

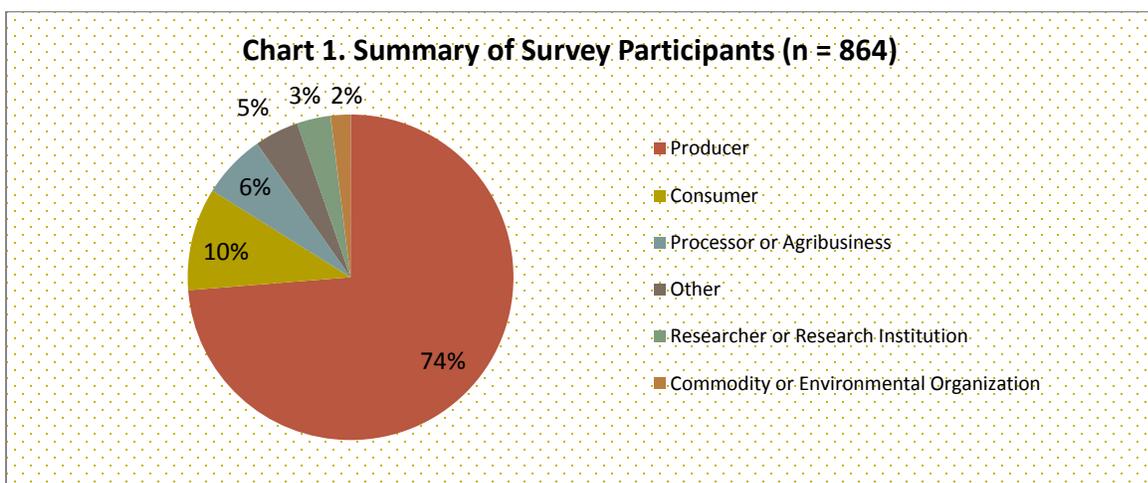
NEXT POLICY FRAMEWORK SURVEY REPORT

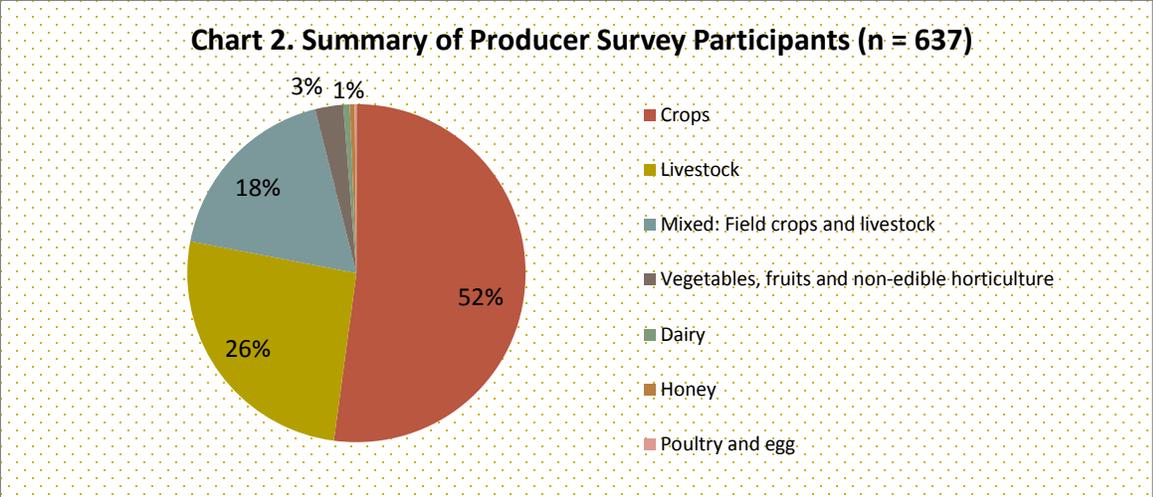
Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a policy framework that provides \$71.2 million annually for innovation, competitiveness and market development in the agriculture sector and also supports Business Risk Management (BRM) programming. GF2 allows flexibility for provinces and territories to deliver programs that make sense for each region while working towards national priorities. On July 22, 2016, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture met in Calgary and agreed to a Policy Statement outlining the key priorities that will guide the development of the Next Policy Framework (NPF).

GF2 expires on March 31, 2018, and work is underway to develop the NPF. This includes ongoing engagement with the sector. Consultations and survey responses are helpful as they will inform negotiations at the federal-provincial-territorial level and influence the NPF program suite.

As part of a broader stakeholder engagement process, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture conducted an online survey from November 14, 2016 to January 31, 2017. Survey questions were based on the six priorities outlined in the Calgary Statement. A total of 887 people provided input on priorities for future programs.

Almost three-quarters of the survey respondents identified themselves as producers. Other responses came from those who indicated they were consumers, processors, agribusinesses, researcher and commodity or environmental organizations.





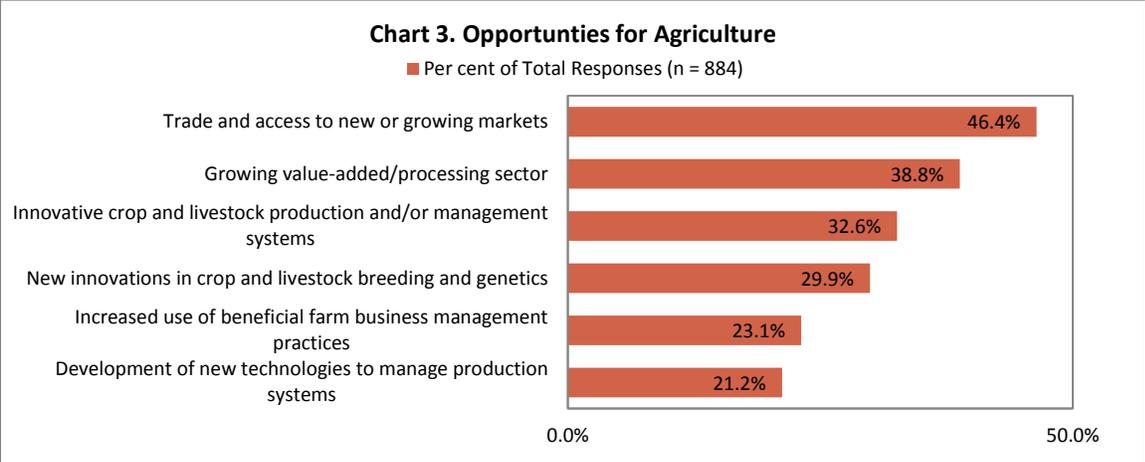
Opportunities and Risks for Saskatchewan Agriculture

Survey participants were asked to choose from a list of options on what they consider to be the greatest opportunities and risks for the Saskatchewan agriculture industry in the next five to 10 years. Identifying opportunities and risks is a starting point for exploring areas where government support may be warranted. Support under the NPF should assist the sector to capitalize on opportunities and mitigate risks.

The opportunities selected most often were:

- Trade and access to new or growing markets (46.4 per cent)
- Growing value-added/processing sector (38.8 per cent)
- Innovative crop and livestock production and/or management systems (32.6 per cent)

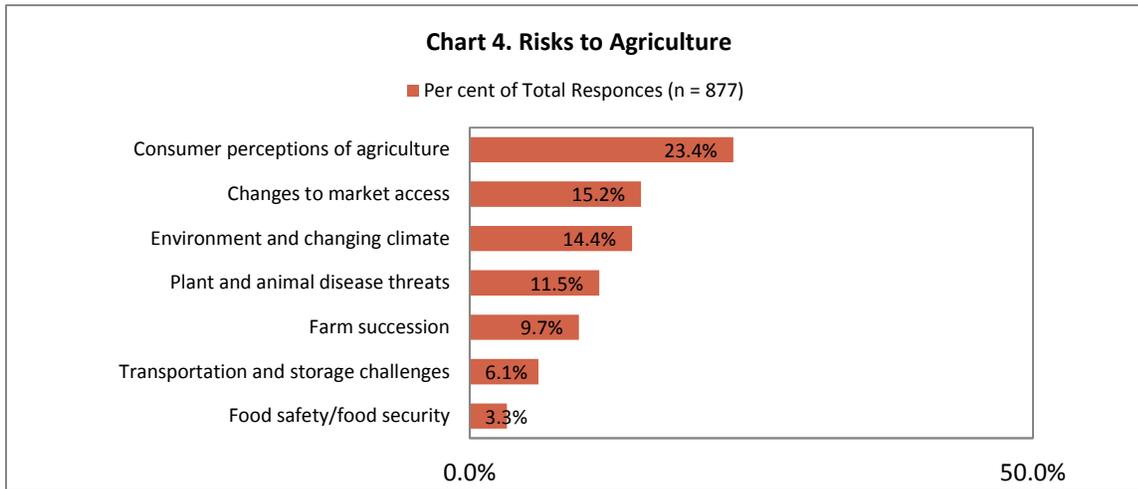
Other opportunities are thought to exist in water management and irrigation development; organic production methods; and new or young producers entering or staying in business.



The risks respondents selected most often were:

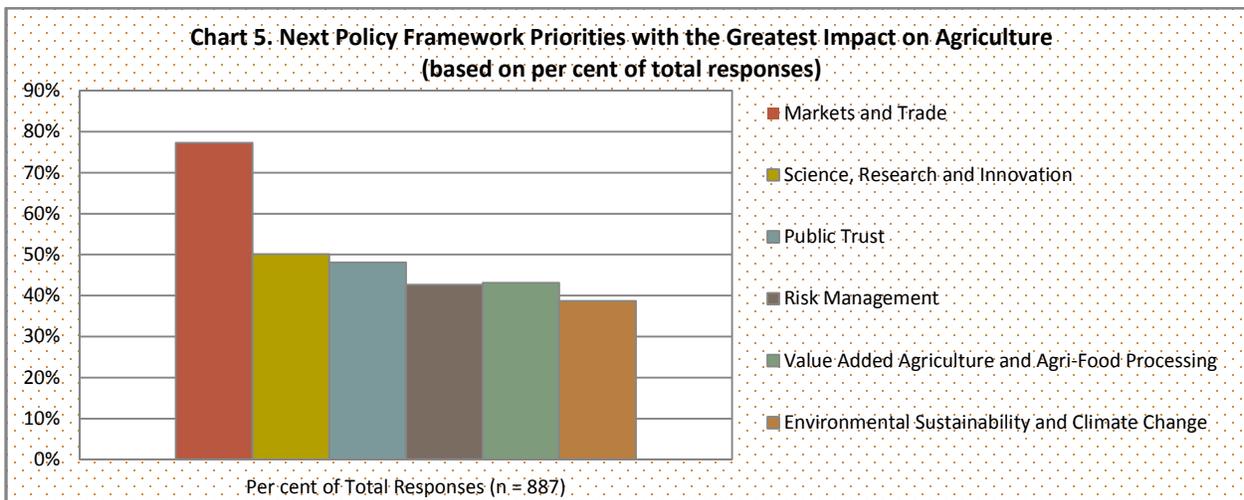
- Consumer perceptions of agriculture (23.4 per cent)
- Changes to market access (15.2 per cent)
- Environment and changing climate (14.4 per cent)

Other risks noted by participants included: the implementation of a carbon tax in the province; high input costs and low commodity prices, or small profit margins; and increasing farm sizes.



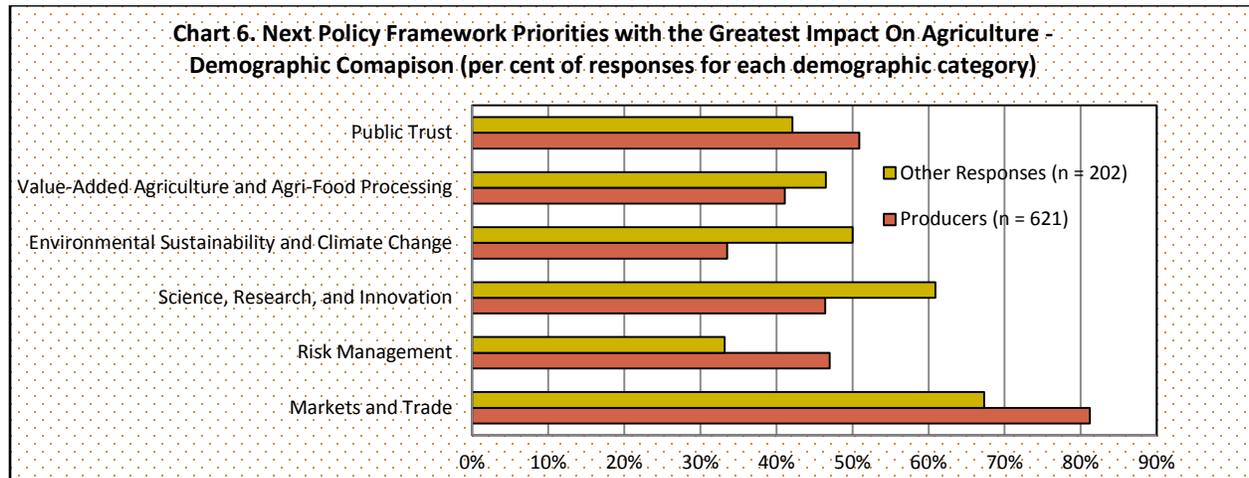
Calgary Statement Priority Areas

Within the context of opportunities and risks, survey participants identified three out of the six Calgary Statement priorities that they felt would have the greatest impact on the agriculture industry.

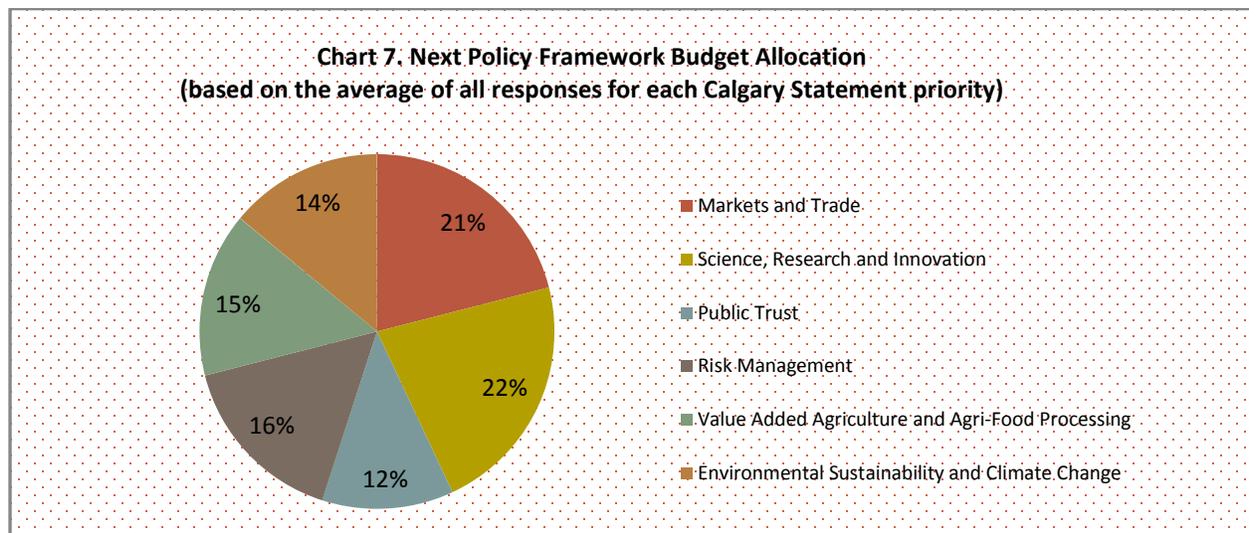


There were some differences between the most frequent selections by producers compared to other demographic groups. All demographic groups frequently indicated that markets and trade, and science, research and innovation will have a great impact on agriculture. Producers tend to place more emphasis

on public trust, while other groups tend to emphasize environmental sustainability and climate change. Differences in priorities between crops and livestock producers were minimal.



As another way to establish priorities for the NPF, participants were asked to assign a portion of a total budget to each of the six Calgary Statement priorities. The results of the budget allocation exercise further emphasize the importance respondents placed on science, research and innovation, and markets and trade to agriculture in Saskatchewan. The results also showed the relatively high support respondents had for all six priority areas.



Markets and trade stand out among the Calgary Statement priorities for the NPF. It is clear, however, from the survey data that all six priorities are important to agriculture stakeholders in Saskatchewan.

Within each priority area, survey respondents were asked to select items that are most important for government to fund from a list. These responses provide an indication of where respondents believe government has a role in supporting the industry through the NPF.

- For markets and trade, the most commonly selected priority, the results show strong support for activity around trade advocacy or market access lobbying, industry-led trade missions, and accessing markets within Canada.
- Under science, research, and innovation, respondents most frequently chose funding priorities related to basic and applied research project funding, public education on new technology, and operational funding for research institutions.
- In the area of public trust, survey respondents included: agricultural awareness events, development of educational resources, and marketing and communications campaigns.
- For risk management, the most frequent selections were farm business planning, plant and animal disease control, and on-farm water infrastructure for crops and livestock production.
- Under value-added agriculture and agri-food processing, respondents most often selected access to domestic retail and food service markets, infrastructure support, and marketing capacity and market development for export.
- Within the environmental sustainability and climate change priority, the results showed support for source water protection and management, drainage control and management, and public awareness of environmental efforts by the agriculture sector.

Next Steps

This survey is an important component of the overall consultation process for the NPF. Previous consultations supported the six priorities in the Calgary Statement, which the online survey examined in more detail. Future consultations will continue to build on these results; the Ministry will work with stakeholders to turn priorities into an effective suite of programs that meets the needs of the industry.

Responses will help shape Saskatchewan's priorities and inform the federal-provincial-territorial negotiation process. The ongoing consultations will complement internal analysis and review of existing programs to ensure future activity under the NPF aligns with stakeholder priorities.