

## Partner Profile: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

*Submitted by AAFC*

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) was created in 1868 – one year after Canada became a country – due to the importance of farming to the nation's economic, social and cultural development.

Our department works with farmers and food producers to support the growth and development of the agriculture and agri-food sector. AAFC policies, programs, research and technology help them succeed in Canadian and global markets.

Agriculture has a major impact on the economy. For example, canola, now the oil of choice for millions around the world, was developed by Canadian scientists and planted by Canadian farmers. In 2013, Canada contributed 33% to global canola exports.

The agriculture and agri-food industry contributes over \$100 billion annually to Canada's gross domestic product (GDP), which is more than the national GDP of 2/3 of the world's countries.

Canada is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural exporter in the world, and the agriculture and agri-food industry employs 2.2 million Canadians (that's 1 in 8 jobs). We produce about 80% of the world's maple syrup, we are the world's largest *exporter* of flaxseed, canola, pulses and durum wheat and we're one of the largest *producers* of flaxseed, canola, pulses and durum wheat.

AAFC has a national network of 19 agriculture research centres, including two primary centres in Lacombe and Lethbridge, and two substations in Vauxhall and Beaverlodge. With our partners we tackle new challenges every day, such as researching new ways to fight disease; improving crop varieties and yields; and ensuring that our food products are healthy, safe and of high quality.

Clean air, soil and water are everyone's priority. Building on the tradition of Canadian farmers as stewards of the land, AAFC continues to invest in science and work with farmers to ensure that Canada's food comes from sustainable farming practices. Our research efforts will help address the complex risks from climate change and take advantage of related opportunities.

AAFC programs help farmers maximize long-term profitability and competitiveness in markets throughout Canada and abroad. These programs help Canadian producers and processors adapt to changes in consumer demand, shifts in global competition, and production challenges caused by severe weather, disease or trade actions.

*Growing Forward 2* (GF2) is a five-year (2013-2018) policy framework for Canada's agricultural and agri-food sector. A \$3 billion dollar investment by federal, provinces and territorial governments, GF2 programs focus on innovation, competitiveness and market development to ensure Canadian producers and processors have the tools and resources they need to continue to innovate and capitalize on emerging market opportunities.

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