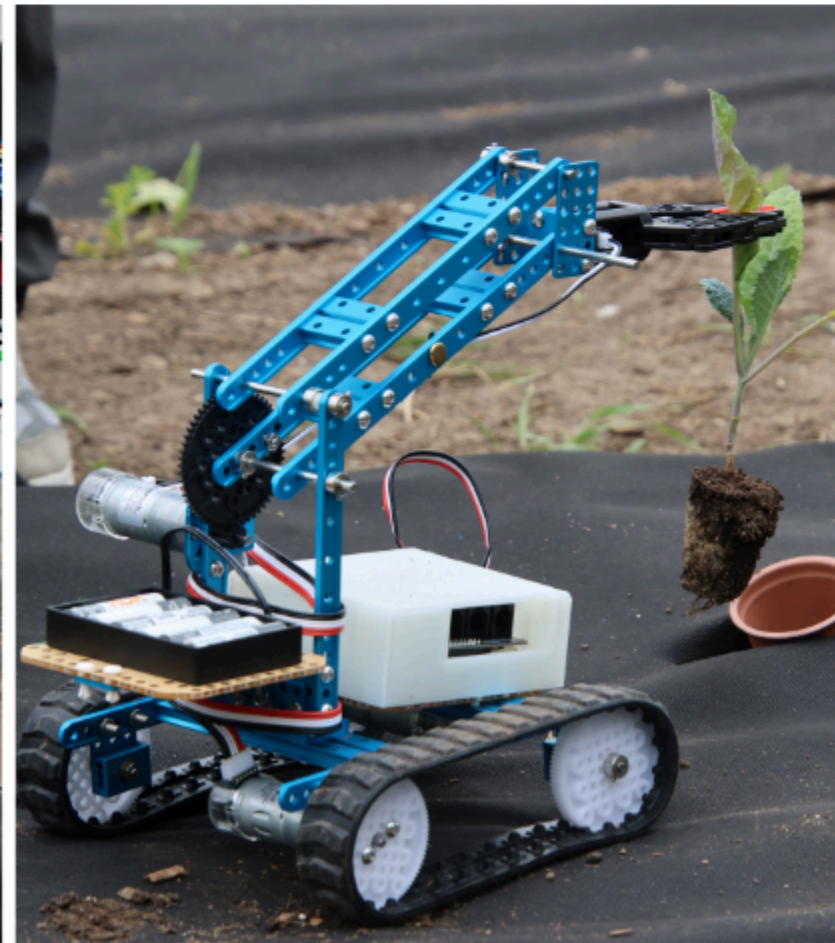
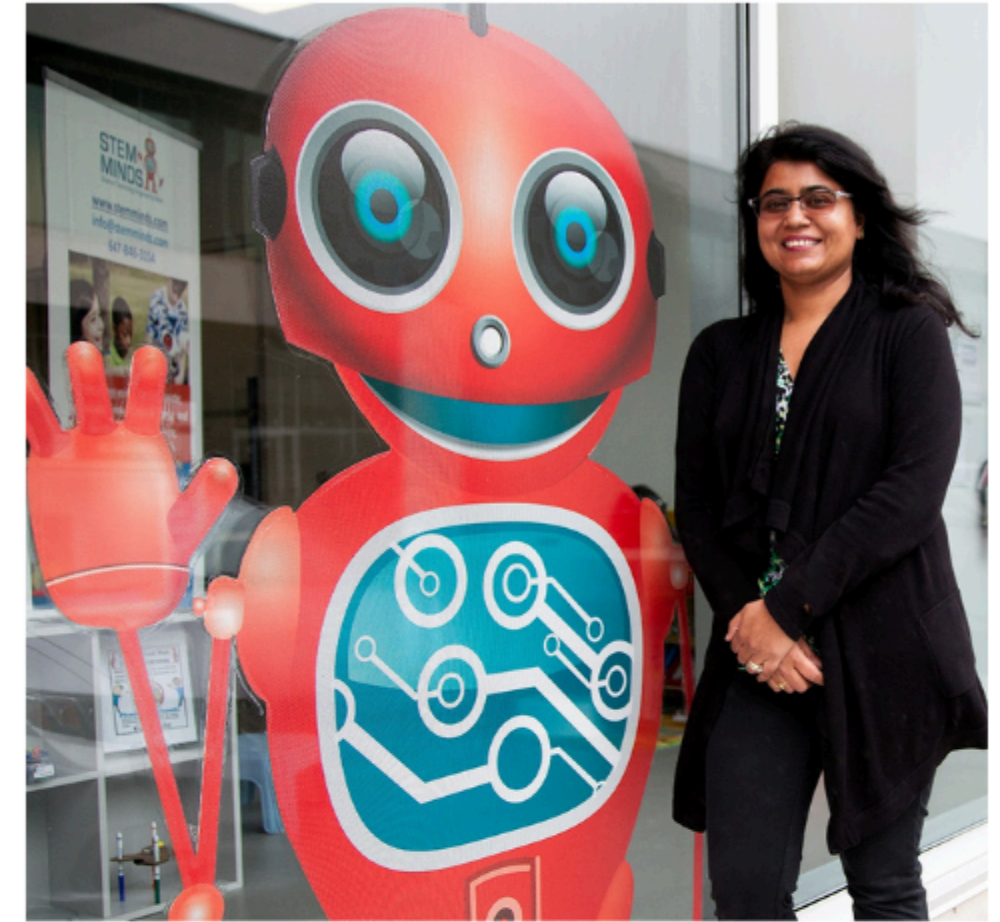
Are needed by **2030** to support
Canada's AgriFood sector
~RBC Thought Leadership



About Anu

Journey Into Entrepreneurship

Anu founded STEM Minds in 2016 after trying to find STEM-based programs for her two sons. With a passion for technology and as a former executive at Scotiabank for 20 years, becoming their Head of eStrategy and Solutions, Anu recognized she could create unique STEM education programs for kids ages 4-18 to unlock their full potential.



About STEM Minds



- Serving communities and schools since 2016
- Delivery channels:
 - In-person programming (North America)
 - Virtual Classes
 - Online Learning platform
- STEM Skill Building for jobs of tomorrow
- Award-winning venture



Mission:

To create the next generation of global STEM leaders.

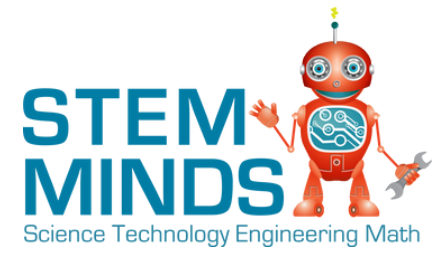
Vision:

Build a world where every child has the opportunity to be STEM literate.

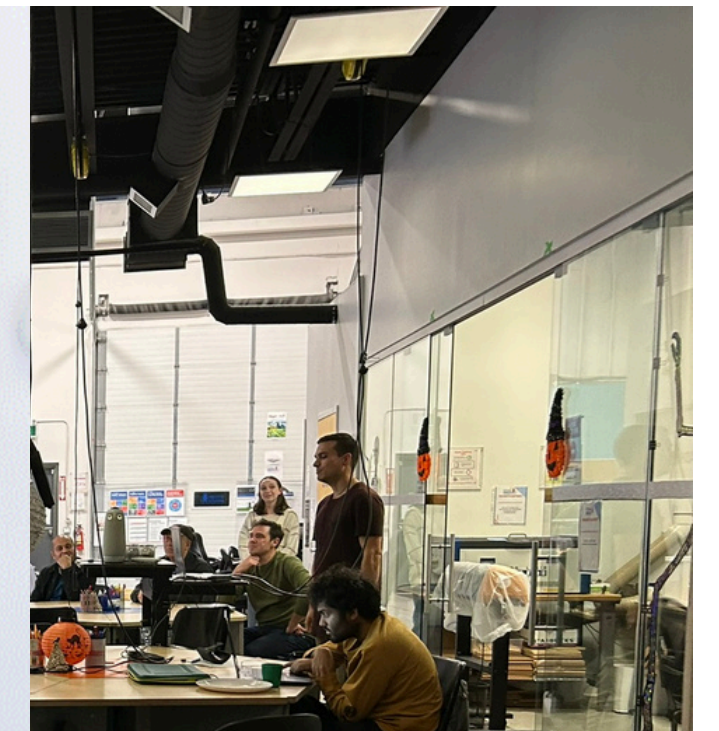
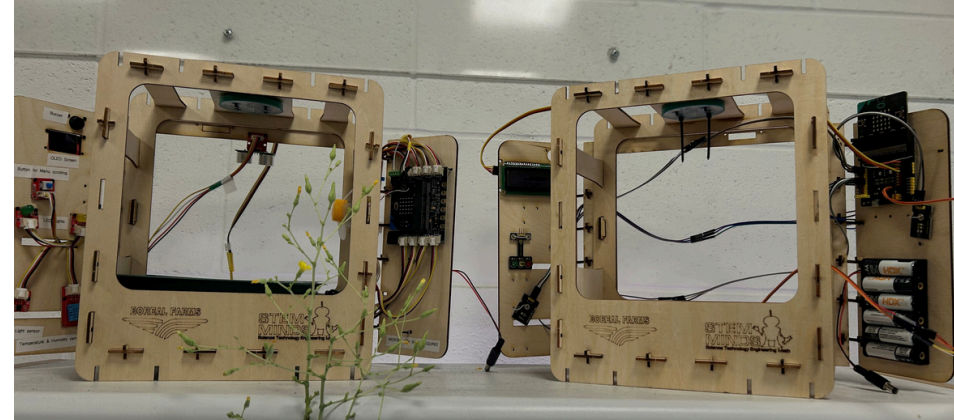
OUR PROGRAMS

(Canada)





STEM MINDS “OFF FARM” LEARNING EXPERIENCE



About Brandon

Journey Into Entrepreneurship

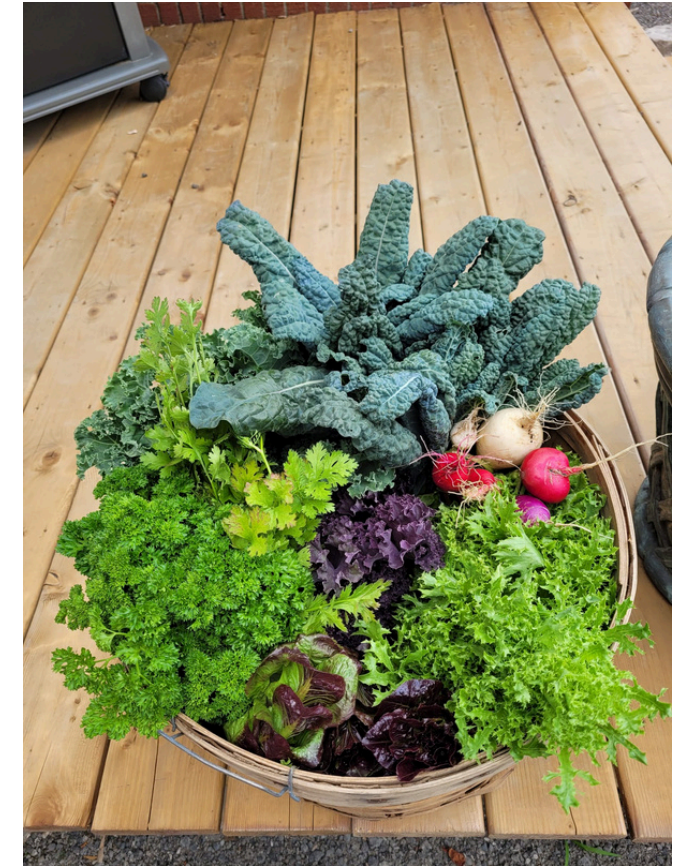
Brandon was born and raised in Toronto and is now a proud farmer and agri-preneur in York Region. His passion for food and farming started as a young child helping his grandparents in the backyard garden, watering and snacking on tomatoes is a fond memory of his early connection to the land.



Boreal Farms

A Platform for the Future of Farming

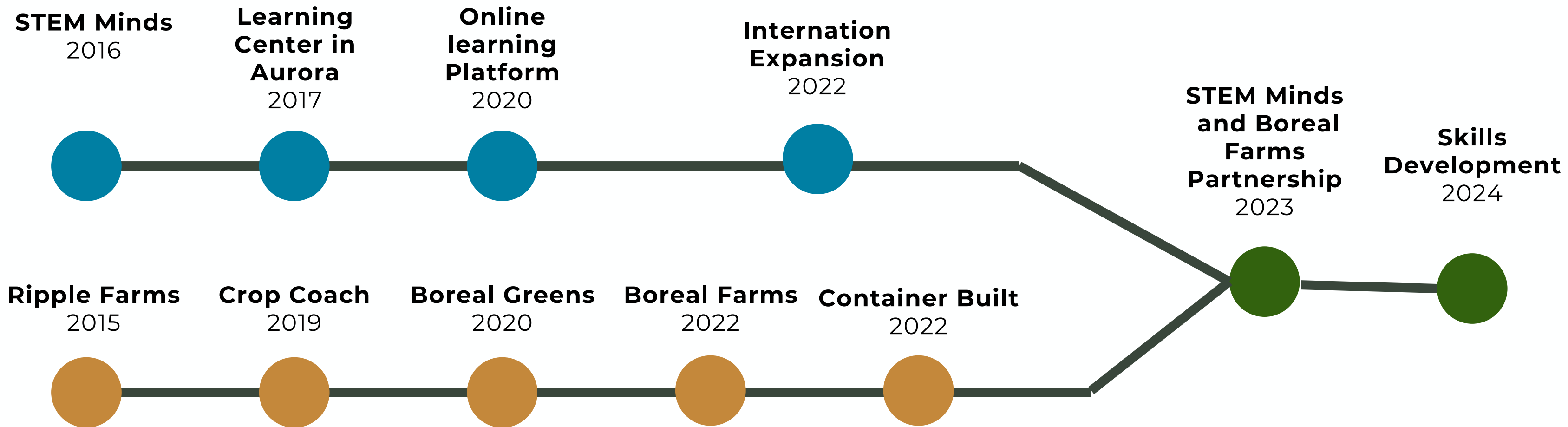
Brandon founded Boreal Farms in 2021 and began operating a small scale vertical farm in a warehouse in Markham to demonstrate his vertical farming technology while generating sales from fresh leafy greens, herbs and vegetables.

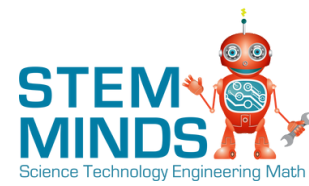


Our Living Laboratory



Our Collective Journey





OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT TO-DATE

86,563

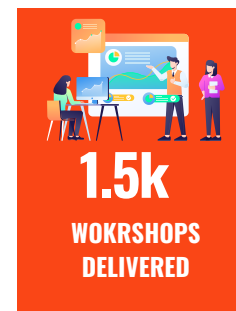
STUDENTS IN
CANADA

1.5MM

STUDENTS IN USA

6,567

TEACHERS



183

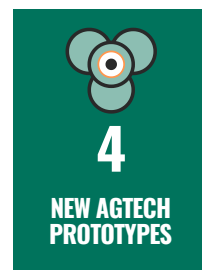
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS
AGTECH/SHSM

151

AGTECH COMMUNITY
MEMBER
WORKSHOPS

5000

BOREAL FARMS
TOURS AND TALKS



380 LBS

FOOD DONATED

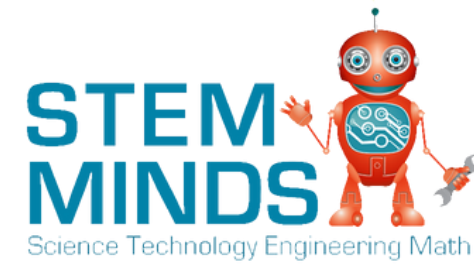
6

APPLIED RESEARCH
PROJECTS

5 ACRES

OF LAND BEING
REGENERATED





Skills Development Fund - Program Assessment: 2024-2025

Impact Report The Future of Food and Farming

**Access the Report and our
Online Portal for 2025-26 Programs at:**
industry.stemminds.com



300+
Participants Served

25
Workshops Delivered

111
Participants Who Improved Employability Skills

66
Partners Engaged

Select Tracks For Skill Building Based On Your Interest

Choose from specialized tracks including:

- Online Certification – TUG
- AgriTech 4.0 – Robotics and Drones in Agriculture
- Skilled Trades in Agriculture
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Food Safety, Quality
- Assurance, and Regulatory Compliance
- Agronomy and the Science of Plants and Soils
- Food Security and Sustainability
- Horticulture and Greenhouse Workers and Operators
- Small Scale Operators in the AgriFood Sector

[Learn More](#)



March 31, 2025- Version 1.0

For Public External Review

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Addressing the talent gap in Ontario

- Grant approved for 12 months - Apr 2025-March 2026
- 12 Community Nights
- 24 Workshops plus 24 Tours
- Online Certification - Toronto Urban Grower
- Impact Report - Applied Research - Seneca Polytechnic
- Building an eco-system
 - School Boards: YRDSB, YCDSB, SCDSB
 - AgriFood Network / Employers
- Using Innovative Tools and Technologies
 - Drones, Sensors, Robotics, more...
- **Target:** Training 400 participants
- **Target:** Placements for 50 with Employers with Wage Subsidy



Agri-Food Value Chain



Our Ask for The Committee

1. We will be reaching out to committee members to ask for a 30-45 minute phone / zoom call
 - Discuss specifics of the program, areas for development and ensure our alignment with value chain ‘verticals’ as they relate to your business, place of employment or community
2. Introductions to local AgriTech / AgriFood Employers
 - Assist us with finding placements for 50 participants - directly or indirectly through your networks
3. Support our program by sharing our social media posts to your networks / social platforms
 - Once we have Ministry Approved media, we would love if you can help us get the word out!
4. Collaborate with us on program delivery, tours or community nights as they relate to your aspects of the value chain - honorariums are available
5. Come out and visit the farm and ‘living lab’ to see things in action - dates to be confirmed!



THANKYOU