RECOMMENDATION 1:
The Committee recommends that, regarding the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, the Government of Canada:

(a) review the program’s requirements in order to provide an expedited process for participants that have complied consistently with the program requirements over consecutive years; (b) review the processing fees for program applications so that they do not impose too heavy a burden on businesses; and (c) establish mechanisms that prioritize access to permanent residence for temporary foreign workers in agriculture and agri-food sectors that are particularly affected by labour shortages.

RECOMMENDATION 2:
The Committee recommends that, regarding the problems of transportation of agricultural and agri-food products, the Government of Canada:

(a) work with the provincial and territorial governments to maintain and expand an efficient road network through the country, and more specifically expedite the timelines for twinning of the following highways to reduce transportation costs through the use of Long Combination Vehicles: (i) Alberta Highway 40; and (ii) Quebec Highway 185 from Saint-Antonin to Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha! to decrease transportation costs to and from the Atlantic Provinces; (b) work with provinces/territories to harmonize regulations for the trucking industry in order to minimize delays for trucks moving from one province to another; (c) modernize the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Canada Border Services Agency inspection and registration systems in order to reduce processing times for trucks crossing the border with the United States; and (d) modernize the Canada Maritime Act in order to allow Port authorities to provide expanded services such as providing logistics services, operating grain elevators or processing facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 3:
The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada examine ways to support the development of the food processing sector in Western Canada in order to increase the value of shipments of agricultural and agri-food products.
The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada reform regulatory agencies’ mandates to include innovation, growth and overall agri-food sector competitiveness as a core consideration as well as establish a permanent and independent panel of industry experts and other stakeholders to advise regulators.

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada support innovation, growth, and competitiveness in the value-added food sector by:

(a) developing initiatives similar to the innovation superclusters in order to support the development of key agriculture and agri-food industries. These should be capable of securing the financial and entrepreneurial resources necessary to support successful innovation and scalability nationwide;

(b) exploring options to fund innovation and adapt to changing market conditions. Among them, considering changes to capital cost allowance, such as reducing amortization periods or expanding the Accelerated Investment Incentive to apply to agricultural and farming equipment;

(c) strengthening and providing increasing support and funding for basic, applied and market focused research, especially the development and mentoring of Canada’s next generation of highly qualified personnel. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s research stations should be integrated into this effort; and

(d) prioritizing the modernization of traceability systems for agri-food products, in order to enhance this important priority that is highly valued by Canadian and global customers.

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada engage actively with its main trading partners to bolster an open and rules-based approach to international trade and address emerging non-tariff barriers to trade in export markets.

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada commit to supporting supply management by examining initiatives to improve competitiveness and promote growth.

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada develop and fund an effective global marketing program that explicitly focus on increasing the value of the Canada Brand in the mind of global consumers.

The Committee recommends that the federal government work actively with provincial/territorial governments to ensure that laws, regulations, and policies enhance trade in agriculture and agri-food products between provinces and territories.