

**CANADA-ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACCORD
RESPECTING THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR**

This ACCORD made this 27th day of February, 1992

BETWEEN: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN in right of Canada
(hereinafter referred to "Canada") represented by the
Minister of Agriculture,

of THE FIRST PART

AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN in right of Ontario
(herein referred to as "Ontario"), represented by the
Minister of Agriculture and Food;

of THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS the Federal-Provincial Agriculture Committee on Environmental Sustainability, established under the Agri-Food Policy Review, has developed framework for action to address resource base and environmental quality issues facing Canada's agri-food sector;

WHEREAS Canada and Ontario recognize the need to maintain and enhance the natural resource base and the quality of the environment in Ontario;

WHEREAS Canada and Ontario desire to have sustainable agri-food systems that are economically viable, and meet society's need for safe and nutritious food, while conserving or enhancing the natural resource base and the quality of the environment for future generations;

WHEREAS Canada and Ontario, pursuant to the framework for action in the Agri-Food Policy Review Report on Environmental Sustainability, desire:

1. To strengthen federal-provincial-industry cooperation and coordination to integrate sound, long-term soil, water and environmental management practices at the farm and agri-food business level.
2. To promote environmental sustainability in the agri-food sector through long-term, direct action programming .
3. To facilitate the environmental sustainability of the agri-food sector through policies and programs that are environmentally positive or neutral.

WHEREAS Canada and Ontario, recognize the visions adopted for the eight environmental issues addressed in the Report of the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Committee on Environmental Sustainability to Agriculture Ministers on June 30th, 1990:

- a) A secure and well-managed resource base of agricultural land and soil to support the long-term productivity and competitiveness of the Canadian agri-food industry.
- b) An agri-food sector that contributes to improved surface and groundwater quality through the use of environmentally sustainable production and processing practices.
- c) An agri-food sector that has adapted itself to, and manages on a sustainable basis, the surface and groundwater resources available to it.
- d) Canada's agri-food sector and wildlife resources to be managed for sustainability and long-term mutual benefits.
- e) An agri-food sector that is able to respond to air and climate change, and which does not itself contribute to air and climate problems.
- f) An agri-food sector that is more energy efficient, less polluting and less dependent on non-renewable energy sources.
- g) A major reduction in the impact of pollution on air, soil and water resources used by the agri-food sector. An agri-food sector that has minimized its contribution to air, soil and water degradation and pollution.
- h) Canada to have an accessible and sufficiently diversified genetic resource base that can be effectively utilized to assure the sustainability of agriculture for future generations.

SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 “Ministers” refers to the Federal and Provincial Ministers who are signatories to this Accord
- 1.2 “Federal Minister” means the Minister of Agriculture for Canada and includes any person authorized to act on the Minister's behalf.
- 1.3 “Provincial Minister” means the Minister responsible for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and includes any person authorized to act on the Minister's behalf.
- 1.4 “Federal Responsible Officer means the person designated by the Federal Minister of Agriculture to represent Canada and to act as the Co-Chair of the Accord Committee.
- 1.5 “Provincial Responsible Officer means the person designated by the Provincial Minister of Agriculture to represent Ontario and to act as the Co-Chair of the Accord Committee.
- 1.6 “Fiscal Year” means a period of one year commencing on April 1 and terminating on March 31.

- 1.7 “Agreement” means an agreement made pursuant to Subsection 7.1 of this Accord.
- 1.8 “Accord Committee means a committee established pursuant to Subsection 6.3 to manage this Accord.
- 1.9 "Advisory Committee means a committee established pursuant to Subsection 6. 4 to advise the Accord Committee on matters pursuant to the environmental sustainability of agriculture and food.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this Accord is to facilitate the conservation and enhancement of the natural resource base underpinning the agri-food industry, in order to support the sustained and profitable production of safe, high quality food and fibre to meet present and future needs, while contributing to a clean and healthy environment.
- 22 Since the existing Canada-Ontario Accord on Soil and Water conservation and Development which was signed October 12, 1989, is inadequate since it deals with only soil and water issues, it is agreed by both Ministers that the existing Canada-Ontario Accord on Soil and Water Conservation and Development is thus amended and replaced by this Accord, and that all relevant existing and subsequent agreements shall be deemed to be under this new Accord

SECTION 3 - OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of this Accord are to enable Canada and Ontario to jointly facilitate the adaptation of the agri-food sector to the challenges of environmental sustainability including:
- a) conserving and enhancing the natural resources that agriculture uses and shares;
 - b) being compatible with other environmental resources that are affected by agriculture;
 - c) being proactive in protecting the agri-food sector from the environmental impacts caused by other sectors and factors external to agriculture;

SECTION 4 - PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 This Accord and matters arising therefrom shall fall within existing legislation and constitutional powers.
- 4.2 The principles set forth in the Growing Together report of the Federal-Provincial Agriculture Committee on Environmental Sustainability June 30th, 1990 shall be recognized in this Accord, in particular:
- a) All participants of Canada's agri-food sector should identify and implement measures to make the industry more compatible with the environment.

- b) Canada's agri-food policies should encourage the development and adoption of management techniques and skills that are oriented to environmental sensitivity and sustainable production systems.
- c) All government programs and policies must take into account environmental sustainability in their design and delivery.

SECTION 5 - PRECEPTS, UNDERSTANDINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Canada's participation in environmentally sustainable programs shall be based on long-term national objectives.
- 5.2 Ontario's participation in environmental sustainability of the agri-food sector shall be based on objectives consistent with provincial jurisdiction and resource management responsibilities.
- 5.3 The provincial government shall focus on agri-food environmental sustainability issues at the provincial regional (eg. Southern Ontario), and local levels with the objective of conserving developing and managing the resource base. Ontario shall have responsibility for providing a framework for program development, interdepartmental coordination, and program delivery within the established provincial extension system. Provincial activities shall concentrate primarily on regulation, extension, education, demonstrations, monitoring, applied research, and financial incentives to the producers.
- 5.4 The federal government shall focus on national and regional agri-food environmental sustainability and development activities of importance to the Government of Canada's Agriculture Policy, in relation to maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base and the quality of the environment. Federal activities to be undertaken shall include, where appropriate, awareness, research and development, applied research monitoring, demonstrations and the provision of financial incentives to producers. Federal activities at both the national and regional level shall be sensitive to, and support and cooperative provincially funded programs on a cooperative basis with the province.
- 5.5 Both parties shall cooperate on the planning of agri-food environmental programs developed under the Accord, and either party may contribute to support functions such as research, development, soil survey, awareness and monitoring.
- 5.6 This Accord does not restrict the prerogative of Canada or Ontario to independently develop and implement programs to address agri-food environmental sustainability and development issues.
- 5.7 Stakeholder organizations provide grassroots representation, therefore, they are needed in the advocacy, planning, and implementation of effective agri-food environmental sustainability conservation and development practices.

- 5.8 Stakeholder organizations shall be designated by mutual agreement to administer programs and to receive and administer funds.

SECTION 6 - MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Canada and Ontario shall cooperate fully in recognition of the shared responsibilities for agriculture by the two governments
- 6.2 Ontario shall manage and regulate the use of agricultural land and water resources in accordance with provincial statutes
- 6.3 A Canada-Ontario Agri-Food Accord Committee on Environmental Sustainability shall be constituted of eight members comprised of federal and provincial government members. A Federal and Provincial Responsible officer shall be appointed by the Federal Minister and the Provincial Minister respectively. The responsibilities of the Accord Committee shall include:
- a) Coordinate the development and implementation of strategies that shall guide the efforts to ensure the achievement of the objectives of this accord
 - b) Consultation with interested stakeholder's both inside and outside the agri-food sector to determine the priorities and proposed actions to adequately address environmental sustainability problems and opportunities for the agri-food sector in Ontario.
 - e) Development of proposals for specific initiatives, actions and/or mechanisms to be pursued that shall effectively address the long-term needs of the agri-food sector.
 - d) Coordination of activities of each responsible party signatory to this Accord to ensure relevancy to objectives and priorities, to maximize effort and to minimize duplication and recommend adjustments as required.
 - e) Establishment of linkages with other key environmental organizations and their activities and organizations within Ontario.
 - f) Guidance of the establishment of an inventory of existing environmental legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice.
 - g) Review of federal, provincial, municipal and industry responsibilities and relationships in respect to resource base and environmental quality issues.
 - h) Establishment of appropriate Agreement Management Committees to implement each agreement under the Accord.

- 6.4 The Accord Committees shall strike an Advisory Committee comprised of interested stakeholder's representing the diverse interests involved in the environmental sustainability of the agri-food sector including agri-food business, producers, environmental groups, consumers, educational institutions and resource interests.
- 6.5 The parties hereto shall ensure that the necessary resources are available for the planning and management of activities pursuant to the Objectives of this Accord. It is agreed that the resources shall be provided by the existing resources of each party and that this Accord does not create any new obligation for Canada and Ontario.
- 6.6 This Accord shall be evaluated every three years by an independent body chosen and funded by the two parties.

SECTION 7 - INSTRUMENTS

7.1 Agreements

- a) Where Ministers have identified measures to be implemented under this Accord involving undertakings on the part of both governments, Ministers may enter into Agreements which may provide for one or both of the following:
- i) coordination of existing federal and provincial policies, programs or activities in support of an agreed priority; and,
 - ii) support, including financial and other assistance not available under existing government programs.
- b) Each Agreement shall include:
- i) specification of the activities, their duration, and the responsibilities of each level of government with respect to the measures, and,
 - ii) provision that each level of government shall, to the extent possible, carry out those activities which are within its own area of jurisdiction. Where activities can more reasonably be carried out jointly, the Agreement shall specify the proportion of any costs for which each government shall be liable and the maximum expenditures to be incurred.

SECTION 8 - PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 8.1 All measures pursuant to this Accord shall provide for the public recognition of the relative contributions of both levels of government.

- 8.2 Canada and Ontario shall cooperate in the development of a public information program that shall provide, wherever possible, for the recognition of their relative contributions to measures undertaken.
- 8.3 All public information activities for jointly funded programs shall be approved by both parties in advance. The use of both official languages shall be mandatory for information released to the general public under jointly funded programs. This does not apply to publications of a scientific or technical nature.

SECTION 9 - DURATION

- 9.1 This Accord shall remain in effect until terminated. Either party may terminate this Accord at the end of any fiscal year, by giving to the other party a one fiscal year's notice in writing of such termination. In case of termination, agreements that cannot be completed by the date of termination of this Accord shall continue in force until their expiration.
- 9.2 This Accord can be amended or terminated from time to time by the written Agreement of the Ministers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Accord has been executed on behalf of Canada by the Minister of Agriculture.

ON THIS 27th DAY OF February, 1992

IN THE PRESENCE

(HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

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Witness

Minister of Agriculture

AND on behalf of Ontario by the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

ON THIS 27st DAY OF February, 1992

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

(HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN RIGHT OF ONTARIO

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Witness

Minister of Agriculture and Food