The Agriculture Sector

The Drought Research Initiative

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)
The Drought Research Initiative (DRI) and Agriculture

- The agriculture and agri-food sector is a key contributor to Canada’s economy

- AAFC created the **Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)** to help address environmental priorities in a more effective and efficient manner

- Drought affects agricultural production
  - ~230,000 farmers manage over 167 million acres (67.6 million ha) of agricultural land

- Improved knowledge of drought (drivers, monitoring, impacts, adaptation options) important to the sector
Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)

• A new Branch of AAFC bringing expertise and innovative environmental solutions to the sector

  • **Science-based** with integrated technical, professional and practical expertise

  • Focused on finding **regionally-relevant solutions** for national priorities

  • **Working with partners** in a strategic and collaborative manner
AEB: Business Lines

• **Agri-Environmental Innovations and Solutions**

• **Agri-Environmental Knowledge & Decision Support**
  – Identify key environmental challenges and opportunities
  – Develop policy that aligns with national environmental priorities
  – Provide information and decision-support tools for clients and partners
  – Provide knowledge and information on natural resource management issues

• **Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Practices**
  – Investigate and demonstrate agri-environmental practices
  – Raise awareness and share information on beneficial management practices
  – Support agri-environmental risk assessment and planning
Some Benefits of DRI

- **Sound science to inform** policy discussions and development (i.e. data and analyses) and for decision-support tools

- **Communication network** of knowledge and information between researchers and various interests (e.g. agriculture, hydro, water resources management) and regions

- Improved **forecasting** of potential drought (teleconnections analysis; Drought Early Warning System)

- Increase sector’s **capacity** on drought-related environmental issues
Thank you