



Over the past decade, Canada's agri-food research and innovation sector has evolved by leaps and bounds. The investment climate has transitioned from one where funding was relatively limited to one where venture capital groups are competing to invest in the sector.

Through a series of web-based conference sessions, the Agri-food Innovation Council (AIC) will seek to address where our agri-food research and innovation sector is currently and changes that can be made to help it achieve its full potential.

Each 90-minute session will feature industry experts, senior government officials and more. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of our sector's investment climate, and a greater appreciation for the potential return on agri-food research investment.

View speaker program [here](#). To register, [click here](#).

Want to spread your message further? Limited partnerships are available for the web sessions. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sessions at a glance:

#### **November 10, 2020 – Video conference session #1**

- *Setting the stage: Importance of investments in agri-food research and innovation and their Rol*
  - **Rebecca Clarke** Vice-President and Treasurer, Farm Credit Canada;
  - **Tom Rosser**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada;
  - **Andrew Schrumm**, Senior Manager, Research, RBC Thought Leadership.

#### **November 17, 2020 – Video conference session #2**

- *Is there an investment gap for agri-food research and innovation?*
  - **Laurie Dmytryshyn**, Chief of Equity Investments, PIC Investments;
  - **Lynne Godlien**, CEO, Perennia Food and Agriculture;
  - **Dave Smardon**, President and CEO, BioEnterprise;
  - **Alison Sunstrum**, Founder & CEO, CNSRVX Inc.

**November 24, 2020 – Video conference Session #3**

- *Venture capital and banking: How they work and what they want*
  - **Warren Bergen**, President, AVAC Ltd.;
  - **Eric Dillon**, Chief Executive Officer, Conexus Credit Union;
  - **Andrew Heintzman**, Managing Partner, InvestEco Capital Corp.

**December 1, 2020 – Video conference Session #4**

- *A better investment climate: Government investment and taxation*
  - **Dr. Emily Gray**, Agricultural Policy Analyst, OECD;
  - **Carla Ventin**, Senior Vice President, Food and Consumer Products of Canada;
  - **Lee-Ann Walker**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Research and Corporate Services Division, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Thank you to our Platinum Partner

