

RCC Agriculture and Food 1 Working Group: Financial Protection to Produce Sellers Work Plan

Canada Lead: Paul Murphy, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Marketing and Industry Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
 U.S. Lead: Robert Keeney, Deputy Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Deliverable outcome	Develop comparable approaches to financial risk mitigation tools to protect Canadian and U.S. fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations.
Action items	Action Item 1: Develop comparable approaches to financial risk mitigation tools for produce suppliers.
	Interim Deliverables
0-3 Months	<p>Develop proposals for financial risk mitigation in Canada to protect Canadian and U.S. fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations similar to the outcomes achieved through the U.S. system that consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to relevant regulatory frameworks 2. Other legal instruments 3. Self Regulation / Due Diligence 4. Security/contribution based funds 5. Other options that may be identified
3-6 Months	<p>Conduct analysis of the proposals assessing feasibility, economic impact and implementation issues for each option, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sub-national regulation/situation with produce traders and contract issues 2. Cross Border Documentation Processes. 3. Maintaining Reciprocal reliance on each country's current regulatory system 4. Mutual reliance on a common regulatory approach <p>1. Stakeholder consultation will be held on April 27, 2012 2. Post April 27, 2012, mechanism will be determined at that stage (communicating with stakeholders on a quarterly basis)</p>
6-12 Months	The analysis of options is finalized: This includes completing the analysis, confirming comparability & prioritized options, including the proposed path for implementation of each option.

12-18 Months	<p>Select the most feasible option and delivery implementation plan, identifying any implementation obstacles and paths toward resolution.</p> <p>Begin implementation of selected option based on achievability (process requirements, stakeholder agreement, & capacity).</p>
Beyond 18 Months	<p>Continue work on the implementation plan, as necessary.</p>
*Key Considerations	<p>Approach will need to respect constitutional, legislative and political restrictions to create a made-in-Canada solution.</p>

Contact Information:

Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [e-mail: rcc-fetp@agr.gc.ca]

U.S.: United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); [e-mail: RCC-BTB@one.usda.gov]