



Innovation for Growth – Trends and Successes Redefining Agriculture – AIC Conference 2006

The second call for abstracts has been issued to complete the preparation of the preliminary program for the AIC Conference: Innovation for Growth - Trends and Successes Redefining Agriculture.
http://www.aic.ca/conferences/pdf/2006/AIC2006_FirstAnn_V12.pdf

Please send abstracts of 300 words for presentations or posters that are relevant to the conference theme to profedge@renc.igs.net, by June 12.

Theme areas include:

- Economics, Marketing and Trade
- Policies and Programs
- Innovative Resource Management
- Community and Social Considerations
- Innovation in On-Farm Production
- Science and Technology
- Biotechnology
- Beneficial Management Practices

AAFC Announces Science and Innovation Strategy

After consulting last summer and fall with individuals and organizations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has issued their Science and Innovation Strategy. AIC participated in the consultations, and is on a parallel track through our promotion of Innovation for Growth at the November AIC Conference.

AAFC's strategy outlines their goals which are designed to meet the expectations of producers, processors, consumers and provinces and rural communities. The goals are:

#1: Focusing Our Science and Innovation Investment on National Priorities

AAFC investments in science and innovation must seek an appropriate balance among existing and new markets and products and between public and private investment along the innovation chain from scientific discovery through final product commercialization or adoption of new tools or practices.

#2: Excellence in Science and Science Management

To achieve our goals for the sector will require a commitment to pursue excellence in conducting and managing our science and research efforts. We will pursue innovative improvements in the way we plan our research, in our processes, principles and criteria for selecting investments, and in the application of our skills and abilities and research management processes when conducting research projects.

#3: Partnering For Impact

One of the key foundations to AAFC's S&I Strategy will be to provide a "return on investment" to Canadians. In this context, important outcomes that can be achieved include a strengthening of Canada's agricultural producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the rural economies in which they operate, the knowledge base that is the foundation for innovation, and our ability to sustain regional innovation clusters in the future.

#4: Extending Integrated National Science and Innovation Capacity to the bio-based economy

Ensuring there are no gaps in the essential science and innovation capacity within the national system to support sustainable profitability and growth of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector in the 21st century is our commitment.

#5: Accelerating adoption and commercialization of scientific knowledge

This Strategic Goal is focused on activities that will speed the rate at which scientific knowledge and technologies are adopted and commercialized to enhance the return on public investments in agricultural R&D.

#6: Enhancing Strong Leadership and Stewardship supported by enhanced cooperation and communication mechanisms

This Strategic Goal is focused on the continuation of stakeholder engagement and stewardship in the process of maintaining Canada's excellence in science and innovative performance, ensuring that AAFC's S&I Strategy continues to reflect the priorities of Canadians.

#7: Providing Science Knowledge and Advice

This Strategic Goal is focused on ensuring informed decision-making by government, industry and Canadians through better understanding of science and research results and their implications. Making our science and research results accessible by the global science and research community contributes to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of all.

The strategy is available online at http://www.agr.gc.ca/sci/cons/index_e.php?s1=strat&page=intro

AIC Director Profile

Glenn Dickson, PAg,



Glenn Dickson joined the AIC board in November 2005. He grew up on a large grain farm in the Boissevain, MB area. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, a Certificate in Education and a Certificate in Management from the University of Manitoba.

Glenn worked for Chipman Chemicals on harvest desiccation research and new product promotion.

He also worked United Grain Growers (now Agricore United) in variety of roles in Technical Services, Communications, and now as Project Manager for Equipment and Facilities. His work group specializes in fertilizer facilities and equipment of all types needed to store, handle and apply pesticides and fertilizers.

Glenn is involved in the Canadian Society of Agronomy, as a voting member of CSA B620 committee and Vice Chair of CSA B622 committee. These committees set standards for manufacturing and inspection of tanks for transportation of Dangerous Goods such as Anhydrous Ammonia, Propane, gas, diesel etc.

Glenn has been involved with several Manitoba based agricultural organizations including Manitoba Ag in the Classroom committee, and was involved in a committee in the province responsible for producing a video on Food Safety. Glenn also volunteers his time with Scouts Canada and as a professional agrologist is a member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists.

Glenn's Vision for AIC

"I believe AIC should be the one group that brings together all agriculturally related groups to facilitate discussion on agricultural policy and to help stakeholders find solutions for problems facing agricultural in Canada," Glenn said. Contact Glenn at g.dickson@agricoreunited.com

AIC Foundation to hold Annual Meeting

The AIC Foundation will hold their annual meeting on Monday June 19, 2006 via Conference call. The call will take place from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Ottawa time). To receive the call in numbers please contact Jean Sullivan at the AIC office. Email news@aic.ca or call 1-866-277-7980.

Agenda items include updates on programs – the new scholarship program, as well as an exciting announcement about a new lecture fund. Please join us for the conference call, or send us your contact information and we can add your name to the AICF Connections Newsletter mailing list. The next newsletter will be issued in June, following the annual meeting.



AIC participates in Policy Discussions

AIC has been invited to be part of two discussion groups organized by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) to review their Farm Bill. Eight AIC members have formed small working groups. Their role is to provide comment and feedback on two of the CFA Pillars; Strategic Growth, and Public Goods and Services. They provide their feedback through AIC's contact on the CFA Farm Bill group, AIC Executive Director, Tom Beach.

AIC has also been invited to participate in a Stakeholders group of fifteen who are working on the preparatory stage of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) Consultations, led by Agriculture and Agri Food Canada.