



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
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Tearing down walls and building bridges: Updating Canada's infrastructure for R&D delivery

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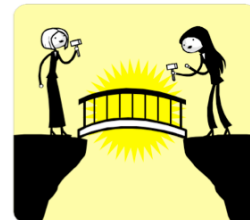
PIPSC 2007 Science Policy Symposium
6 September 2007

Canada

1

Summary

This presentation addresses the subject of federally-led approaches to alternative science delivery models aimed at improving integration and collaboration among public and private sector research performers as a means of more effectively addressing those national economic, social and environmental goals that would benefit from S&T solutions. The recently announced \$145 million Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program will be discussed as a case study of a work in progress that illustrates the challenges and potential opportunities.



2

The Strategy

We must aggressively break down the barriers that stand in the way of more strategic S&T collaborations among federal departments and agencies and between the federal S&T community and universities, industry, and the non-profit sector.



Source: Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage

3

The Challenge

- Managers in the federal Public Service serve in an institution created and governed by a complex array of statutes, regulations, policies, and directives. They operate in an environment of increasingly intense scrutiny and accelerated changes driven by technology, program reviews, and public and political expectations for service improvements.

Source: The *Financial Administration Act*: Responding to Non-compliance, TBS

4

The Challenge

Collaboration on S&T issues is sometimes impeded by legislative, policy, regulatory, financial, infrastructure, human resource, and cultural factors. Differences in intellectual property policies and management arrangements, for instance, may present particular obstacles for collaboration between federal science-based departments and agencies and universities and colleges. The challenge now is to develop effective, results-based strategies and approaches for overcoming these barriers.

Source: Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage

5

The Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP)

Purpose

- To promote research, development, technology transfer and commercialization activity in agricultural bioproducts in Canada,
- Through research networks comprising a critical mass of intellectual capacity to address strategic research questions.

6

Core concepts

- Development of valuable non-traditional products from agricultural feedstocks
- Development of biorefineries
- Through interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral collaboration along the innovation chain

7

Focus

- **Better feedstocks** – The development of crop platforms and cropping systems suitable to enhance the conversion of feedstocks to agricultural bioproducts
- **Better processing** – The development of more effective and efficient technologies for agricultural biomass conversion
- **More products** – Product diversification through technologies relevant to production of agricultural and industrial chemicals, biomaterials, and health products

8

Desired outcomes

- **Smarter** – To increase the generation of new knowledge and technology with the potential to strengthen Canada's industrial base and generate wealth
- **Better organized** – To increase the number of effective networks/clusters involving Canadian-based researchers
- **More focused** – To improve the transfer of knowledge, technology and expertise to organizations that can commercialize these innovations

9

Selection criteria

- Networks will be selected by a peer review process; selection criteria will include:
 - scientific merit
 - degree of collaboration
 - the contribution to be made to the development of Canadian science
 - the likelihood that the collaborative relationship will stimulate innovation
 - return on investment to Canada

10

Funding

Budget (\$ millions)

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada		
Votes 1 (Operating) and 5 (Major Capital)	Research	68.0
	Administration	5.6
	Other	3.4
Other federal departments		
Vote 1 (Operating)	Research	14.5
Universities, other publicly funded R&D performers, private sector		
	Research & other network activities	53.5
Vote 10 (Grants & Contributions)	Total	145.0

11

The Challenges

- Legislative
- Policy
- Regulatory
- Financial
- Infrastructure
- Human resources
- Cultural factors
- Intellectual property protection



12

The road to success

- Support from senior management
- Clear articulation in accessible language of what you want to do and why
- Good working relationships with corporate and legal enablers
- Willingness to compromise on issues that are not mission critical
- Perseverance and persistence



13

A graphic design for a Canada-themed presentation. It features a large red maple leaf on the left, a central image of wheat stalks, and three circular icons on the right: a hand holding a pen, a person in a hard hat, and a city skyline at night. The word "Canada" is written in a large, black serif font at the bottom, with a small Canadian flag above the letter 'a'. The background is a light beige color with a subtle gradient.

Canada

14