




Niagara's Agribusiness Sector

From enablement
to empowerment



Niagara Community Observatory (NCO)

Niagara's Agribusiness Sector

Towards a More Resilient Innovation Cluster

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“How can we position Niagara to become a more resilient and adaptive economic cluster in the Golden Horseshoe and cross-border regions and within the wider global agribusiness value chain?”

Key Policies Issues

- Evaluating provincial agricultural regulations within the Greenbelt and how they affect farmers and growers
- Synchronizing local, regional and provincial policies on land use planning
- Building the East/West Corridor to relieve congestion on QEW
- Extension of natural gas into rural areas
- Broadband connectivity for rural areas to support precision agriculture
- Resolving irrigation issues
- Raising public awareness about local food production systems
- Aligning regional cluster strategies with federal and provincial agribusiness innovation programs

Current Gaps & Challenges

- Lack of a legitimate institutional platform for a cohesive strategic visioning and planning
- A governance architecture to mobilize key actors (private sector, post-secondary institutions, research centres, various levels of government, and other community groups)

Agribusiness Strategic Planning Workgroup

Mapping the future

- Technology change & innovation
- Alignment of knowledge & research centres
- External linkages (supply chains, mega-regional & binational collaboration)
- Streamlining regulations, policy advocacy & cluster strategy



How do we operationalize this?



Enable



Empower

Next steps

- WHEREAS Niagara's Agribusiness sector was the focus of a recent policy brief conducted by the Niagara Community Observatory;
- WHEREAS Agribusiness is one of Niagara's top economic sectors contributing \$1.41 billion towards GDP, 215,000 acres of farmland, and almost 20,000 jobs in Niagara;
- WHEREAS gaps have been identified in the sector's production, processing, distribution chains, and value-added opportunities;
- WHEREAS economic trends indicate that the agribusiness sector in Niagara is growing;
- WHEREAS Niagara's agribusiness sector would benefit from an established network for strategic visioning and planning that incorporates and aligns with a variety of stakeholders from across the Region including farmers, entrepreneurs, workers, industry associations, political representatives and relevant educational representatives;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Regional Council DIRECT the Planning and Economic Development Department to initiate a meeting with relevant stakeholders to determine the potential for establishing an "Agribusiness Strategic Planning Workgroup".

Niagara Agribusiness Strategic Plan





DIRECTION



VALUE



INPUT

Comments