

Table 4. AAFC Policy Documents: Challenge, action, and outcome themes and subthemes for AAFC narratives

NEOLIBERAL TECHNO-OPTIMIST GROWTH NARRATIVE
Challenge: Environmental degradation
Challenge: Reduced Farm incomes
Challenge: Keep up with science and technology
Challenge: Threats to competitive position of agri-food sector
barriers for export markets
changing consumer demand
changing trade environment
growing government debt & budget cuts
high priced supply managed commodities
increased input prices
infrastructure access
international competition
keep up with science tech & innovation
labour availability
market distorting programs
regulatory barriers to growth
uneven international playing field
volatility in markets, prices, macroeconomic conditions
weather, disease, poor yields, low prices
Action: Expand trade, increase efficiency, promote producer self-reliance
expand markets & promote trade
general support for environmental goals (for growth)
improve producers’ ability to proactively manage risk, capture opportunities, be self-reliant
improve food safety (for growth)
increase private sector research and investment
promote development, adoption of new innovations, products & tech (for growth)
promote private risk management tools
reduce costs by improving farm management skills & tech
promote competitiveness in supply management
reduce market distortion and ensure risk management programs compatible with international trade
Action: Promote the development and adoption of new innovations and technologies
Outcome: Continued economic growth & increased trade and competitiveness
Outcome: Increased farm income
FAMILY FARM SUPPORT NARRATIVE
Challenge: Reduced farm income & farm failures
operating costs too high
depressed commodity prices
inappropriate farm financing
poor farm management skills
poor yields from weather and disease
reduced farm income & loss of farms
trade barriers and disputes
vulnerability to macroeconomic conditions
Action: Enhance farm financial security & rural economic development
address disaster risk
farmer income stabilization, financing, assistance, safety nets
support improved environmental outcomes (for rural economic devlpmt)
financial assistance for farming
general support for rural communities & initiatives
innovative farm financing
invest in infrastructure & rural programs
protect & support family farms
support cooperatives
Action: Other
Outcome: Improve farm incomes and rural economies
increase net farm income & reduce farm failures
rural economic development
GOVERNMENT-LED ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE
Challenge: Environmental degradation
Action: Develop and implement programs
cooperation, extension & research for sustainable ag
develop conservation policies & programs
government enact responsibility to protect public interest
improve environmental data to inform decision making
increase awareness of environmental issues
promote on-farm best management practices
revise programs to reduce incentives for degradation
Outcome: Improve environmental outcomes
Ensure future agricultural productivity, national security & risk protection
Improve sustainability and protect environment for future generations
OTHER
Challenge
Action
Outcome