

Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Canada



November 6 to 9, 2005

Loew's Le Concorde Hotel, Quebec City QC

Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food sector produces an abundant supply of food, feed and fibre, but not without impacts to our natural resource base – particularly air, soil, water and biodiversity.

The Canadian public is generally aware of the relationship between environmental quality and the quality of life and health, and Canadian consumers are increasingly expecting agricultural practices to be conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner – a factor that influences their purchasing decisions and those of like-minded consumers in export markets.

Historically, farmers have been recognized as stewards of the environment but in order to achieve a truly sustainable agriculture sector it is essential to address the increased challenges they are facing: being charged with implementing new approaches that will address environmental issues, while maintaining quality and sufficiency of food production, trying to sustain an economically viable business, and preserving the social fabric of their lifestyle that has its roots in vital and vibrant rural communities.

The integration of science, policy and information exchange are key to developing and implementing strategies that will advance sustainable agriculture. The results will help to ensure an abundant supply of safe and high-quality products for consumers, protect our natural resource base from further degradation of soil, water and air quality, and will contribute to the economic and social well-being of Canadians in urban, rural and remote communities.

The Agricultural Institute of Canada (in collaboration with l'Ordre des agronomes du Québec) is hosting the national conference **Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Canada** to provide a forum to address the issues and explore approaches to achieving measurable advances towards the goals for sustainability.

The conference will bring together researchers, professional agrologists, farmers, environmental NGOs and government policy makers to provide status and trends updates on the issues, examine advances in technology and innovation, present case studies of best environmental on-farm practices, and stimulate discussion on existing gaps in research and policy that need to be addressed.

Conference Co-Chairs

Kim Shukla, PAg, CAC, President, Agricultural Institute of Canada

Ron Pidskalny, PAg, Director, Agricultural Institute of Canada

Call for Abstracts of Presentations and Posters

The Technical Program Committee welcomes the submission of abstracts of platform presentations and posters that address issues from a wide range of perspectives of the agricultural sector and its practices, including:

- provincial and federal policy and legislation and programs,
- public education and outreach initiatives aimed at informing the public about sustainable agricultural practices and
- policies and issues as well as scientific research and innovation.

Suggested Topic Areas

Topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- impact analysis of the implementation of Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs), nutrient management strategies, and other programs in the agri-food sector
- research outlining the impacts of organic, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and pesticide free production (PFP) practices
- case studies of best environmental sustainable on-farm practices
- opportunities and implications of domestic and international consumer demand and their related trade implications for food produced in a sustainable manner
- advances in sustainable crop production practices, farm management and related scientific research
- research profiling advances in sustainable livestock operations
- conservation stewardship initiatives and their economic, social and environmental impacts
- achieving "agricultural resiliency" through local consumer connections
- effective communication strategies promoting sustainable practices and products

Abstract Submission

Authors of platform or poster presentations are requested to submit 500 to 750 word abstracts in English or French for review by members of the Technical Program Committee. Abstracts should be submitted electronically as an attached file in either Word or WordPerfect format to the Conference Administrator <profedge@renc.igs.net>. The deadline to receive abstracts is **Friday, April 8, 2005**.

Agricultural Extension Showcase

If your farm, agri-business or organization is involved with new research, innovation or planning strategies related to sustainable agriculture and rural development, then you should consider participating in the Agricultural Extension Showcase that is being held in conjunction with the conference. The Showcase provides an additional opportunity for outreach and extension between providers of information and the multiple benefactors.

Conference Registration

Speakers and Poster presenters will be provided a reduced registration fee to attend the conference.

A Conference Registration Form will soon be posted on the AIC Web site <www.aic.ca>. You may also request to receive an email or fax registration form by contacting the Conference Administrator as indicated below:

Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs

Conference Administrator
1027 Pembroke Street East, Suite 200
Pembroke ON K8A 3M4 Canada

T: 800-868-8776 or 613-732-7068

F: 613-732-3386

E: profedge@renc.igs.net

Registration Form

Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Canada

Please complete this form and mail or fax to:

Conference Registrar

1027 Pembroke Street East, Suite 200, Pembroke ON K8A 3M4

F: 613-732-3386

First Name

Last Name

Name for Badge

Business Title

Organization

Postal Address

City

Province Postal Code

Telephone

Fax

Email

Web Site

Do you require a receiver for simultaneous interpretation? Yes No

Please indicate any accessibility requirements

Please indicate any food allergies or requirement for vegan or vegetarian meals

Early Registration (payment received by August 31, 2005)

AIC Members/Speakers/Posters \$200.00 + \$14.00 GST = \$214.00

*Non-Members: \$300.00 + 21.00 = \$321.00

Exhibitors: \$400.00 + \$28.00 GST = \$428.00

Late Registration (payment received after August 31, 2005)

AIC Members/Speakers/Posters \$250.00 + \$17.50 GST = \$267.50

*Non-Members: \$350.00 + 24.50 = \$374.50

Exhibitors: \$450.00 + \$31.50 GST = \$481.50

* If you are not currently a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, you may sign-up on-line at www.aic.ca, then register for the conference the Member rate.

GST Number: 106689094RT