BUILDING ON LEGISLATION TO FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY

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A growing number of platforms and initiatives

**Dairy Farms +**

**Potato Sustainability Initiative (PSI)**

**In addition to**

- On-Farm Food Safety Programs
- Private Platforms
- Industry Standards
OBJECTIVE AND APPROACH

Objective
Identify indicators addressed by national and provincial regulations

Approach
• Review the relevant laws and regulations at the provincial and federal levels
• Contextualization with experts
• Coordination with SAI Platform
Questionnaire based on sustainable farming practices recognized in the food and drink industry, covering environmental, economic and social aspects.

- **Environmental**
  - Agro-chemicals
  - Air
  - Biodiversity
  - Crop Protection
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Planting
  - Soil Management
  - Waste Management
  - Water Management
  - Nutrient Management

- **Economic**
  - Farm Management
  - Financial Stability
  - Legal Compliance
  - Market Access

- **Social**
  - Health and Safety
  - Labor Conditions
  - Local Community
Benefits of FSA

- Help achieve sustainability objectives
- Saving time and resources
- Collaborative and global
- A harmonized benchmark

**Groupe AGÉCO**
AGÉCO benchmarked the regulations of 5 provinces against the FSA indicators.
RESULTS – ECONOMIC

- Legal Compliance (3): 100%
- Farm Management (5): 40% Fully Regulated, 20% Partially Regulated, 40% Not Regulated
- Financial Stability (4): 25% Fully Regulated, 75% Not Regulated
- Market Access (4): 25% Fully Regulated, 75% Not Regulated

Legend:
- Green: Fully Regulated
- Blue: Partially Regulated
- Black: Provincial Variations
- Red: Not Regulated
RESULTS – SOCIAL

- Labor Conditions (22):
  - Fully Regulated: 64%
  - Partially Regulated: 9%
  - Provincial Variations: 18%
  - Not Regulated: 9%

- Health & Safety (11):
  - Fully Regulated: 73%
  - Partially Regulated: 27%

- Local Community (3):
  - Fully Regulated: 67%
  - Not Regulated: 33%
Labour conditions

- Many FSA indicators refer to issues that are regulated in Canada (forced labour, child labour and discrimination)
- But, there are a few exceptions when it comes to farm workers
  - Minimum wage and working hours

Health and safety

- Most indicators are regulated
  - Farm workers have the same basic rights as any others
  - Variations between provinces to specific requirements (first aid; vulnerable workers)
**RESULTS – ENVIRONMENT (EXAMPLES)**

- **Nutrient Management (7)**
  - Fully Regulated: 43%
  - Partially Regulated: 57%

- **Soil Management (4)**
  - Fully Regulated: 100%

- **Crop Protection (12)**
  - Fully Regulated: 42%
  - Partially Regulated: 33%
  - Not Regulated: 25%

- **Agro-Chemicals (9)**
  - Fully Regulated: 33%
  - Partially Regulated: 67%

- **Water Management (10)**
  - Fully Regulated: 40%
  - Partially Regulated: 50%
  - Not Regulated: 10%

**Legend:**
- Fully Regulated
- Partially Regulated
- Provincial Variations
- Not Regulated
• **Nutrient management**
  - The sources and quality of fertilizers is regulated
  - Variations exist between provinces when it comes to fertilizer application

• **Soil management**
  - Mostly refer to ‘best practices’ which explains the variability across provinces

• **Crop protection and Agrochemicals**
  - The use of agrochemicals and CPPs is highly regulated in Canada
  - Some indicators (IPM, pest resistance, equipment calibration) are BMPs
  - Variations exist mainly because some indicators are partly regulated (storage, waste management, equipment maintenance, procedures to deal with spills, record keeping)
On the regulations side:

No consolidated directory | no specific linkage

Some issues (e.g. water protection) are addressed by different regulations managed by different departments in different jurisdictions

On the FSA side:

Some indicators are ambiguous | compounds

Example: Do you maintain and calibrate crop protection product and fertilizer application equipment on a regular basis?

CPP equipment can be regulated but not fertilizer equipment

➔ Partly
OPPORTUNITIES

- More than half of the FSA indicators are regulated

- An opportunity to build on legislation to foster sustainability
  - Communicate on what farmers are already doing
  - Identify potential gaps and ways to address them
  - Provide specific resources to farmers
THANK YOU

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