



Developing Canada's 1st Agri-Food Sustainability Index

David McInnes

Presentation to Anishinabek Nation
Lake Huron Regional Round Table for Agriculture

Overview, Phase 3
September 28, 2022

| In short

- 1. Benchmarking sustainability is becoming pervasive & a catalyst for positive change**
- 2. A diverse coalition is developing the *National Index on Agri-Food Performance*, a means to:**
 - Express Canada's agri-food sustainability credentials on a breadth of sustainability measures
 - Align with global food goals & mark progress on environmental & societal sustainability priorities
 - Enable sector competitiveness here & abroad, build consumer trust, & inform policy & research
- 3. Future development of this sector must be guided by an Indigenous policy lens & inclusive growth**
 - The emerging Index presents an immediate opportunity to deepen this work

| Purpose today

1. Outline the Index initiative
2. Summarize our existing coverage of Indigenous matters of interest
3. Invite your feedback & participation

| 105 partners



| About the coalition

1. Unique coalition – its diversity & support for the mission, developing the 1st agri-food sustainability index
2. Funded by industry, government, NGOs, academia & by in-kind contributions
3. “Pre-competitive”, working by consensus
4. Virtual organization to engage partners:
 - Steering group
 - Working groups for projects
 - Regular All-partner updates to inform discussions
5. And, have some limitations:
 - Not a permanent organization (...not yet)
 - Not a funding body

| Our acknowledgement

1. With the guidance of our Indigenous partner, Indigenous Works, we made a start by including an Indigenous perspective in our unfolding work (but more can be done)
2. Our recent report (May 2022) noted in part:
 - “...Indigenous people have not had an opportunity to grow and participate in the sector. Exclusionary policies have been enacted by Canada for the past one hundred and fifty years many of which have actively discouraged or impeded Indigenous participation...”
 - “The formation of **culturally relevant metrics and indicators** will provide the tools Indigenous nations need to work more closely with non-Indigenous governments, education, business and other institutions in Canada.”



About the Index

| The “problem” to solve

How do we know whether Canada’s agriculture & food sector is sustainable?

(And why is this important?)

| Global context

GLOBAL GOALS



Premise:

Global agri-food is not seen as sustainable, healthy or inclusive – requiring urgent & transformative change



DRIVING FOUR CHANGES

1. Trade & market rules: **dictated by sustainability criteria**
2. Countries, companies, sectors: **competing on sustainability claims**
3. Sector impacts of producing/supplying food: **being widely benchmarked**
4. Capital markets: **new disclosures for companies (ESG)**

| National positioning



Norway – aquaculture industry aims to be “the world's most environmentally friendly production of healthy food”



Ireland – sustainability dashboard “pioneered” the world’s first national food & drink sustainability program

Canada – a sector-wide agri-food sustainability index poised to showcase global leadership



Netherlands – “be a leader in circular agriculture”

U.S. – producer-led coalition advancing a sustainable development strategy. Aiming to be carbon neutral/negative by 2035



EU – agri-food sustainability positioned as a “competitive advantage”. *Green deal diplomacy* to shape global trade based on its sustainability goals



New Zealand – agricultural sustainability dashboard verifies its “clean-green assertions” for consumers in foreign markets – and being “the most trusted”



Australia – agricultural sustainability framework showcasing the farm sector’s sustainability & biodiversity stewardship



| The proposed Index

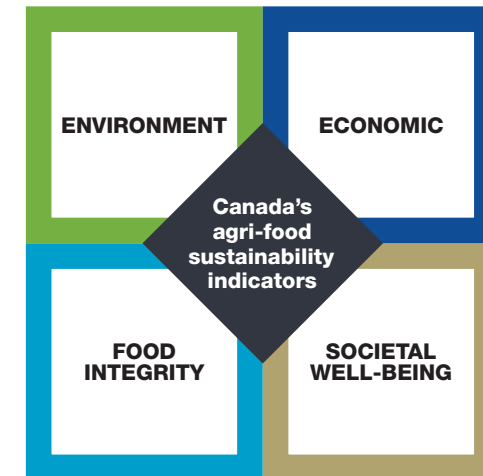
What it is:

- ✓ Measure **four blocks** of sustainability,
- ✓ Provide a **consolidated** national view: agriculture to retail*
- ✓ Aim for **outcomes-based** metrics
- ✓ Show **progress** against national & global goals (e.g., SDGs)
- ✓ Inspire **stepping-up sector disclosures:**
 - To show sustainability leadership & address shortcomings; such transparency enables greater trust
 - To back up sustainability claims & meet marketplace expectations
 - To inform policy & research

What it is not:

- ✓ Not prescriptive
- ✓ Not scoring producers, companies or Canada
- ✓ Not comparative (to other countries)
- ✓ Not measuring consumer diets or what is a healthy diet (social/health policy)*
- ✓ Not (yet) providing disaggregated views – by province, sub-sector, etc.

National Index on Agri-Food Performance



| Ambition



MENU ▾

[Canada.ca](#) > [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture set the direction for the next agricultural framework

From: [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

News release

Today, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture wrapped up their annual conference by issuing the "[Guelph Statement](#)". Their shared vision for the next agricultural policy framework will position our agri-food producers, processors and others in the sector for continued success as world leaders in sustainable agriculture, and will enable a globally competitive sector. Ministers also acknowledged and recognized the hard work of everyone involved in maintaining the strong food supply chain for Canadians during COVID-19.

Ministers agreed on the sustainable agriculture approach needed to help shape the next policy framework, which includes environmental, social and economic considerations in all priority areas. Ministers agreed on the following five priority areas for the next framework: (1) climate change and the environment; (2) science, research and innovation; (3) market development and trade; (4) building sector capacity and growth; and (5) resiliency and public trust.

The vision agreed upon by Ministers for the next agricultural policy framework charts an ambitious path for the sector. It states that "Canada is recognized as a world leader in sustainable agriculture and agri-food production, and drives forward to 2028 from a solid foundation of regional strengths and diversity, as well as the strong leadership of the Provinces and Territories, in order to rise to the climate change challenge, to expand new markets and trade while meeting the expectations of consumers, and to feed Canadians and a growing global population."

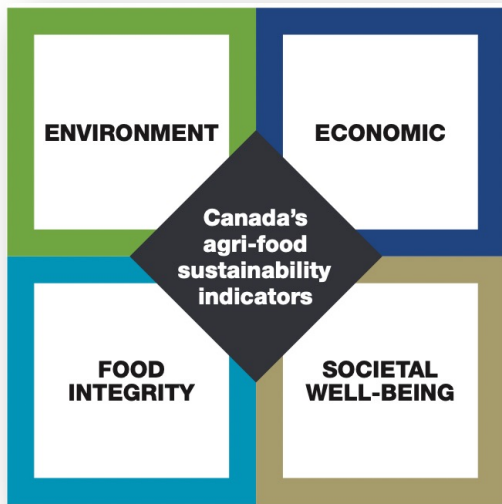
Ministers also agreed to continue to improve the suite of business risk management (BRM) programs to make them timely, equitable, and easy to understand, while supporting the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector.

November 2021

- The National Index could enable...
[being] ...recognized as a world leader in sustainable agriculture and agri-food production...

| The bottom line

Sustainability needs to be demonstrated



National Index on Agri-Food Performance

to operate, regulate & compete



and to generate new value



| Our journey





Proposed Index

| Index themes

15 themes



Note: a limitation of the emerging Index is the availability & quality of suitable metrics to populate all measures. Index project work is dedicated in part to advance partner understanding of what data can be used & what may be needed to evolve the Index to better measure sustainability

Proposed Index

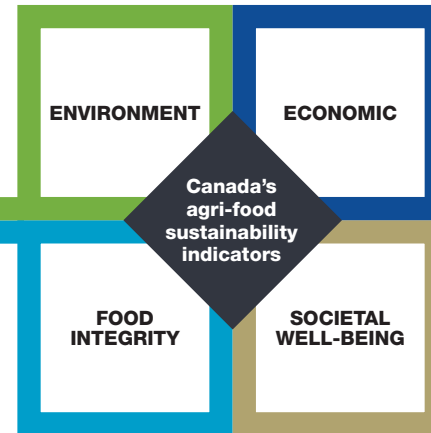
20 indicators

50 sub-indicators

100+ metrics (not shown)

THEMES	INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS
Climate change	1. GHGs emissions	A. Emissions B. Sequestration/loss C. Mitigation
Soil	2. Soil health	A. Soil cover B. Soil erosion C. Soil organic carbon
Water	3. Water stewardship	A. Water quality B. Water use
Biodiversity	4. Biodiversity & agrobiodiversity	A. State of biodiversity & habitat change (interim for C & D) B. Conversion of farmland to urbanization C. Composite view: state of biodiversity & habitat change D. Disaggregated views: state of biodiversity & habitat change
Inputs	5. Crop inputs use / management	A. Responsible pest control product use (pesticides) B. Responsible nutrient use (fertilizer)
Waste	6. Food loss & waste	A. Reduce B. Repurpose
	7. Packaging & waste	A. Reduce / recycle B. Reuse

National Index on Agri-Food Performance



THEMES	INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS
Financial viability	1. National economic contribution	A. GDP B. Employment C. Trade balance
	2. Financial vibrancy & resiliency	A. Financial performance B. Investment C. Labour D. Infrastructure E. Supply chain resiliency
	3. Innovation	A. R & D B. Regulatory approvals C. Innovation adoption
Sustainable growth	4. Sustainable finance	A. Market-based sustainable capital/investment B. Government/NGO-sourced climate solutions funding

THEMES	INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS
Food safety	1. Safe food	A. Overall safe food supply B. Recalls & safety alerts C. Compliance with maximum limits for contaminants
Health	2. Nutrition information	A. Provision of nutrition information B. Mandatory fortification C. Promoting Indigenous country foods
	3. Antimicrobial stewardship	A. Antimicrobial use & resistance
	4. Zoonotic disease mitigation	A. Risk surveillance: Rate of animal disease outbreaks
Traceability	5. Traceability implementation	A. Traceability scope
Labelling	6. Transparency & accuracy	A. Labelling of packaged food products B. Health claims C. Food misrepresentation

THEMES	INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS
Workforce	1. Decent work for people	A. Workplace mental health B. Workplace safety C. Inclusive & progressive workplace D. Attractiveness of sector as a place to work
Food security	2. Access to nutritious foods	A. Monitoring food insecurity: food affordability B. Increasing access
Farm animals	3. Animal care	A. Farmed animal codes of conduct

Extract from *Index Indicators, Part 2, Final Report, May 2022:*
agrifoodindex.ca

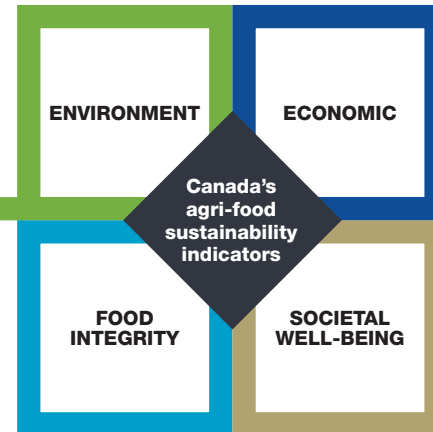
Applicable UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



| “Environment”

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National Index on Agri-Food Performance



Note: all proposed indicators could be relevant to Indigenous agriculture & food production

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agrifoodindex.ca

National Index on Agri-Food Performance

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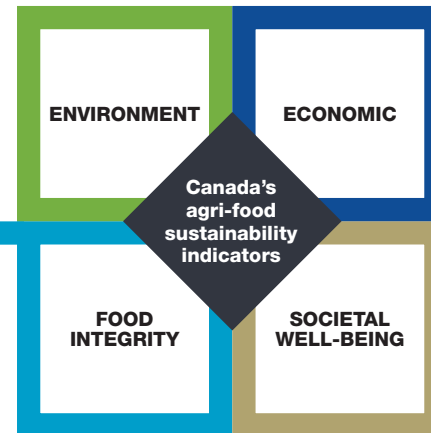


| “Food integrity”

Indicator 2.C – Promoting Indigenous country foods:

- Food-health connection: Report on the extent by which Indigenous communities are successful in replacing imports of manufactured or processed foods in relation to **community-grown or harvested foods**

National Index on Agri-Food Performance



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Applicable UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



| “Economic”

Indicator 1.B – National economic contribution

- o **f: Employment** in agri-food by Indigenous identity

Indicator 2.D – Financial vibrancy & resiliency

- o **a:** Measure **broadband penetration** among Indigenous communities
- o **d:** Measure **growth of Indigenous clean energy/bio-energy projects** related to agriculture

Indicator 3.C – Innovation adoption

- o **b:** Supporting Indigenous entrepreneurship: The formation and **number of dedicated institutions** to support Indigenous agriculture and agri-food sector could be measured
 - i. Number of Indigenous communities with **agri-food strategies**
 - ii. Growth of Indigenous **clean energy projects** (agriculture-linked)
 - iii. Number of **capital pools** dedicated to Indigenous agri-food

National Index on Agri-Food Performance



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| “Societal Well-Being”

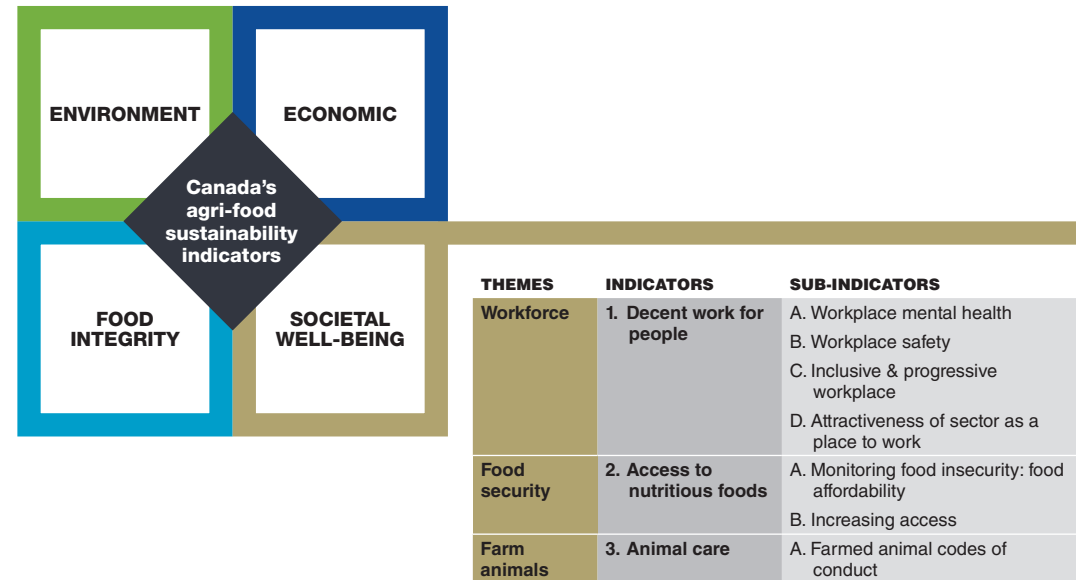
Indicator 1.C – Decent work for people: inclusive & progressive workplace

- o **e:** Indigenous **employment** in sector (% , trend)

Indicator 2.B – Food security:

- o **c:** Indigenous **well-being**:
 - i. Measure food sovereignty or food security **strategies**
 - ii. Document traditional **connection with food**:
 - Number of **communities that are conducting archival, heritage, and other kinds of research** about their past and historic connections with the agriculture and food to re-build those cultural connections with traditional foods and as a foundation to their incorporation into future agri-food economies

National Index on Agri-Food Performance



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agrifoodindex.ca





Pilot phase 3

| Phase 3

June 2022 – March 2023

1. Move Index from concept to reality
2. “Test” the Index: populate as many indicator metrics as possible & how to best interpret results
3. Create conditions for long-term support to manage & evolve the Index



| Projects, phase 3

WORK PLAN	PROJECT #	PHASE 3 (2022)						PHASE 3 (2023)			PHASE 4 (2023 +)	
		BUILD <i>Develop Index content & support</i>						REPORT <i>Publish Index & glean value</i>			SHIFT <i>Launch Centre</i>	
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Later 2023
Managing Index processes: funding accountability; administrative reporting	1-A											
Engaging: scheduling partner work; stakeholder outreach; final report	1-B											
Governing: steering, all-partner & task group meetings; project management	1-C		All-partner		All-partner	All-partner	All-partner	All-partner		All-partner		
Positioning the Index for future: Transition strategy/funding: phase 4	2-A											
Assessing pilot: Index model, governance, operations	2-B											
Compiling the Index: triage, source & arrange Index data for basket	3-A				Draft 1	Draft 2 *						
Present taxonomy, methodologies; protocols/standardization	3-B											
Housing the Index: format; branding; publish; communications; feedback	4-A						Draft 3		Final / Launch			
Narratives on key themes (short papers); external review; publish	4-B											
Applying the Index: explore environmental data sources (MN)	5-A											
Considering CASI's prospective link to the Index & vice versa	5-B											
Food processing (Food & Beverage Manitoba)	5-C											
Research & innovation (Genome Alberta)	5-D											
Establish Centre for Agri-Food Benchmarking (phase 4)	-											TBC

* Compiling Working Group (3-A) pilot draft is "handed-over" to Housing Working Group (4-A) to prepare the Index for publication



| Being a partner

- Get your advice: broadly & on specific indicators that matter to you
- Join a working group & be part of an expanding coalition
 - In-kind time contribution (reference separate document “Work Plan: Phase 3”)
 - Each working group has a diverse list of partners
- Help define a piece of work relevant to First Nations (over the longer-term):
 - Example raised in our May 2022 report:

“Inspired by the National Index on Agri-Food Performance, it is proposed that a separate Indigenous “well-being index”, defined by Indigenous people, could act as a compass to enable Indigenous prosperity”

For more information, please contact: daviddmcinnes@gmail.com