

A Shared Vision for Sustainable Agriculture in Canada – 2026

Vision Statement: Under the vision of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC), Canadian farmers meet the growing demand for increased production while conserving and restoring ecosystem health (soil, water, and wildlife) and managing climate risk for future generations.

Background: Achieving this vision will require co-operative and collaborative action on behalf of both agriculture and environmental interests. Clear measures that can demonstrate progress on sustainability must be identified.

With science as the cornerstone, Canada can do its part to meet the growing demand for agricultural products while protecting our environment. Sustainable agricultural practices recognize that agricultural and environmental values are intrinsically connected. Given current constraints in meeting the needs and purchasing power of a growing world population, in the near-term, agriculture will need to increase production.

To ensure current stewardship efforts are maintained, and to avoid environmental degradation, increased production must be achieved on the current area of land under production and through improved input efficiency via sustainable intensification.

The CRSC will work toward the following outcomes for 2026:

- Canada is recognized as an innovative leader in the area of sustainable agriculture.
- Increased production, and production efficiency, of agricultural products from the landscape while maintaining or enhancing farm and industry profitability.
- BMPs that have been shown to be economically and environmentally sound — such as reduced/zero-tillage, Integrated Pest Management and 4R Nutrient Stewardship — are actively encouraged by industry. Practices shown to not fulfil these criteria are no longer used or promoted by industry.
- Canadian agriculture is recognized as a leader in the development and adoption of practices that help to manage climate risk by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving carbon sequestration.
- New BMPs are developed to reflect technological advances and ongoing innovation.
- Production of ecological goods and services within cropping systems are valued and, where possible, quantified across the agriculture industry.
- Canadians understand the linkages between crop production, food, fibre, energy, and environmental goods and services.
- The agricultural industry and environmental conservation groups collaborate to develop solutions to existing and emerging issues that challenge the sustainability (economic, social, and environmental) of the landscape.
- Adequate habitat exists within crop production systems to support biodiversity, promote healthy watersheds, and provide ecological goods and services.
- The landscape has the capacity to adapt to new impacts, including climate change, and has the resilience to provide a continued supply of ecological goods and services.

- Losses of important habitat (including, but not limited to, wetlands, riparian zones, grasslands and forests) from agricultural development is avoided and/or mitigated and appropriate land-use decisions balance environmental and agricultural needs.
- Losses in productive Canadian agricultural land due to development are avoided and/or mitigated and appropriate land-use decisions reflect a balance of environmental and agricultural needs.

This vision was developed by the agro-ecosystem working group of the CRSC. We would like to thank the following organizations for their involvement and leadership in developing the vision statement:

- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- CropLife Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fertilizer Canada
- Grain Growers of Canada
- Soil Conservation Council of Canada
- World Wildlife Fund

CRSC Agro-Ecosystem Working Group Members:

- Maria Trainer – CropLife Canada (Co-Chair)
- Paul Thoroughgood – Ducks Unlimited Canada (Co-Chair)
- Drew Black – Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Gregory Sekulic – Canola Council of Canada
- Amanda Giamberardino – Fertilizer Canada
- Don Lobb – Soil Conservation Council of Canada
- Susan Evans – World Wildlife Fund
- Fran Burr – Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (*Ex-Officio*)