

AIC Conference

Showcasing Innovation – Agriculture and Food: Key Drivers of our Economy
May 6 & 7, 2025 | Delta Ottawa – Ottawa, ON

DAY 1 – May 6, 2025	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:10 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Lianne Dwyer, Chair, Agri-Food Innovation Council</i>
9:10 – 9:45 am	Keynote Speech – Federal policies and innovation and their impact on agriculture and food <i>John M. Pigott, CEO, Morrison Lamothe Inc., Chair, Food, Health and consumer Products of Canada</i>
9:45 – 10:45 am	Panel One – An international perspective – What are other countries doing for research and innovation in agriculture and food? <i>Three high-ranking diplomats will provide information on how their country encourages research and innovation in the agriculture and food sectors</i>
10:45 – 11:00 am	Networking Break
11:00 – 11:45 am	An update on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s strategy in research and innovation <i>Dr. Gilles Saindon – Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>
11:45 – 1:15 pm	Networking Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Foodtech in Canada – 2025 Ecosystem Report <i>Dana McCauley – Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Food Innovation Network</i>
2:15 – 2:45 pm	A business case for carbon emission reductions in agriculture and food <i>Brett Wills, Founder & CEO, Carbon-One</i>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Networking Break
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Breakout sessions <i>The group will be divided to identify their top three (3) policy recommendations for the new federal government. Breakout groups will be divided in the following categories:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agriculture sector</i> • <i>Food sector</i>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Plenary session – Reviewing the policy recommendations. <i>Expected outcome: key recommendations for the new federal government</i>
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Reception with Ottawa Stakeholders <i>Parliamentarians, senior public servants and other stakeholders will be invited to meet with our attendees.</i>



DAY 2 – May 7, 2025	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 am	Recap of first day – Setting up the second day <i>Serge Buy, CEO, Agri-Food Innovation Council</i>
9:15 – 10:30 am	Breakout sessions <i>Discussions on the need for a national strategy on research and innovation in agriculture and food. Groups will be divided in three:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research</i> • <i>Innovation</i> • <i>Commercialization</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Networking Break
10:45 – 11:30 am	Accountability – effectiveness of government programs <i>Mr. Kevin Page, former Parliamentary Budget Officer, President of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracies</i>
11:30 – 12:00 pm	Plenary Session – Reviewing recommendations from the breakout sessions
12:00 – 1:15 pm	Networking Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 pm	A view from the outside – Looking at Innovation in the Agriculture and Food Sector from an Outside Perspective <i>Speakers TBC</i>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Networking Break
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Panel Two – Impact of government programs on innovation – an SME perspective <i>Ian Clifford, Founder, FuelPositive</i> <i>Benjamin Feagin Jr., CEO and founder, Agri-Tech North,</i> <i>Gabe Mott, , Chief Operational Officer and co-founder of Aspire Food Group</i>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Recap and next steps – AIC Impact session – Translating the “what we heard” into outcomes <i>Serge Buy, CEO, Agri-Food Innovation Council</i>

