



Supporting a Sustainable Produce Sector

Federal Election 2021

TALKING POINTS:

When in doubt, think Connect (why is it important to YOU?), Contrast (what's missing?), Solve (how can the government/candidate help?)

- **Connect:** Our sector is on the front lines when it comes to facing the challenges of a changing climate and promoting environmental sustainability. We are working to ensure the economic viability of our sector and the wellbeing of the people and the planet that support it.
- **Contrast:** Ambitious targets are being set to reduce the environmental footprint of producing and supplying food. Our growers and others along the supply chain have led the way on adopting environmentally sustainable practices, but too often these contributions go unrecognized by both government and consumers.
- **Solve:** Government collaboration with our industry can ensure effective, long-term solutions to achieve our common sustainability goals and secure Canada's position as a global leader in agri-food sustainability.

OUR ASKS:

1. Will your party provide reasonable and fair recognition for past efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement more environmentally sustainable practices, including in the development of any carbon offset credit system?
2. Will your party continue to provide federal support for the National Index on Agri-food Performance and support this critical engagement with stakeholders to achieve our common sustainability goals and secure Canada's position as a global leader in agri-food sustainability?
3. Will your party commit to taking a holistic view of how supporting a sustainable agri-food industry complements environmental targets?
4. Will your party commit to developing a long-term strategy for sustainable water management for all Canadians, including ensuring a secure source of water for Canadian agriculture?

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- **The fresh fruit and vegetable sector supports the Food Policy for Canada’s commitment to the promotion of long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability.** A sustainable environment is essential to the future viability and growth of our industry and Canada as a whole, and the agricultural sector will be a key partner in tackling climate change and moving to a low-carbon economy.
- **Across the agri-food sector, ambitious targets are being set to reduce the environmental footprint of producing and supplying food.** Momentum is building to establish Canada’s first agri-food sustainability index to demonstrate our country’s rightful place as a leader of sustainable, safe and responsibly-produced food.
- A private-public coalition of over 40 diverse partners, including CPMA, has released the [Business Case for Establishing the National Index on Agri-Food Performance](#) to affirm Canada’s agri-food leadership in a more demanding food world.
- The proposed National Index on Agri-Food Performance will provide an essential tool to benchmark Canada’s food production against global best practices and environmental, social, and health priorities, and align with global sustainability frameworks.
- **It is imperative that fresh fruit and vegetable producers have access to, and can utilize, products and processes that ensure the sustainability of the industry and support food security.** Without these tools, there can be unintended negative consequences on Canada’s ability to meet our sustainability goals.
- It is estimated that 50% more Canadian farmland would be needed to grow what we do today without pesticides and biotech crops – a land area equivalent to the combined area of the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island¹.
- **Water supply and access are becoming increasingly pressing issues for growers.** The Government of Canada must work proactively to ensure that water management is integrated into all plans to meet Canada’s sustainability targets, including in the sustainable production of food. The new Canada Water Agency can play an important role in this work and in engaging with industry stakeholders to ensure their water needs continue to be met.

¹ Source: [CropLife Canada](#)