



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Climate Change Website Launched

VICTORIA, British Columbia, October 9/09 – BC’s agricultural producers and food processors have a new, centralized source of information about how climate change is affecting the sector, and the challenges and opportunities associated with taking action.

The British Columbia Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative website – www.bcagclimateaction.ca - is a project of the Climate Action Initiative. Launched sixteen months ago, the Initiative enables a pan-agricultural, proactive approach to identifying and analyzing the impacts of climate change and associated public policy on the agriculture and food processing sectors. The Climate Action Initiative facilitates industry’s engagement in policy dialogue, outreach and education, and assists with project development.

According to Initiative board chair Allen James, the launch of the website is a significant development. “Climate change is a big complex issue and many people feel overwhelmed by it,” said James. “This website is intended to provide agricultural producers and food processors with clear and practical information about why climate change matters, how it is impacting the sector and what kind of action can be taken.”

The new website provides information and resources intended for BC’s farmers, ranchers and food processors about climate action topics such as energy efficiency and renewable energy production, carbon offsets, management practices for emission reduction and climate change adaptation. It contains links to related initiatives and is a valuable source of information on upcoming events, as well as potential funding sources available for climate action.

The Climate Action Initiative is a joint undertaking of the BC Agriculture Council and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF), with funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

“Assessing and understanding the vulnerabilities of our food system is critical,” said IAF board chair Stuart Wilson. “Agriculture is one of the sectors most affected by changes in climate and extreme weather. The more information about climate change that BC producers and food processors have at their disposal, the better equipped they’ll be to help secure the sustainability of the industry.”

The B.C. Agriculture Council provides leadership in representing, promoting and advocating the collective interests of BC’s farmers and ranchers and the Investment Agriculture Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that strategically invests federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects to benefit the agriculture and agri-food industries in BC.

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Funding provided by: