



Growing Forward 2: Opportunities for Ontario's Agri-Food Industry

**Presentation at FFIGS Annual Educational Workshop
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs**

May 1, 2013



Growing Forward 2 - Helping Clients Reach Their Goals

- Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial framework aimed at encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector.
- In Ontario, farm, food and bioproducts processors, collaborations and organizations can build their own plan and select opportunities to help grow their profits, expand their markets and manage risks.
- With a focus on innovation, competitiveness, and market development, Growing Forward 2 program options are designed to help the industry capitalize on opportunities and contribute to the economy. Whether clients are just starting out, or have been in business a long time, Growing Forward 2 will offer practical and flexible programming that can help them reach their goals.

Ontario's Growing Forward 2 - One Program

- **Three Key Themes:**
 - Grow Your Profits
 - Expand Your Markets
 - Manage Shared Risks
- **Three primary clients:**
 - Farm businesses
 - Processor (food & bio-products) businesses
 - Groups, organizations and collaborations
- **Three key delivery partners**
 - Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) – all farm business oriented programming
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs (OMAF & MRA) Centre of Excellence – all processor oriented programming
 - Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) – all groups/organizations and collaborations programming

Growing Forward 2 - Focus Areas

- Clients will choose opportunities to help grow their profits, expand their markets and manage risks within 7 focus areas:
 - 1) Environment and Climate Change
 - 2) Animal and Plant Health
 - 3) Market Development
 - 4) Labour Productivity Enhancement
 - 5) Assurance Systems
 - 6) Business and Leadership Development
 - 7) Research and Innovation*
 - Innovation is embedded throughout all areas of focus and evaluation criteria will include an innovation focus.

GF2 Program Options - Workshops

1) Workshops (free)

Developed and delivered by OMAF and MRA (in partnership with delivery partners)

- Environmental Farm Plan
- Growing Your Farm Profits Workshop
- PROFIT
- Food Safety Assessment & Workshops
- Traceability Assessment & Workshops
- Biosecurity Workshops and
- Processor Workshops

GF2 Program Options - Funding Assistance

2) Capacity Building Funding Assistance

- Skills Development
- Training
- Planning
- Assessments & Audits





3) Project Implementation Funding Assistance:

- for projects that support GF2 objectives and priorities
- projects will be assessed and funded based on merit.
- merit based selection criteria are currently being developed and will be communicated in the application materials



GF2: YEAR 1 AT A GLANCE

GF2 Funding Assistance – Year One

FUNDING ASSISTANCE		
Timing	Training, Skills Development, Planning, Assessment	Project Implementation
April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb March	<p>For all client groups. Launches in June and continues throughout the year</p> <p>June 2013</p> 	<p>June 2013</p>  <p>For orgs / collaborations</p> <p>September 2013</p>  <p>For all client groups</p> <p>January 2014</p> 

GF2: Year 1 Timelines

Launch / Announcement – April 2013

- Innovation Partnerships (Vineland Research Innovation Centre, University of Guelph, Agri-Tech Commercialization Centre)
- Business Partnerships (Agricultural Management Institute/ Provision)
- Client Delivery Partnerships
 - Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association - Farm Businesses
 - Agricultural Adaptation Council – Organizations and Collaborations
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs- Processors
- Ontario Farm Innovation Program (OFIP)
- Clients can register for Client Information Sessions
- Clients can enrol through GF2 Client Portal

Workshop Dates - May 2013

- Registration for workshops begins for all clients

GF2: Year 1 Timelines

Funding Assistance – June 2013 - January 2014

- Capacity Building Funding Assistance: launch June 2013, continuous intake of applications to support skills development, training, planning and assessments for all clients (farm businesses, processors, organizations and collaborations).
- Project Funding Assistance (Organizations and Collaborations only): Intake 1 opens beginning June and ending mid August.
- Project Funding assistance (All Clients) – Intake 2. Applications will be open for 45 days beginning mid September ending late October.
- Project Funding Assistance (All Clients) – Intake 3. Applications will be open for 45 days beginning early January 2014 and ending mid February 2014.

GF2 Client Information Sessions

- Clients can now register for a client information session.
- Sessions will provide detailed GF2 program information.
- Sessions will be held at locations across Ontario.
- Visit the OMAF website or the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) website, for locations, dates and times and to register.

For more information

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs

Ontario.ca/growingforward2

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agr.gc.ca

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Ontariosoilcrop.org

Agricultural Adaptation Council

Adaptcouncil.org

Ontario Newsroom/GF2 news release

news.ontario.ca