



A Place to Grow: Agri- Food Innovation Initiative

Ontario Agricultural
Commodity Council Meeting
June 24th, 2019

Context

- On June 12, 2019, OMAFRA delivery of an expanded sector-level programming '**Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative**' was announced.
- The creation of the **Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative** was based on government direction to review all program delivery across the province to ensure maximum value of every taxpayer dollar and find efficiencies:
 - OMAFRA reviewed all ministry programs and determined it would be more economically efficient if OMAFRA delivers this program.
 - Transitioning the delivery to the ministry is about reducing significant overlap and duplication of delivery processes, supporting structures and administration.
 - This will also address requests from stakeholders to streamline the approvals process.

Guiding Principles

CAP Program Principles

- Strategic, sector-wide approach to programming
- Targeting of activities & funding to deliver on CAP outcomes
- Flexibility to address emerging priorities and maximize outcomes
- Focus on innovation & value add
- Maximize investment through:
 - Merit-based project selection
 - Alignment of cost-share levels and funding to favour sector-level investments, and achieve public good
 - Funding of best practices and activities informed by science and evidence
- Increase transparency through merit- based partner selection where appropriate
- Evidence gathering to demonstrate and communicate results
- Continuous improvement

Improve anticipation, mitigation, response to risks

Expand domestic and international markets;
Increase competitiveness, productivity; profitability

Increase environmental sustainability

CAP Priority Outcomes

Protection and Assurance

- ✓ Sector seizes opportunities to respond to market and public demands, including attainment of higher levels of recognized standards and codes of practice
- ✓ Animal and plant diseases, pests, food safety hazards, and antimicrobial use along the supply chain are anticipated, detected, mitigated, and/or reduced

Economic Development

- ✓ Impacts of production losses, severe market volatility, extreme events, and disasters are avoided /minimized
- ✓ Sector retains, expands, and/or accesses new domestic and international markets
- ✓ Productivity of the sector is increased

Stewardship

- ✓ Soil health of Ontario's farmland is increased
- ✓ Loss of phosphorus and nutrients into the environment from agriculture production is reduced
- ✓ Enhanced pollinator habitat contributes to a stronger, more resilient pollinator population

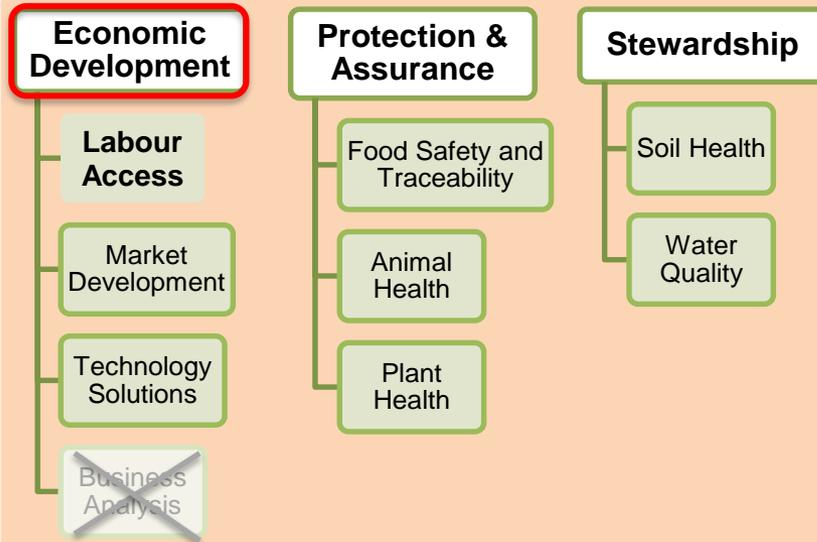
'Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative' Program Highlights

- Builds on existing sector programming to better support key priority areas:
 - **Economic development** in the agri-food and agri-products sectors
 - **Environmental stewardship** to enhance water quality and soil health
 - **Protection and assurance** to reinforce the foundation for public trust in the sector through improved assurance systems in food safety and plant and animal health
- Encourages greater collaboration with new types of partners; Greater flexibility with new project categories to address :
 - Labour supply and training challenges
 - Emerging challenges and opportunities in the sector
- Planned and predictable intakes dates each year during the life of the Partnership:
 - First intake will open on Aug. 15, 2019 and remain open through Sept. 27, 2019.
 - The second Place to Grow intake will open on Jan. 6, 2020 through Jan. 27, 2020.

Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative



Funding for Sectors



Strategic Solutions

Ontario will collaborate with **new and innovative partners** to address emerging sector challenges and opportunities through **bold, high impact** projects that create sector-wide benefits and support CAP priority outcomes:

- Economic Development
- Protection and Assurance
- Stewardship

Delivery Transition

- OMAFRA and AAC are committed to working together to facilitate a smooth transition.
- OMAFRA has notified all organizations impacted by the change in program delivery.
- All approved projects are continuing and eligible costs remain the same. Staff of AAC and OMAFRA are available to assist organizations that are directly affected by the change in program delivery
- AAC will continue to provide services to existing clients up to November 29, 2019; and remain under contract until the end of the calendar year.

Delivery Transition (cont'd)

Transition Process Overview:

- Recipients with projects that will be completed on or before November 29:
 - There is no change in the administration of these project. Projects will continue to be managed and claims processed by AAC
- Recipients with projects that extend beyond November 29:
 - There is no change in the administration of these projects at this time. Projects will continue to be managed and claims processed by AAC up to November 29.
 - Projects will then be transferred to OMAFRA to be administered.
- Approved projects from the most recent intake that closed on April 5, 2019:
 - Applicants have been notified by OMAFRA regarding the outcome of the application.
 - Projects will be contracted with the ministry.

Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative: Next Steps

Finalizing program materials for program rollout:

- Materials will be available on the ministry website on August 1, 2019.
- First Intake will open on August 15 through to September 27, 2019.