



National Food Security Plans: Some Considerations from Canada

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Brian Bohunicky
Director General, International Markets Bureau
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Presentation Overview



- ❑ Food security and Canada.
- ❑ Agriculture Policy: Getting the supply side of food security right.
- ❑ *Growing Forward*: Canada's National Agricultural Strategy.
- ❑ Lessons learned from *Growing Forward*.
- ❑ Trade is essential to food security.
- ❑ Doing more on food security and trade.
- ❑ Conclusions.

Food Security and Canada



- ❑ Canada's *Action Plan for Food Security* was developed in response to the World Food Summit.
- ❑ Canada is a major contributor to global food security:
 - Each year since 2003 Canada has been one of the top five donors to the World Food Programme (WFP) – in 2008, for example, Canada contributed US\$ 275.3 million to WFP;
 - Canada is a net-food exporting country – a major supplier of wheat and other commodities to global food markets.
- ❑ Food security is one of three pillars for Canada's International Assistance:
 - Increasing food security;
 - Stimulating sustainable economic growth;
 - Securing the future of children and youth.
- ❑ L'Aquila G8 Summit refocused attention to agricultural development to support food security.

Agriculture Policy: Getting the Supply Side of Food Security Right



- ❑ Agriculture is embedded in many sectors of society, economy and public administration.
 - National, regional and local responsibilities, interests and perspectives;
 - Central element of health, well-being, prosperity, environmental sustainability, climate change and economic development in developed and developing countries.

- ❑ Policy development must reflect the breadth, complexity and impact of agriculture
 - Consultation and consensus-building among different levels of government, public and private sectors, stakeholders, civil society and the general public.

Growing Forward: *Canada's National Agricultural Strategy*



- ❑ Federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada have adopted *Growing Forward*, a policy and investment framework with the following outcomes:
 - A competitive and innovative agriculture and agri-food sector;
 - A sector that contributes to society's priorities; and
 - A sector that is proactive in managing risks.

- ❑ Consensus on priorities, accountability for results, and implementation tailored to local needs.
 - *Growing Forward* is a framework for dozens of different policies designed to address specific issues and needs.
 - Will invest C\$ 1.3 billion between 2008 – 2012.
 - Majority of the programs will be delivered by various sub-national governments.

Lessons Learned

From Growing Forward



- ❑ Policy result reflects uniqueness of Canadian situation – should expect different results in different national contexts.
- ❑ Inclusiveness and transparency are essential to building consensus.
- ❑ Diversity of interests and modalities of implementation require considerable flexibility.
- ❑ Not easy! Requires a lot of:
 - time and resources to make the process work
 - commitment and goodwill at all levels

Trade is Essential to Food Security



- ❑ For geographic and climatic reasons, many countries will never be able to produce all the food they need.
 - Importing food is the only way these countries can meet their food security objectives.

- ❑ For similar reasons, most countries will never be able to produce all the **types** of food they need -- trade facilitates efficient use of the world food supply.
 - Canada is a major agricultural producer, but is not self-sufficient -- exported agri-food products worth C\$ 38.9B in 2008, imported C\$ 27.7B from 198 countries.
 - Canada imported \$150M+ of oranges in 2008 to balance Canadian nutritional needs.

- ❑ Export of food products is an important source of income for many countries.
 - Agricultural exports account for 28.3% of LAC's merchandise trade (average for "developing countries"= 15.3%).

Doing More on Food Security and Trade



- ❑ Many countries lack the capacity to exercise trading rights they have already acquired:
 - Uruguay Round reduced many agricultural tariffs – but many developing country exports don't comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards

- ❑ Capacity building and technical assistance are key to overcoming these obstacles to facilitate trade and improve food security.
 - Improve countries' food safety and inspection systems, border administration.
 - Training / technical assistance to developing countries to enable their participation in negotiations of food safety standards.

- ❑ IICA continues to be active in this area.

Conclusions



- ❑ Lessons from the design of *Growing Forward*, Canada's national agricultural strategy, reinforce the value of **dialogue across jurisdictions**, engagement with private sector and other actors, and a flexible approach to program delivery.
- ❑ **Markets and trade** are key to food security. We must ensure that local and international trade in food is facilitated, to move food from surplus to deficit regions, to maximize returns to food producers.
- ❑ Given complexity of food security challenge, variety of national legal, organizational contexts, no one-size-fits-all approach to food security policy.



Thank you for your attention.