



***MEDIA RELEASE- Agriculture in Canada faces carbon fees as an emitter- but this obscures a much larger opportunity***

**Guelph, ON (February 16, 2021)** – Agriculture is uniquely positioned to address climate change and many of the big public policy challenges Canada faces.

Canada faces a sobering set of challenges- pandemic recovery and economic growth; regional disparity and western alienation; affordably meeting climate change commitments; a hungrier world but more volatile international relations. Agriculture and food can be enlisted to advance all of these issues critical to Canada. But this moment demands a more meaningful, mainstream, and holistic Canadian agri-food policy.

An independent agri-food policy note released today explains how agriculture can play a much bigger role in addressing climate change.

“Agriculture is being treated primarily as a fossil fuel emitter under the federal government’s climate change policy- but agriculture fixes carbon, and emissions from agriculture are poorly understood”, says Al Mussell, Agri-Food Economic Systems Research Lead. “Other countries- notably the US- have signaled that agriculture will be a core part of their climate change strategy. Canada risks falling behind”.

Through an enhanced role in climate change, agriculture can assimilate and address a broader swath of issues for Canada.

“Food security is a real concern globally, and with some global trade institutions sidelined, being that reliable, sustainable supplier to food deficit countries is part of Canada’s international market access solution”, says Mussell. “With the pandemic and the decline of oil and gas, the country needs economic growth-especially in western Canada, with most of our agricultural land base. Initiative at the national level to engage the west through agriculture and climate change can be an important antidote to western alienation”.

The policy note is available at [www.agrifoodecon.ca](http://www.agrifoodecon.ca) Agri-Food Economic Systems is an independent economic research organization dedicated to agri-food located in Guelph, Ontario.

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