

AIC2023

Spring Engagement Session

PROGRAM



204 - 78 George Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 5W1 | 613-232-9459 | www.aic.ca | [@agfoodinnov](https://twitter.com/agfoodinnov)

wifi: Delta_Conference password: Delta2023

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear attendees,

Welcome to AIC's Spring Engagement Session!

This year's theme is: *Enabling research and innovation to support Canada's agri-food sector to feed the world in a sustainable manner.*

Food security, food safety and sustainability are at the top of today's public agenda. Today's researchers and innovators are working on solutions.

We designed a schedule that includes presentations from leaders in the sector. This should provide you the ability to learn about what others are doing. Our Spring Engagement Session is a time to learn about what is happening in the sector and find ways to collaborate with others.

Collaboration is a key factor in growth and innovation. This networking time should enable you to have more in-depth conversations with your colleagues.

We hope that you will enjoy the presentations, ask lots of questions, and take time to discuss with your colleagues the latest on the research and innovation fronts.

Thank you,



Serge Buy
Chief Executive Officer
Agri-Food Innovation Council



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Agri-food Innovation Council gratefully acknowledges our partners for their generous support.

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 25, 2022

All sessions will take place in the Pinnacle Room – Penthouse Level

Networking Breakfast

April 25 8:00 - 8:45 am	<i>Meet up with old acquaintances and form new ones</i>
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Setting the Stage

April 25 9:00 - 9:15 am	<i>Setting the Stage</i>
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Presentation: AIC's Strategic Plan

April 25 9:15 - 9:45 am	<u>Serge Buy</u> , Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food Innovation Council
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Presentation: Impact of Agri-Food Research and Innovation on the Sector

April 25 9:45 - 10:30 am	<u>Dr. Charles Conteh</u> , Professor, Public Policy and Management and Director, Niagara Community Observatory, Brock University
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The presentation will summarize findings from a research project addressing the following question: What are the drivers, barriers, opportunities and constraints surrounding the adoption of automation and robotics technology in Canada's agriculture sector? The research project comprised data from surveys, interviews and focus group discussions with agri-food stakeholders such as farmers, food processors, innovation intermediaries, extension service specialists and government officials. The presentation will provide a portrait of current challenges and opportunities and offer recommendations for accelerating the adoption of automation and robotics technology in building a competitive agriculture and agri-food production system in Canada.

April 25 10:30 - 10:45 am	<i>Nutrition Break</i>
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Presentation: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Strategic Plan for Science

April 25 10:45 - 11:30 am	<u>Andrew Goldstein</u> , Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Agriculture, and Agri-Food Canada
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The climate change, food security, and resource conservation challenges facing the agricultural sector have changed tremendously in recent years – and with it, the complexity of solving them. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Strategic Plan for Science tackles the root cause of pressing issues faced by today's agricultural producers. This presentation will provide an overview of the Department's mission-driven approach, which focuses on public good science activities to accelerate transformative solutions in support of producers' efforts towards more sustainable, resilient and profitable farming systems that can stand up to the challenges ahead.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 25, 2022

Panel Discussion: Agri-Science Research Clusters

April 25 11:30 - 12:15 pm	<u>Andrea Brocklebank</u> , Executive Director at Beef Cattle Research Council, Canada's Beef Science Cluster <u>Daniel Ramage</u> , General Manager, Swine Innovation Porc, Canadian Swine Research and Development Cluster <u>Caroline Wilson</u> , Interim Executive Director, Canadian Poultry Research Council, Poultry Science Cluster
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Networking Luncheon

April 25 12:15 – 1:00 pm	<i>Networking Luncheon</i>
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Presentation: How research and innovation help Canada's agri-food sector feed the world sustainably

April 25 1:00 – 1:45 pm	<u>Dr. Nancy Tout</u> , Chief Scientific Officer, Global Institute for Food Security
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With natural and human-induced events creating acute challenges for food producers around the globe, and a human population estimated to exceed 9 billion by 2050, food security is a pressing concern for everyone. Add in a changing climate and the need to produce this food sustainably, and the challenge becomes that much more difficult. To overcome this challenge, we need innovation and research that delivers measurable results, and Canada is in a unique position to lead. We have already made great strides and it's time to demonstrate our sector's progress while combining our strengths to do even more to help feed Canada and the world sustainably.

Presentation: Supporting agri-food economic development through research and innovation

April 25 1:45 - 2:15 pm	<u>Dr. Patience Palmer</u> , Program Manager, Canadian Agri-food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN)
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A presentation by the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN), describing this not-for-profit organization supported by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada with an award of \$49.5M. CAAIN enables the employment, profitability and enhanced global competitiveness of Canada's agri-food sector through:

- creation of a nation-wide network which connects agri-food businesses of all sizes with academic and not-for-profit research institutions to leverage their skills and experience.
- investment in research and innovation projects in the areas of automation and databased decision making.
- Developing a system of commodity specific Smart Farm Networks which encourage adoption of emerging technology by scientific validation, demonstration and learning activities.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 25, 2022

Presentation: NSERC support for agri-food research and innovation

April 25 2:30 - 3:15 pm	<u>Manal Bahubeshi</u> , Vice President Research and Partnerships at Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
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The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) supports academic research in science and engineering, including agriculture and food production. Manal Bahubeshi, NSERC's Vice President, Research Partnerships, will provide an overview of NSERC's funding and investments in agri-food research and Innovation. Along with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and SSHRC, NSERC recently launched a new Sustainable Agriculture Research initiative for agriculture producers to partner with researchers at Canadian universities and colleges to help develop solutions for a sustainable, resilient, and profitable agriculture sector in a net zero economy. NSERC also offers opportunities to partner with researchers on an ongoing basis.

Panel Discussion: Staying on the Agenda: Post-secondary partnerships with the Agriculture and Food Sector to drive Research, Innovation, Skills and Education (AgRISE) as National Priorities

April 25 3:15 - 4:15 pm	Deans Council - Agriculture, Food & Veterinary Medicine <u>Dr. Rene Van Acker</u> , President, Deans Council AFVM; Dean, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph <u>Dr. Gillian Muir</u> , Member Dean, Deans Council AFVM; Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan <u>Dr. Rickey Yada</u> , Past President, Deans Council AFVM; Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia
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April 25 4:15 - 4:30 pm	<i>Recap of the day</i>
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Networking Cocktail Reception with Government Officials
Panorama Room - Penthouse Level
5:30 – 7:30 pm

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 26, 2022

Networking Breakfast

April 26 8:00 - 8:45 am	<i>Meet up with old acquaintances and form new ones</i>
April 26 8:45 - 9:00 am	<i>Welcome to Day 2</i>

Panel Discussion: How Genomics Tools, Techniques and Processes are Playing a Key Role in Enabling Research and Innovation within Canada's Agrifood Sector

April 26 9:00 - 10:00 am	Mike Cey , President and CEO, Genome Prairie Michael Dorrington , Manager Strategic Partnerships, Ontario Genome Stéphanie Lord-Fontaine , Vice President, Scientific Affairs, Génome Québec <i>Moderator: Ryan Philippe, Director, Strategic Partnerships & Innovation, Genome Canada</i>
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It has been 20 years since the successful completion of the first Human Genome Project. That effort took 13 years and cost \$3 Billion USD. Today that cost is less than \$500 and can be completed in a day. The wheat genome (sequenced in 2018) has nearly six times the number of DNA base pairs as humans (about 17 billion vs humans 3 billion). The speed and ease with which we can now deploy genomics tools, techniques and process to advance innovation is remarkable. How are different regions in Canada taking different approaches to genomics to advance sustainable agriculture? How are we adapting genomics tools to the unique regional needs across the country? What does the future hold for genomics? Let's take a closer look.

Presentation: Innovation Canada: Supporting agriculture and agri-food innovation

April 26 10:00 - 10:45 am	Andrea Johnston , Assistant Deputy Minister for Innovation Canada - Innovation, Science and Economic Development
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Innovation Canada is one of many organisations within the federal government actively working to support the priorities of the Agriculture and Agri-Food sectors.

From funding to expert advice to driving new collaborations, Innovation Canada programs and services are helping to build Canada's food ecosystem while supporting agriculture and agri-food businesses transform through technological innovation.

April 26 10:45 - 11:00 am	<i>Networking Break</i>
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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 26, 2022

Panel Discussion: Agri-Science Research Clusters

April 26 11:00 - 12:15 pm	<u>Dr. Karen Churchill</u> , President and CEO, Ag-West Bio, Diverse Field Crops Cluster <u>Dr. Josh Cowan</u> , Manager, Research & Innovation, Grain Farmers of Ontario and Vice President of the Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance, Soybean, Oat and Corn Cluster <u>Dr. Daryl Domitruk</u> , Executive Director, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, Canadian Pulse Science Research Cluster <u>Dr. Constance Chiremba</u> , Research Program Manager, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Canadian National Wheat Cluster
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Networking Luncheon

April 26 12:15 – 1:00 pm	<i>Networking Luncheon</i>
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Overview and update from the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario

April 26 1:00 – 1:45 pm	<u>Gregory Wootton</u> , CAO and Assistant Deputy Minister, Research & Corporate Services, OMAFRA and Director of Research, Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario
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ARIO's Director of Research will be presenting on the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO), an Agency of the Province of Ontario reporting to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This presentation will provide an overview of the ARIO including what the ARIO does, how it is governed, and its portfolio of agri-food research properties. Additionally, this presentation will highlight some key strategic initiatives of the ARIO, including modernization of the ARIO Act, renewal of the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Agreement with the University of Guelph, and OMAFRA's Grow Ontario strategy.

Presentation: Where WGRF Fits Into Agricultural Research Funding

April 26 1:45 – 2:30 pm	<u>Wayne Thompson</u> , Executive Director, Western Grain Research Foundation
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The Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) is a farmer-funded and farmer-directed non-profit organization investing in agricultural research that benefits western Canadian farmers. Through WGRF, producers have directed more than \$229 in field crop research over the 42-year history of the organization. WGRF works with other research funders and has participated in several funding programs, both federally and provincially and has funded over 670 projects. WGRF is focused on preparing for new research funding opportunities that will benefit farmers.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 26, 2022

Presentation: The Environment and Climate Change Canada's 2030 Emission Reduction Plan

April 26
2:30 – 3:15 pm

[Matthew Cloutier, P.Eng.](#), Director General, Science and Technology Strategies, Environment and Climate Change Canada

This presentation introduces Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)'s 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP). The ERP was developed to outline Canada's plan to reduce GHG emissions while enabling Canadians to benefit from the opportunities in growing our clean economy. It presents a sector-by-sector roadmap, with the measures needed for Canada to reach its emissions reduction targets of 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030, and putting in place the building blocks for net-zero emissions by 2050. Where possible, the presentation will draw linkages to the agricultural sector, and will highlight the role of collaboration with partners and stakeholders in meeting Canada's climate objectives.

April 26
3:15 pm

Closing remarks

[Cam Dahl](#), Chair of Agri-Food Innovation Council & General Manager at Manitoba Pork

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AIC Conference at the Château Cartier (Gatineau, QC)





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Funding for Ag-West Bio is provided by the Government of Canada and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative



Global Institute for Food Security

Finding solutions to the challenges facing the global food system requires an approach that moves at the speed of business.

Founded in 2012 in a partnership between Nutrien, the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan (USask), the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) works with a diverse range of partners to discover, develop and deliver innovative solutions for the production of globally sustainable food.

Located within one of the world's strongest agri-science ecosystems, GIFS is helping to build a food-secure world from Saskatchewan-out, working with industry, producers, researchers, governments and consumers to decrease the time between the discovery of innovative science and its delivery to market at home and around the globe.



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Agenda for National Priorities:

Postsecondary partnerships with the Agriculture and Food Sector
to drive Research, Innovation, Skills and Education (AgRISE)



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