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On-farm Food Safety Programs A Road of Achievements

**At Canada's Industry-led Food Safety Programs: The
Road Ahead Conference - 26 June 2007**

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Presentation Outline

- Basic elements of the Canadian approach to On-Farm Food Safety
- OFFS – True Industry/Gov partnership
- OFFSP - Achievements
- Canadian OFFS WG – roles and projects
- OFFS - Challenges ahead

OFFS - Industry Leadership

- 1990/95 – various commodity based initiatives
- 1996 - national consensus achieved
- 1997 - producers & government establish Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Program (primary production)
- 1997 – COFFS WG formed
- 1998 – CFA appointed by industry to manage OFFS on their behalf
- 2000 - Canadian Food Safety Adaptation Program (rest of the food supply chain)
- 2004 – Canadian Food Safety & Quality Program (new funding for food safety, traceability, quality along the chain)
- 2008 – New generation of Ag policy – program ?

On-Farm Food Safety Programs

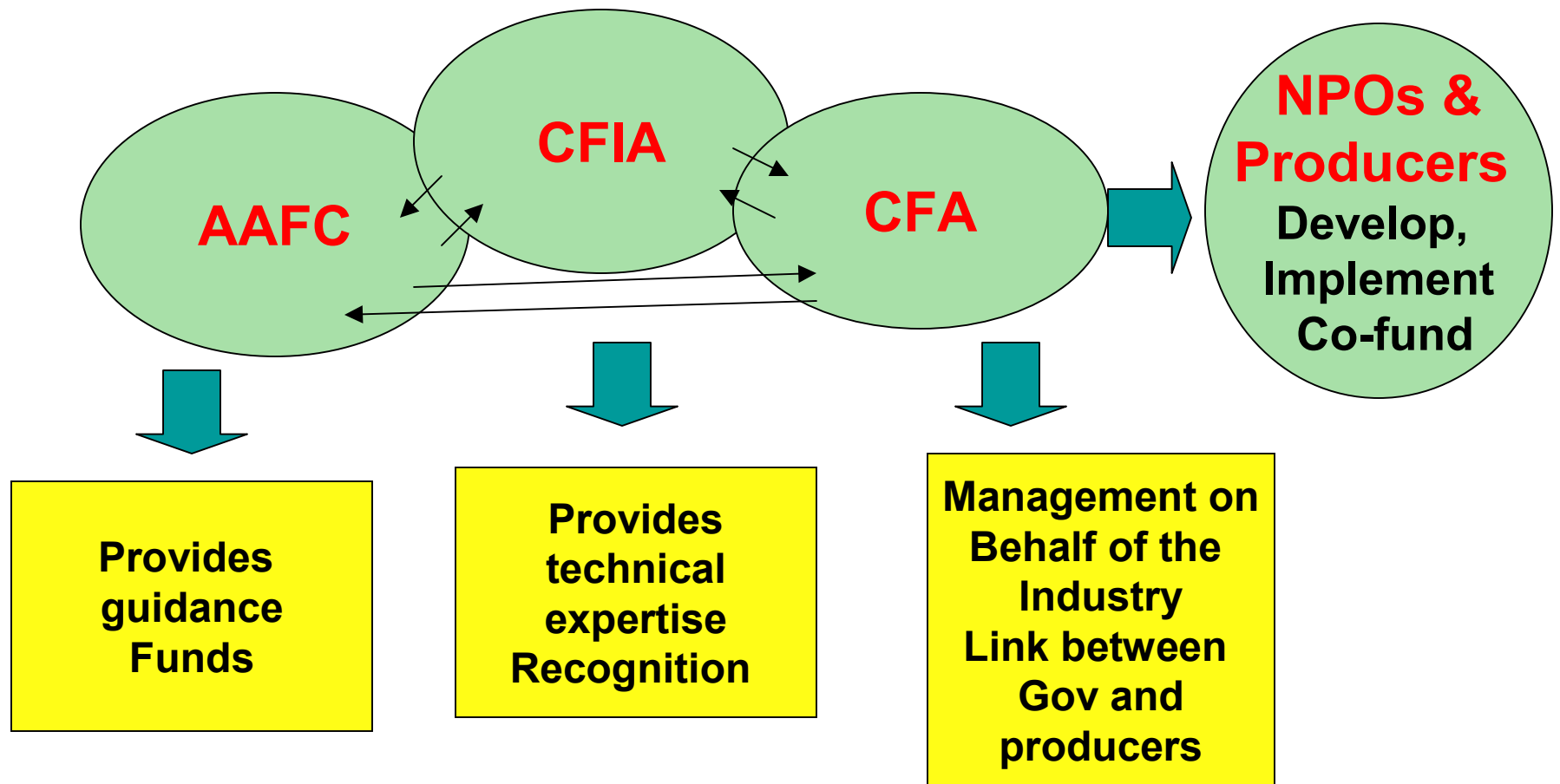
- Industry-led (appointed CFA as the industry body to administer the Programs)
- National & accessible
- Commodity-specific
- HACCP-based & auditable
- Consistent, modular & expandable
- Recognized in Canada
- Internationally accepted
- **Affordable**

Technically Sound Programs

- Rigorous HACCP-based approach (Codex principles & CFIA 'toolkit')
- Use of current science
- Up & downstream input
- Peer & CFIA expert reviews
- Information sharing (successes & failures)
- “Producer friendly”, practical results
- Auditable programs

OFFS Programs

True Industry- Gov Partnership



Program principles

- **Must support national systems and standards, including an integrated approach to systems development**
- **Will not create a competitive advantage between provinces**
- **Subject to national assessment and approval process**
- **Consistent cost-sharing and eligibility criteria across all provinces**
- **Results must be transferable to other provinces or regions**

Program Development and Implementation - Phases



On-Farm Programs

- 29 commodity-specific programs in development or being implemented – (See status report)
 - Livestock (8) - hogs, cattle, dairy, sheep, bison, Cervids (deer/elk), veal & goats
 - Poultry (6) - hatching eggs, hatcheries, table eggs (2), chickens & turkeys
 - Horticulture (12) - fresh fruits/vegetables*, mushrooms & herbs/spices
 - Grains, oilseeds, pulses & special crops (1)
 - Honey
 - Aquaculture (2) – finfish & shellfish
- *Horticulture subprograms: general; potatoes; bulb & root; leafy vegetables; tree & vine fruit; small fruit; fruiting vegetables; asparagus, sweet corn & legumes; greenhouse production

Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Working Group

- Established December 1998
- Mandate: “forum for research into and the collaborative development of national initiatives related to commodity-specific on-farm food safety programs”
- Membership:
 - national commodity groups & general farm organizations
 - Other industry associations (feed mills, veterinarians)

COFFS Working Group - Activities

- Negotiation of Official Recognition (to be completed in 2007)
- Producer Risk Management Project (ongoing)
- Delivery Options – Costing Analysis (ongoing)
- Promotion at Farm and Food Industry Events (started summer 2006 – ongoing)
- On-Farm Feed Mixing Module (to be completed 2007)
- International Scan of OFFS programs (ongoing)

COFFS Working Group - Results

- National Training Module for Auditors (ongoing)
- Templates for National Program Management Systems (completed)
- Risk Management Planning Guide (completed)
- National Certification Body Business Plan (completed)
- Website & communications activities (ongoing)
- Communication

Challenges Ahead

- Complete work on developing OFFS programs
- Implementation by 200000+ farms (producer training)
- Consumer: modifying behavior / increasing awareness
- Balancing expectations along the supply chain
- Work in partnership not in isolation
- Assuring that food safety remains pre-competitive
- Keep programs sustainable and affordable

Future Challenges & Opportunities

- Building on our collaborative foundation (industry-government partnership)
 - Complete the work on CFIA's recognition scheme for national recognition /buyer's recognition
- **International Recognition**
 - Greater harmonization in Canada & globally
 - Competitive intelligence
 - Proactive communication of the Canadian Approach

THANK YOU

The COFFS Working Group receives financial assistance from the Agricultural Policy Framework, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative
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