

**Science and Innovation under Growing Forward**  
**Dr. Marc Fortin, ADM AAFC**  
**Presented at the Workshop**  
**On Public/Private Research in AAFC**  
**January 16, 2009**  
**Abbotsford**

*Note: These notes may need follow-up – I may have misunderstood some of what Marc was saying, plus his talk may have been more conceptual than factual*

**Funding level:**

- Under APF, science and innovation received \$36 million, under growing forward it will be between \$300 and \$360 million
- Funding is going from \$6 to \$7 per million to around \$60 million per year
- Focus is changing from increasing industry capacity to accelerating the pace of innovation

**Questions are:**

1. What are industry's core challenges?
2. What values and principles should guide public research? How do we prioritize where to allocate funds?
3. How does AAFC work with partners and work collectively?
4. What needs to be changed?

**Process:**

- AAFC is meeting with industry across the country – 7 sessions total – to gather input to prepare a national strategic action plan.

**Components:**

*Innovation on the farm:*

- Provincial dollars
- Uptake will vary by province

*Innovation hubs:*

- Provincial dollars
- Uptake will vary by province

*MII*

- Federal dollars
- Will provide increased flexibility to allow universities and industry allies to participate and increased flexibility in funding formulas
- Focus on 2 to 3 year projects

- Industry led, feds provide funding, expertise and facilities
- Industry needs to propose models
- Must be national in scope, with regional specifics

#### *Clusters*

- Federal dollars
- Programs rather than projects
- Strategic, long term with an aim towards increased stability
- Industry could own intellectual property rights at the end

#### *A-Base*

- Internal operational funds of AAFC - \$200 million obtained from Treasury Board (I did not get the impression that this was part of the Growing Forward funds – these are their operational dollars)
- May not provide economic benefits today or tomorrow
- More national and more long term than others
- Addresses long term problems not industry driven

#### **What is missing is research that is:**

1. responsive
    - Able to respond to crisis such as BSE or AI
    - Reserve capacity
  2. Transformational
    - “blue sky” research; research that one day may benefit agriculture
- These are not part of Growing Forward and do not have any funds allocated towards them at this point.