

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

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**.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

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.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

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.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

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

RECOMMENDATION 8:

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.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

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.

