

## *Foreword*

*Innovation, Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability in Canada*, is part of the OECD Food and Agricultural Reviews series. It was undertaken at the request of the Canadian authorities, represented by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). The review examines the conditions surrounding innovation in the food and agriculture sector business and allowing for increased productivity and environmental sustainability. It starts with an overview of the food and agriculture sector and outlines development challenges and opportunities (Chapter 2). A wide range of policies which influence incentives for innovation are then examined: economic stability, governance and trust in institutions (Chapter 3); a favourable and predictable environment for investment (Chapter 4); capacities and public services enabling business development (Chapter 5); agricultural policy (Chapter 6) and the operation of the agricultural innovation system (Chapter 7).

Country policies are analysed following a framework developed by the OECD as part of its work on agricultural innovation and in response to a request from the G20 in 2012 under the Presidency of Mexico. In this first test phase, the framework has also been applied to Australia and Brazil. Additional countries will be studied in subsequent work and the framework is being continuously revised and improved, in particular to reinforce the coverage of sustainability and structural adjustment issues.

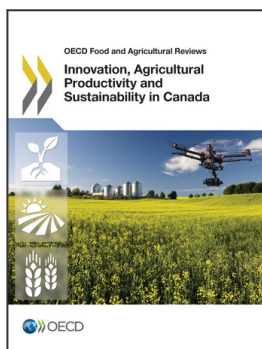
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The review draws heavily on background material co-ordinated by AAFC and originating from several federal and provincial government departments in response to a questionnaire developed as part of the framework. This material has been complemented by a consultant report, prepared by Shelley Thompson, synthesising the views of innovation stakeholders on government action, by information contained in various OECD publications and by cross-country indicators from OECD, and other international databases.

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