

Crossing the Barriers

maximizing Canada's capacity to profitably and sustainably use contemporary agriculture to meet consumer and societal demands for food, fuel, fibre and pharmaceuticals

Agricultural Institute of Canada
2008 Conference

November 17-18, 2008
Toronto, Ontario

Uncontrolled intensification of agriculture in some parts of the globe; the simultaneous growth of obesity and hunger; the health care deficit in Canada; the food versus fuel dilemma. These are but a few of the pressing domestic and global challenges that key players engaged in contemporary agriculture enthusiastically address daily within their own areas of specialty.

Canada is blessed with rich contemporary agricultural platforms: environmental, scientific, institutional and commercial. These platforms position Canadians to provide solutions to global challenges. However, to meet and foresee profitable breakthroughs in science and business that can satisfy consumer and societal demands of contemporary agriculture calls for more sophisticated collaboration among and between all key players in government, business and academe.

Crossing the Barriers is focused on how businesses, governments, universities and research centres have and can break down barriers that isolate them all along the science and innovation chain - from basic research, through to commercialization of new products, services and intellectual property. It concludes with the development of next steps toward a national strategy to energize the requisite bridge building.

Conference Outline

Perspective	Focus
<p>Session 1 Interdisciplinary Science</p>	<p>From the perspective of eminent scientists, lessons learned in interdisciplinary collaboration for innovative breakthroughs along the basic research to commercialization continuum.</p>
<p>Session 2 Inter- and Intra-Governmental Collaboration</p>	<p>Application of lessons learned from government agencies supporting science and innovation, the regulation of inputs and final innovative products, and their commercialization and marketing.</p>
<p>Session 3 Horizontal Management in Business</p>	<p>How have business leaders harnessed the various in-house and external resources to ensure that their companies profitably bring to market innovative products derived from the sustainable agri-resource base?</p>
<p>Session 4 Industry, Government and Academe Together</p>	<p>What would a national strategy address to support the collaborative work of scientists, government and business as they collectively seek to maximize the profitable and sustainable use of the agricultural resource base to produce goods and services that meet health, energy, economic and environmental needs?</p>