

The Otello Group, Agricultural Families, Working Together!

Bercab Farms Inc.

Jennen Bros. Inc.

Sydenham Farms

- **Project:** Automation/Robotic Technology in Ontario Plug Planting
- **Crops:** Tomatoes, Onions, Peppers
- **Goal:** Keep competitive while dealing with increasing labour expense





AGRI > PLANTER

www.agriplanter.com

Otello Group research trip to Europe

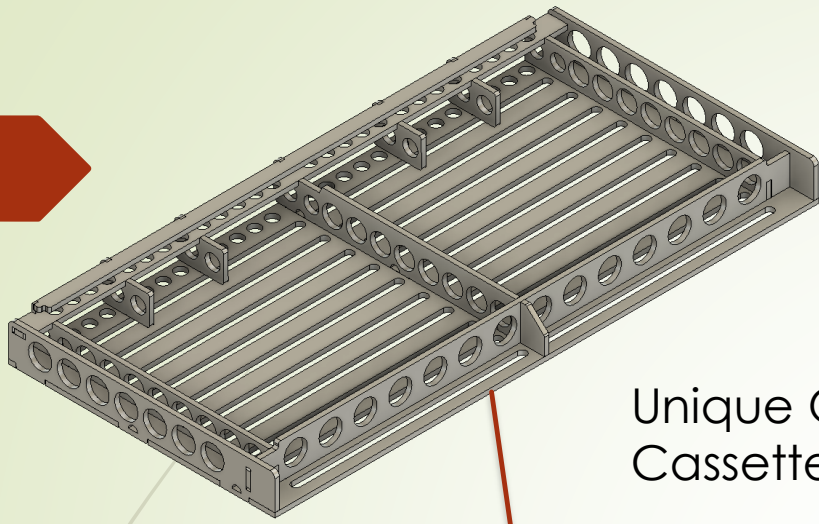
AGRIPLANTER owner/designer, Bart Perrein – was interested in importing machines to North America. The Europeans use a hard-plastic reusable tray for transplant production.

The Otello members decided that if a mechanism could be designed to allow the AGRI Planter to accept the Ontario plug trays, the planter could be of great interest to Ontario and North American farms. The conclusion was to move forward, there would need to be a plug tray holding cassette. This cassette would need to be designed/retrofitted/tested to the Agriplanter to allow use of Ontario plug trays.

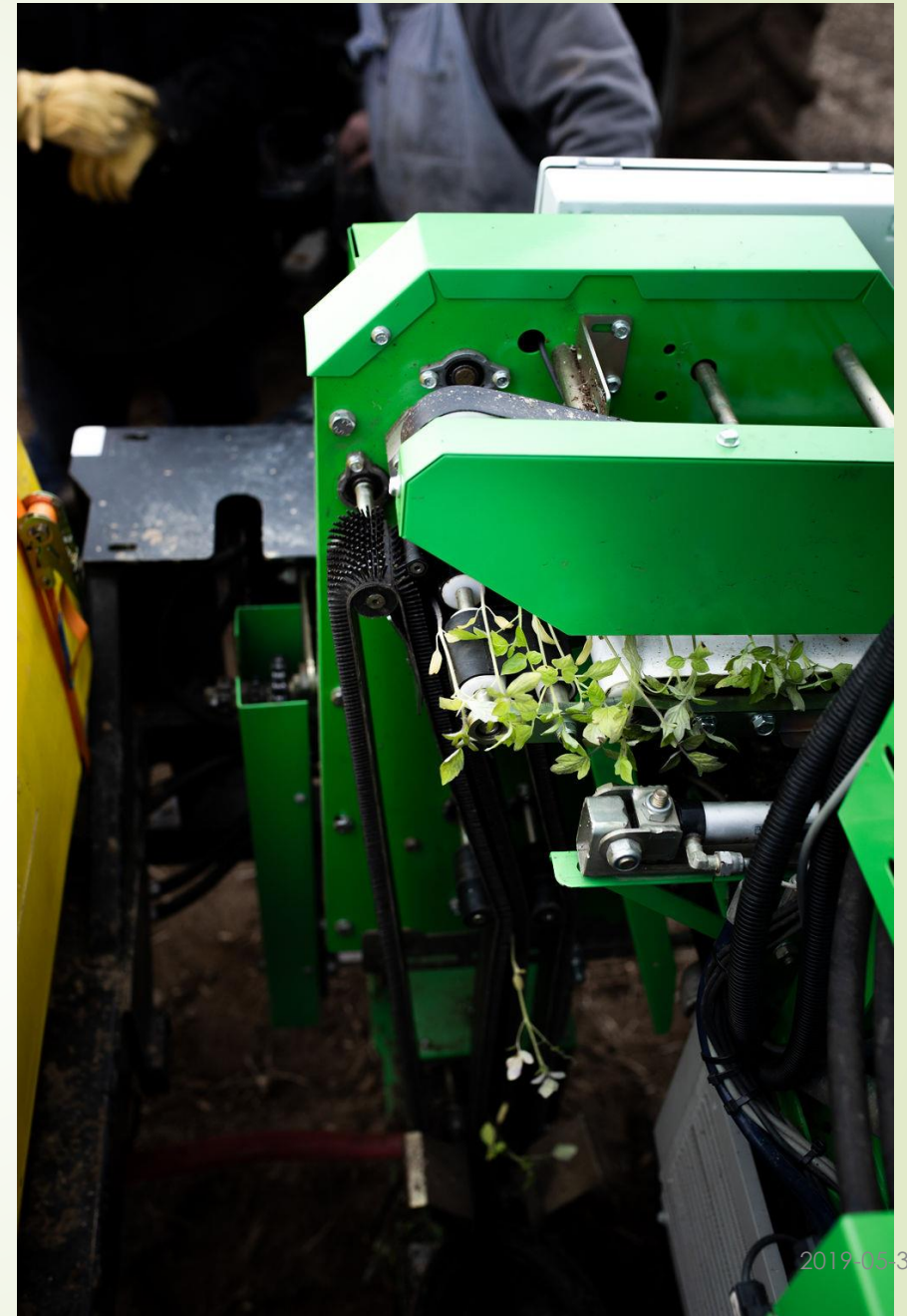
The Otello cassette was designed and tested, results of the trials were acceptable.

AGRIPLANTER – two row planter in Ontario, field planting tomatoes in May 2019





Unique Otello
Cassette





Otello Project Summary



- Otello cassette enabled plastic tray use
- Supported by Ontario Plug Plant producers
- Labour saving – up to 70% labour reduction
- Accurate plant stand
- Rate Control for watering within row

| Tomato Planting 288 cell tray | Previous Planter | Agriplanter | Impact |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Plants/Min/row | ~75 | ~254 | 260% increase |
| Number of rows | 6 | 2 | 60% reduction |
| Labour | 7 workers | 3 workers | 66% reduction |
| Acres/Hour (@11.5K population) | 2.45 | 2.77 | 13% increase |
| Planting speed | 1.1 MPH | 4 MPH | 360% increase |

This project was funded in part through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of the Partnership in Ontario.

