

Business

35 yrs
Mixed to
Beans to
Retirement
from
off farm
1973
sick
1990
unplanned

farm women

and

Science

off farm

lifestyle

Seniors

farm women
and
canadian
agricultural policy

Key Authors/Researchers: Carla Roppel, Annette Aurelie Desmarais and Diane Martz
A Research Project conducted by the National Farmers Union

**Funded by Status of Women Canada,
Policy Research Fund**

August 2006

off farm
- more
- less

front cover diagram:

A farm family's unending adaptation

In her life map, this woman captures farmers' continual efforts to adapt to changing government policy. "This is production dollars and value added dollars, which the government has told us ...if you can't get enough dollars in this then add [something else], thinking that with extra income you don't get extra expenses. And then, if that isn't making it for you, go do marketing too! ...I [used to] say we had one job that [didn't] pay. Now we have three that [don't] pay."

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an educational tool

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Farm Women and Canadian Agricultural Policy

While women play a critical role in the day-to-day operation of Canadian farms, there has been no explicit effort to identify their policy needs or their vision of an inclusive Canadian agricultural policy. This reality contradicts the Canadian government's commitment to achieving gender equality at "all levels of decision-making," as outlined in a document entitled "Setting the Stage for the Next Century: the Federal Plan for Gender Equality." Objective 6 of that plan states that the federal government aims to "incorporate women's perspectives in governance," and that

[t]o achieve gender equality, the social arrangements that govern the relationship between men and women will have to change to give equal value to the different roles they play, as parents, as workers, as elected officials and others; to foster equal partnership in the decision-making process; and to build a just and equitable society (p. 14).¹

Moreover, in her recent assessment of existing research on gender, agriculture and international trade, Angeles (2002, 37) identified an important gap in the literature: little has been written on just how the lives of Canadian farming families and rural women are affected by trade liberalization and economic restructuring. This is precisely the void that the *Farm Women and Canadian Agricultural Policy* research project aimed to fill.²

¹ Status of Women Canada (1995) "Setting the Stage for the Next Century: The Federal Plan for Gender Equality." http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/066261951X/199508_066261951X_e.pdf. Accessed February 20, 2005.

² Angeles, Leonora C. 2002. "Reflections on Feminist Policy Research on Gender, Agriculture and Global Trade." *Canadian Woman Studies/ Les Cahiers de la Femme*, Vol. 22/21 (4/1): 34-39.

The purposes of the research project were to:

1. document issues that rural women and girls consider as critical features of rural Canada that need to be fully integrated into agricultural rural development policy,
2. conduct a gender analysis of the new Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework, and
3. develop recommendations that rectify the historical exclusion of women and their legitimate concerns.

Specifically, the research addressed these questions:

1. What changes in their daily lives have farm women experienced as a result of current Canadian agricultural policies?
 - What are the policy implications arising from rural women's lived experiences?
 - What policy recommendations are required to address farm women's concerns in these areas?
2. Does Canada's Agriculture Framework equally reflect the unique needs of men and women?
 - If not, what is missing?
 - What would a gender sensitive agricultural policy look like?
 - What would be required to ensure that future Canadian agricultural policies are gender inclusive?

The research team consisted of three key researchers with academic and/or practical experience in farming, and twelve research assistants all of whom are farmers and farm leaders. The research team developed a participatory workshop research

process to examine and analyze, from the perspective of rural women, the following themes:

- What are the realities that farm women live with on a daily basis, and what contributes to or causes them?
- How do farm women analyse the APF? Does it improve their lives or make them worse?
- What are the pillars and content that farm women see as critical elements of an inclusive Canadian agricultural policy?
- What recommendations do farm women offer to enhance their participation in the development of, and ensure that their concerns are addressed by, Canadian agricultural policy?

This document summarizes the results of five farm women's regional workshops that addressed all of the questions raised above. It reflects the collective perspectives of 105 farm women from different parts of rural Canada concerning past and current Canadian agricultural policy. The document also presents a set of policy recommendations developed to enhance the inclusion of farm women's concerns, needs and interests as well as mechanisms to ensure their participation in developing Canadian agricultural policy.

The publication is intended to be used as an educational tool by farm women, farm organizations, youth groups, academics, and others who are interested in building more sustainable food and agriculture systems. Its content and findings can be used in a variety of ways: kitchen table meetings, group discussions, seminars or workshops. The complete research report can be requested from the Status of Women Canada and the National Farmers Union.

A Participatory Farm Women's Workshop

In two-day workshops farm women analyzed their policy needs and identify their vision for inclusive Canadian agricultural policy. The process moved from analysis of the individual to the collective and from the personal to the political. The workshops were held during the winter of 2003-04 in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Prince Edward Island/New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta. One hundred five farm women participated.

Research Results

What keeps farm women connected to farming?

In spite of the overwhelming pressures of poor finances, animal health concerns, trade actions, a recurring farm crisis, and an increasingly hostile political environment, farm women love their lives and retain deep connections with their farms and communities. Their connections include:

Family and community

Farm women value living and working with their spouses, their children and their relatives. They see community spirit as being more easily found, achieved and maintained in rural communities.

Beauty and nature

Farm women spoke of rootedness, peace and quiet, the beauty of landscape, starlight and moonlight and of being outside and experiencing the seasons. For many, their connection is intensely spiritual.

History

Family farms that are passed down through generation are saturated with story and memory that they wish to honour and retain. Leaving the farm means terminating not just a business, but long-term, valued relationships with the land, the extended family and the community.

Community and environmental altruism

Women feel a deep sense of responsibility to build strong communities, maintain a healthy environment and to produce healthy food safely. They see farming as a valued and valuable occupation, one of the most important jobs on earth.

Self-sufficiency, independence, and resilience

Women like to produce healthy food for their families and others. They value the independence of farming, the variety of work that is available on farms, and the concrete satisfaction of seeing a job or harvest completed. Hope and optimism keep women saying that farming would "get better next week."

Finances

Finances keep women attached to farming in a negative way: being too far in debt and having too great an investment to get out easily. Others stay attached because their age limits other economic opportunities, while others find it too complicated to leave.

What did farm women identify as the realities in their lives?

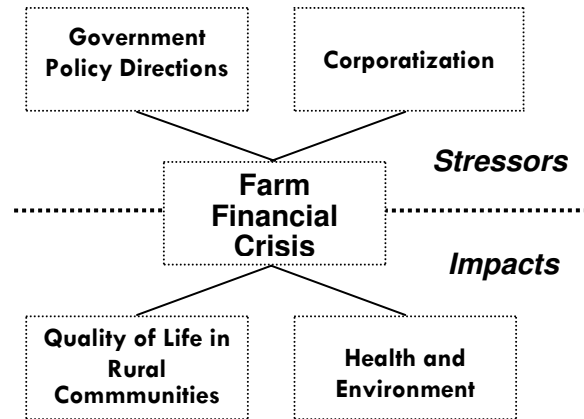
The realities that emerged from farm women's analysis of their lives encompassed five major themes:

Figure 1 highlights five key themes that emerged from farm women's analysis of the changing realities in their lives. The Farm Financial Crisis was the major stress in the lives of farm women and their families, who saw it as created primarily by current Government Policy Directions and Corporatization. Women saw Quality of Life in Rural Communities and Health and Environment as deteriorating because of the Farm Financial Crisis. Women noted that if the root causes of the financial crisis were solved, many of the issues related to Quality of Life in Rural Communities, and Health and Environment would also improve. Women acknowledged, however, that those issues could, and likely would, still be strongly affected by Government Policy Directions and Corporatization. Figure 2 summarizes the sub-themes evident in farm women's analysis of their lives.

Quality of Life in Rural Communities

Women reported that they are much busier with farm work, non-farm work, and community volunteer work. They and their families now travel further to access

Figure 1. Key Themes Emerging from Farm Women's Analysis of Their Lived Realities



everything – banking, shopping, health, education and recreational services. Changing social and cultural attitudes are leading to more competition and less co-operation among farmers. Food, food production and food producers are accorded less respect by the public, politicians and bureaucrats. Urbanization is reducing and distancing personal connections with farming, widening the rural urban divide. Mass media further contributes to these changes. Despite the increased availability of information from a variety of sources, local knowledge and its transmission among neighbours is decreasing. Privatization of research and the current direction of research priorities are key concerns.

quality of life

I went to two different towns and got a loan just before I left.

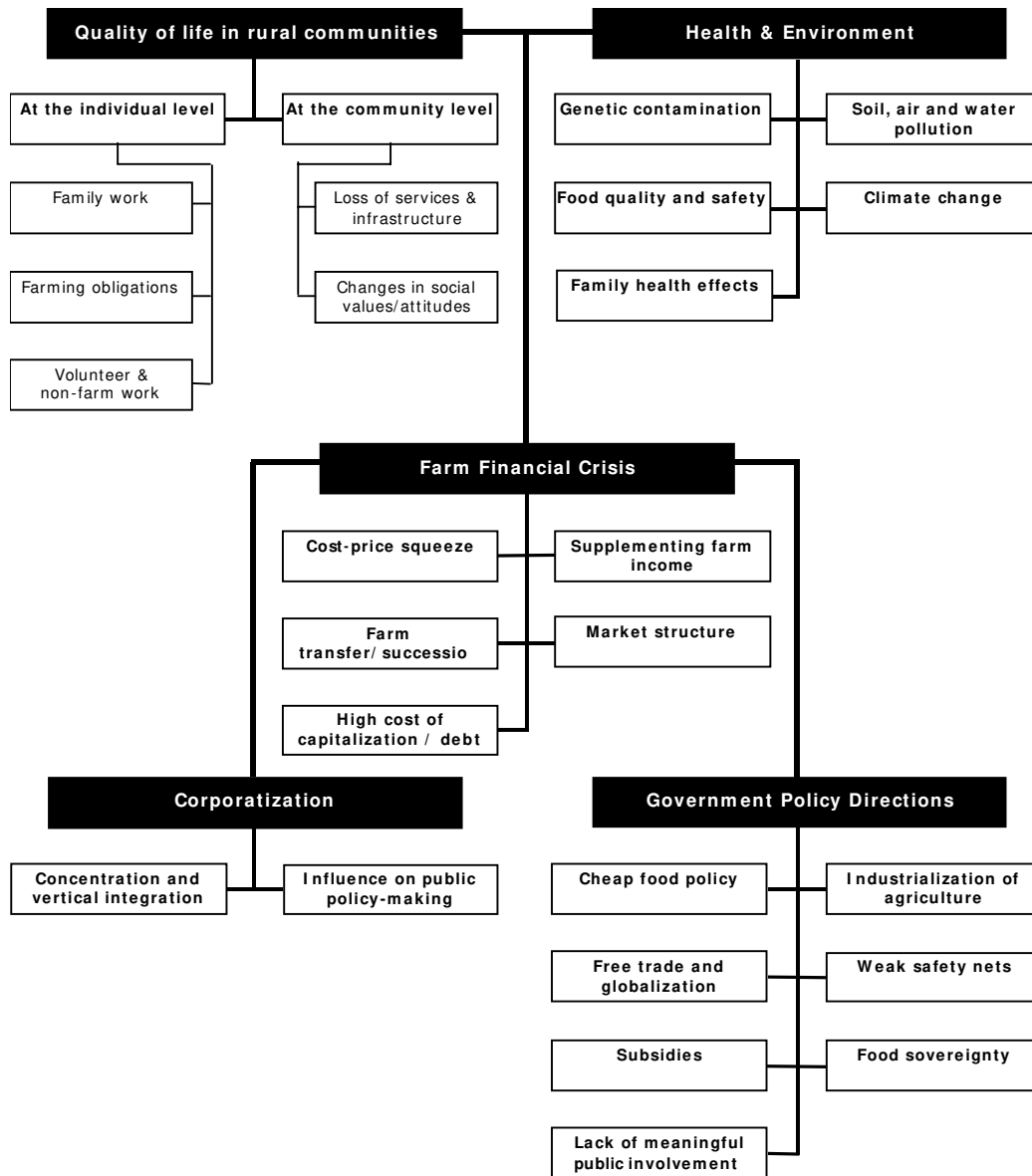
The school is in the process of being closed. We are concerned about this because one of the grandchildren is three years old now. If they do close the school, the child will have to spend lots of time on the bus. Our elevator and railway [are] already gone.

We aren't respected by anyone. No one wants to be a farmer. I don't call myself a farmer, because when I do, I get no respect.

For my parents, money is an issue. My mom drives [an hour to work] everyday. My father is an insomniac. He doesn't think this is related to stress, but we all are convinced that it is. (Even this one is better even though it comes from the health and environment section.)

(Quotes from farm women who participated in the workshops)

Figure 2 Key themes that farm women name as changing realities in their lives.



Farm Financial Crisis

Women view the Farm Financial Crisis as largely driven by inequitable and corporate-led market structures. This crisis is a direct result of government policy and its impact is multi-dimensional. Farm families are forced to seek other sources of income to supplement their livelihoods. This adds to their workload and stress. Moreover, succession plans for family farms are uncertain, as retiring farmers need to 'cash in' the retirement equity

they have invested in their farms, while at the same time not burying their sons and daughters in debt. Given low prices and high input costs, many women question the wisdom of advising their children to take over the family operation. Consequently, rural communities are doubly disadvantaged. They lose people, businesses and services through depopulation, and there are fewer people available to do the critical volunteer activities that keep communities vibrant.

financial crisis

...the [processors] want to pay us less than it costs us to produce the [goat] milk which is really frustrating.

To supplement our income because we're not in a supply-managed situation, ...[m]y husband has an off-farm job. It's not enough. It's not enough money to raise my kids and pay our mortgage and keep us going.

Our sons are... taking over the farm. Big concern is the huge expenses on machinery. Investing in land is o.k., but machinery?

Everything is about money. And everything is about debt. That's what drives my life.

...We are working harder to stay at the same spot financially. Ten years ago we had the same income. [Now] we just have less time because we are working harder.

...Right from the beginning, ... we diversified and diversified and got larger and did all these things, but we just actually always held our net income to the same [level].

(Quotes from farm women who participated in the workshops)

Health and Environment

Farm women are deeply concerned about the long and short-term effects of genetic contamination on human and environmental health. They are distressed about threats to food quality and safety resulting from the high-volume, high input farming systems now used to grow most food. Many believe that organic foods are more nutritious and less likely to be contaminated by pesticides or food pathogens. There is a lack of research on the long-term effects of low-level exposure to multiple chemicals and chemical combinations. Current farming practices are seen to endanger soil, water and air due to contamination and pollution by fertilizers, pesticides and animal waste. Global warming and its effects on farming, as well as the impact of farming on the environment are sources of unease.

Corporatization³

Agri-food corporations are consolidating their control and influence on all aspects of food production, processing and distribution through mergers and vertical integration. Fewer corporations supply farm inputs, and through vertical integration are the same companies who buy agricultural commodities from farmers. Individual family farmers with no large collective market presence have little impact against the increasingly few, very large corporations from which they buy and to which they sell. While farmers' realized net incomes are down, food corporations continue to generate huge profits.

Women see government policies as overwhelmingly influenced by corporate rather than citizen interests. Even the farm organizations – the commodity groups and sector associations – from whom the government takes direction on behalf of farmers are dominated by industrial rather than farmer interests. The result is a policy environment that is detrimental to family farmers.

health & environment

GMO's are a tremendous threat. If our crops are contaminated or polluted by it, we cannot sell our products as organic. We will lose everything.

So we spray before we seed, we seed, we spray again. ... We watch our crop grow but there is a disease there, so we spray again. ... And of course, we spray before we harvest, we harvest our grain and then we spray after harvest. And we spray for our neighbours after harvest as well.

Yes we spray, spray, spray. But we do it only when we feel we have to.

(Quotes from farm women who participated in the workshops)

³ Farm women define corporatization as the process by which corporations increasingly dominate industrial activities in agriculture. It is linked to agribusiness, vertical and horizontal integration, and corporate concentration.

corporatization

...One of the big issues is corporate control, 90% of them U.S.-based. So they've really got the farmers on a string. They've also got the federal government on a string

...[M]y husband and I were taken to court by Monsanto in 1998. He has been all around the world and talks about farmers' rights. If we lose this court battle we wonder if any farmer will be able to keep his seed.

But now President's Choice products are really undercutting everything and everyone, and keeping everybody out of the distribution system. It's hard to get into the stores. It's a tough world, but it's good, you know we're on the cutting edge. We got a call from President's Choice [asking] if we wanted to do a private label ice-cream for them. Said no thank you. We're not that desperate yet.

(Quotes from farm women who participated in the workshops)

Government Policy Directions

Farm women note that government policies contribute directly to industrialization of agricultural production, a focus that economically excludes small producers from continued participation and that enhances the movement away from food sovereignty. In 'bigger is better' factory farming, concentration offers economies of scale that reduce production costs, thus supporting a cheap food policy and high corporate profits. The problem, however, is that disbenefits associated with large scale enterprises are largely unpriced: they have not been identified, quantified or responded to in current government policy. Nevertheless, those disbenefits have had a broad impact on rural communities – they are the realities that farm women live with on a daily basis, and name as important in their lives: Quality of Life in Rural Communities, Health and Environment, Farm Financial Crisis, Corporatization and Government Policy Direction.

Farm women's perspectives offer a unique point of view to inform future government policy regarding food sovereignty. Their holistic lives bridge the individual and personal, with collective and community based perspectives.

government policy directions

...The government has told us ...if you can't get enough dollars in this then add [something else], thinking that with extra income you don't get extra expenses. And then, if that isn't making it for you, go do marketing too! ...I [used to] say we had one job that [didn't] pay. Now we have three that [don't] pay.

...it seems to be the farmer's responsibility to provide cheap food for the population....

...one of the big things [they] are doing right now is [trying] to cut back [potato] acreage. But that is a big struggle, I tell you.

(Quotes from farm women who participated in the workshops)

A summary of the APF

The APF is built on five pillars: Business Risk Management, Environment, Renewal, Food Safety and Quality, and Science and Innovation. The following summary of the five pillars is quoted from documents published by AAFC.⁴

Business Risk Management

Business risk management is an integral part of the Agricultural Policy Framework (AAFC undated). The APF is looking at new approaches to current safety net programs that address business risks on the farm, such as yield losses because of weather. The new approach to business risk management would not only protect farmers against traditional and emerging risks but would also encourage the use of new practices and strategies to reduce risk in the future. Governments are working with industry stakeholders to build on the best of existing risk management programs, such as crop insurance and the Net Income Stabilization Account, to provide effective tools for the evolving sector. The goal is a more integrated system of programs that cover risk, provide producers with more choice, and promote future growth and profitability.

Among the goals being considered for food safety and food quality are to:

- provide a permanent disaster relief program which farmers can rely on, instead of the ad hoc programs that were available in the past;
- offer more stability by protecting both small and large drops in income;
- provide equitable treatment to all farmers, across all commodities and in all provinces;
- better direct funds to where the need is;
- provide a streamlined set of user-friendly programs that work well together.

Environment

Environmental stewardship is key to both the industry's long-term sustainability and its profitability. The industry is well aware of this and is already taking action to manage known environmental risks. The APF sets out areas where governments can provide help, including better information and research on the links between agriculture and the environment, the development of best management practices, and stepped-up action on environmental priorities on farms through agri-environmental scans and environmental farm plans.

Among the goals being considered for environment are:

- to reduce water contamination from nutrients, pathogens and pesticides;
- to reduce agricultural risks to soil health and reduce soil erosion;
- to reduce particulate emissions, odours and greenhouse gases;
- to ensure compatibility between biodiversity and agriculture.

⁴ an undated AAFC News Release Backgrounder "Overview of the Agricultural Policy Framework" and "Overview of the Agricultural Policy Framework."

Renewal

As agriculture is knowledge intensive, producers are increasingly engaging in continuous learning to keep pace with change. Renewal efforts include enhanced public and private business management and consulting services, management and marketing information to assist farmers to enhance their profitability, and networks to better link scientific advances to the creation of new economic opportunities.

Among the goals being considered for renewal are:

- to enable beginning farmers to acquire the skills and expertise to manage their business and adapt to evolving consumer preferences and new scientific advances;
- to engage farmers in the continuous upgrading of the skills needed to farm in an evolving sector;
- to provide farmers with the strategic management skills they need to make their farms as profitable as possible; and
- to provide farmers with access to a wide range of choices to enhance their future quality of life.

Food Safety, Food Quality

Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector enjoys a global reputation for consistently delivering safe, high-quality food. Many players in the industry are already moving to adopt systems that will offer documented evidence of safety and quality to meet consumer demands. The APF will help industry develop these systems to trace their products through the entire food chain to consumers and expand food safety and quality monitoring at the production level. The food safety surveillance and information systems that governments currently have in place would be strengthened.

Among the goals being considered for food safety and food quality are:

- to adopt recognized food safety and quality systems throughout the food continuum
- to put in place comprehensive tracking and tracing systems throughout the food continuum in order to increase our capacity for targeted, effective responses to potential disease or contamination outbreaks
- to meet consumer preferences and commercial requirements
- to share critical food safety and surveillance information among governments.

Science and Innovation

Advances in science and technology have long been part of the success of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector and one of the goals of the APF is to make the sector the world leader in innovation. The APF emphasizes the coordination of research and innovation efforts across governments, the sector and private research institutions to achieve maximum return on investments in the key areas of food safety, the environment and innovative production.

Among the goals being considered for science and innovation are:

- research and development in environment, food safety and food quality, renewal and risk management;
- the adoption of new economic opportunities generated from innovative agriculturally-based products; and
- collaboration and coordination across market, policy and scientific disciplines, among research organizations, and throughout the agri-food production and processing chain.

Farm women analyze the APF

While they noted that there are changes in the wording of the pillars of the APF, farm women stressed that the APF is “more of the same.” Like past policies, it does not address issues related to quality of rural life, rural communities and rural culture. When women compared their vision of an inclusive agricultural policy with the APF, they found very little in common. They pointed to five major flaws:

1. **The APF does not address the root cause of the farm income crisis – the cost-price squeeze.**
2. **The APF does not address farmer-friendly production and marketing structures and does not include or address domestic food policy.**
3. **The APF does not provide adequate farm safety nets.**
4. **The APF takes a far too narrow approach to environmental and food safety/quality issues.**
5. **The APF does not take a holistic view of rural communities or food production and consumption, and separates agriculture from everything else in a very piecemeal fashion.**

Farm women argued that the APF will benefit neither their farms nor their communities because it does not respond to the needs of small or medium farmers, address farm size or promote expansion of farmer-friendly marketing mechanisms. In fact, the policy will do great harm to farm families and their communities. There will be:

- Larger, more industrialized farms, fewer neighbours, loss of community, loss of rural tax-base and therefore, of services and infrastructure, more driving time, more stress and family break-ups;
- Continued corporatization and consolidation in the food chain thus further reducing farmers' market power;
- Greater dependency on expensive technological solutions;
- Tighter cost-price squeeze, more financial insecurity and more debt due to lack of market mechanisms that would improve commodity pricing or increase the farmer's share of consumer dollars;
- Government programs (like CAISP) that continue to favour the largest operators;
- Increased need for off-farm income;
- Greater on-farm responsibility for and cost of implementing food safety/quality and environmental programs, for which farmers will not be compensated;
- More on-farm work, especially paperwork;
- Increasing threat to the environment and to human and animal health from chemicals and animal wastes.

Farm women's vision of an inclusive agricultural policy

To begin with, women want structures, processes and mechanisms to ensure that their needs, concerns and interests and those of youth, are heard and responded to, and are given equal weight in policy development. Thus, an inclusive agricultural policy must address social and cultural as well as economic needs. Workshop participants argued that a gender-inclusive, family farm-friendly agricultural policy must:

- strengthen the voices of farm families;
- be a practical policy process that starts with farmers' needs;
- respect farmers by acknowledging farming as a full time profession/occupation;
- be accountable and responsive to farmers;
- centre on fair trade not free trade, and benefit farmers;
- solve the financial crisis and provide long-term economic, environmental and social stability;
- provide mechanisms to support and enhance the quality of life in rural communities;
- ensure that both food and the environment are safe and healthy;
- educate consumers about the contributions that farms and farmers make to society;
- bridge the rural/urban divide.

Elements of an inclusive agricultural policy

Women's vision for agricultural policy rests on four pillars: **Financial Stability (Fig. 4)**; **Domestic Food Policy (Fig. 5)**; **Safe, Healthy Food and Environment (Fig.7)**; and **Strengthen Social and Community Infrastructure (Fig. 6)**. It is important to note that these pillars are holistic and women do not separate them; all are essential to the integrity of their agricultural policy. Nor can elements of the policy goals and strategies of each pillar be isolated from the whole without threatening its overarching strength and wisdom.

Farm financial stability

Just as the farm financial crisis is at the core of women's concerns about agriculture, farm financial stability is at the core of a gendered agricultural policy. Key requisites of that stability are fair pricing, family farm-friendly production and marketing structures and limitations on corporatization. Overwhelmingly, farm women prefer to make a living from production-generated fair income rather than from various government support programs.

Figure 4 highlights policy directions and programs that women believed would make farming more economically sustainable by ensuring a secure, stable income for producing quality food and increasing farmers' market power in the food chain.

Domestic food policy

Farm women see the need to include a domestic food policy in Canadian agricultural policy. Such a policy would enable Canadian governments, consumers and farmers to construct a food system of the highest possible quality – one that, because it operates at a smaller and more local scale, will provide food that is safer and healthier in ways that have less impact on the environment. Moreover, smaller, more local and domestic agri-food businesses will enable fairer distribution of benefits arising from agricultural trade. Figure 5 summarizes policy goals and strategies that farm women identified as necessary for a domestic food policy.

Figure 4. Policy goals and strategies that farm women identified as contributing to family farmer-friendly government policy.

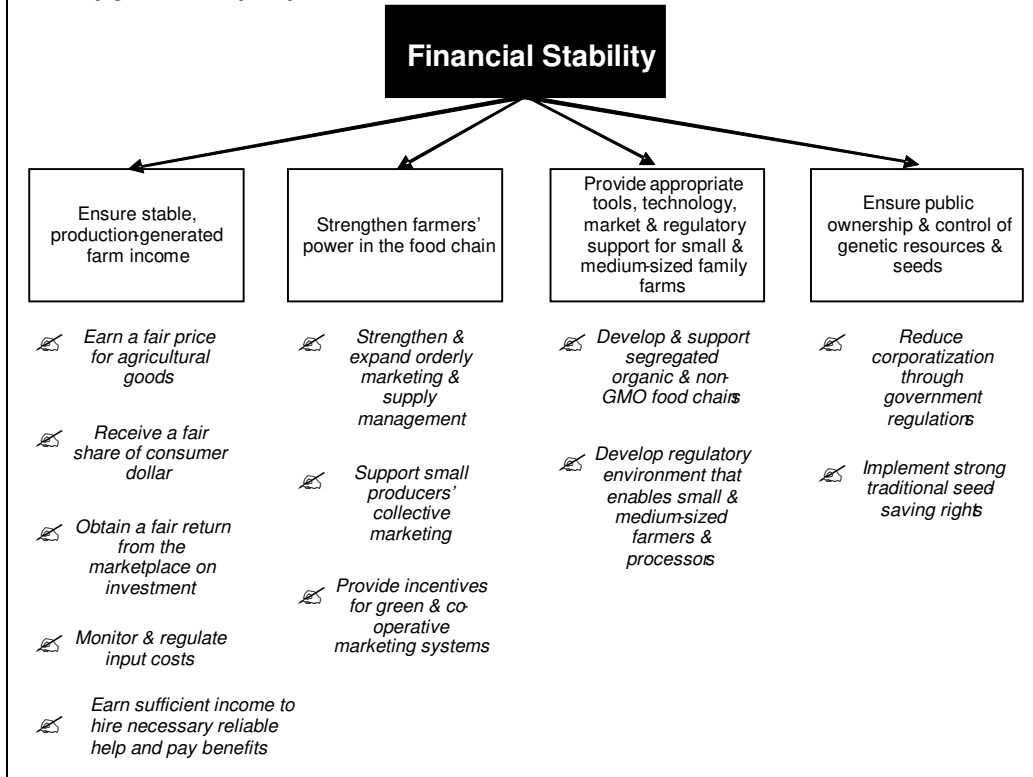
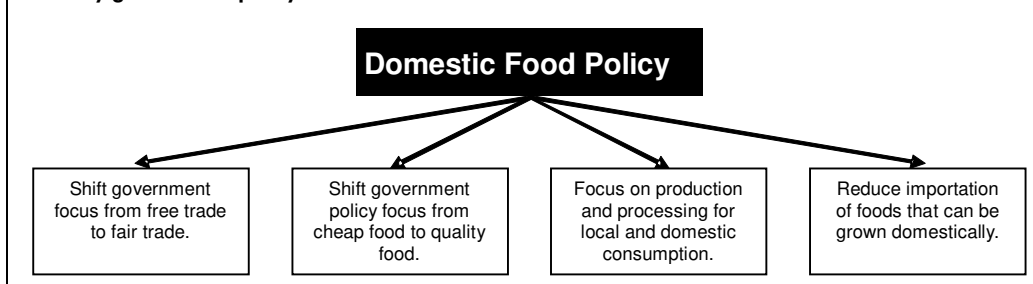


Figure 5. Policy goals and strategies that farm women identified as contributing to family farmer-friendly government policy.



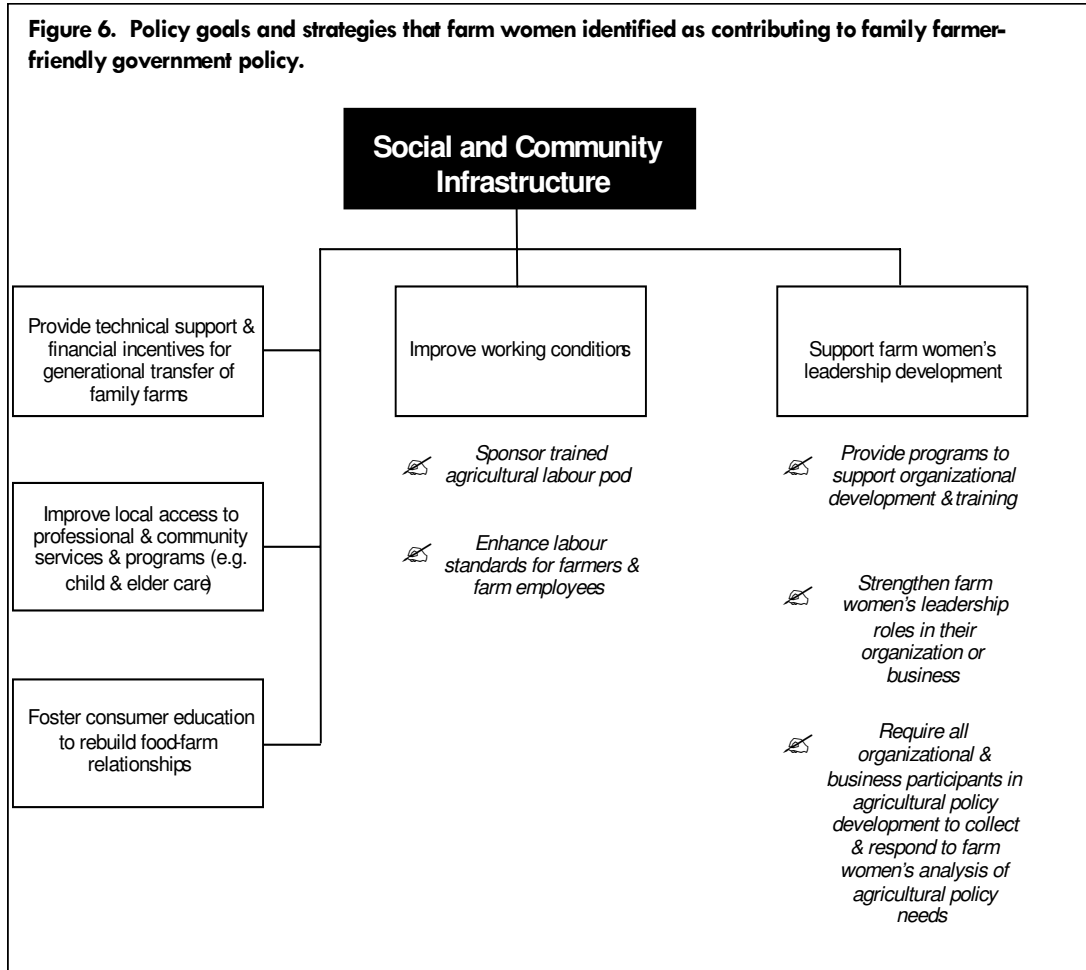
Social and community infrastructure

Farm women see the depopulation and decline of rural communities as a consequence of narrowly focused, long-term government policy directions, and believe that agricultural policy must be holistic, giving equal weight to economic, social and cultural aspects of rural communities. Thus, the economics of farming and the community of

farming are inextricable –agricultural policy goes far beyond just economics.

Like an agricultural policy that addresses only economic issues, an agricultural policy that excludes women's voices and their concerns is only half complete. Moreover, as urbanization widens the gap between food production and consumption, there is a loss of

Figure 6. Policy goals and strategies that farm women identified as contributing to family farmer-friendly government policy.



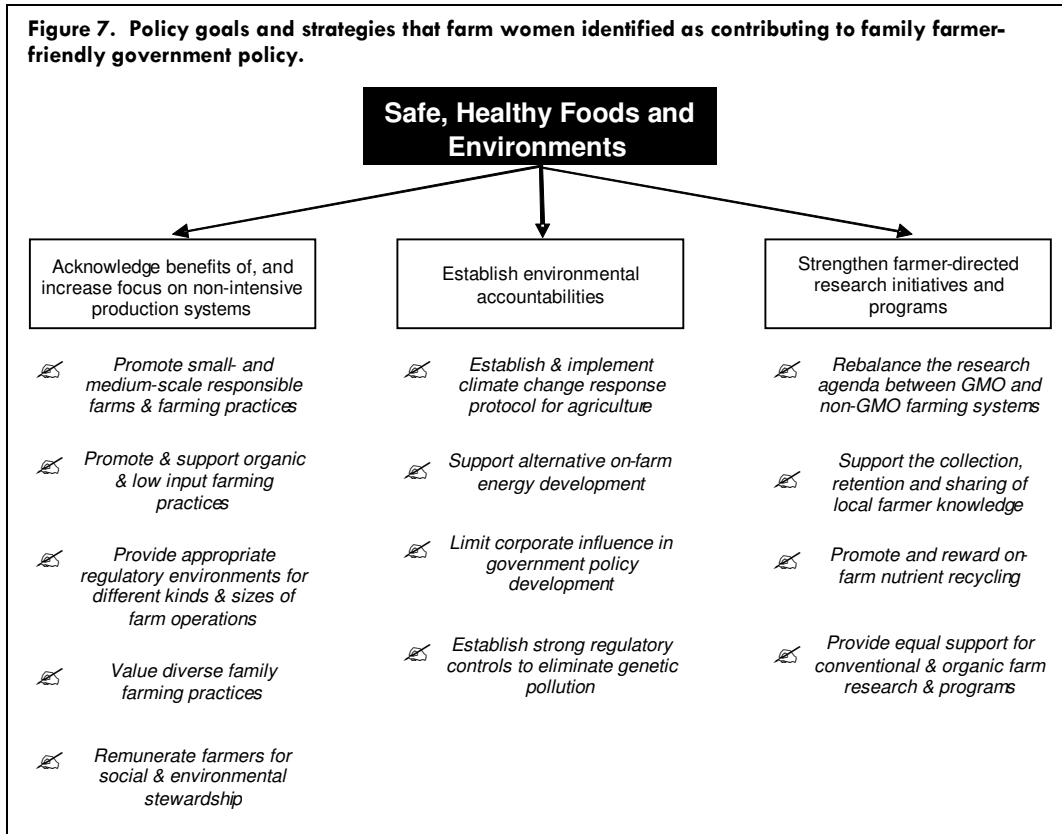
understanding about the critical role that farmers play in the food chain. Farm women want government policy to foster consumer education to rebuild and strengthen food-farm relationships. Figure 6 compiles the policy directions and content that farm women identify as supporting quality of life in rural communities.

Safe, healthy food and environments

Farm women's holistic Canadian agricultural policy equally addresses economic, social, cultural and environmental needs. Since women are

deeply connected to the land, their vision for agricultural policy is grounded in a respectful relationship with the environment and their neighbours. Safer food is seen as a product of smaller, diverse and less intensive farming operations requiring size-appropriate regulation, and using alternative energy sources and on-farm nutrient cycling. Agricultural policy must respect, protect and fulfill environmental human rights, and thus hold citizens, governments and corporations accountable for their actions (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Policy goals and strategies that farm women identified as contributing to family farmer-friendly government policy.



The agricultural policy that farm women envision is grounded in their daily life experiences. It responds to the needs of their families and their communities, and addresses social, cultural and environmental aspects of life and community, as well as economic well-being. Women's vision for Canadian agricultural policy attends to the central roles that health and environment play in sustaining any future. While current agricultural policy talks about increasing production for export, women talk about increasing prices for the product

they already produce for local and domestic markets. As primary producers in a multi-billion dollar sector, farmers want a fair share of the consumer dollar. Women want the needs of farming families and their rural communities to play as important a role in determining agricultural policy as do corporate needs. To make those changes, women must be present at all levels of policy-making, and their concerns and needs given equal weight to those of others.

Policy recommendations for developing an inclusive Canadian agricultural policy

Participation of Farm Women

1. That AAFC, in conjunction with farm women's organizations and existing farm organizations with structures to promote women's participation and representation:

- Require all input to agricultural policy development processes to identify and address gender issues and impacts.
- Build a policy development process that, within four years, includes and responds equally and equitably to farm women's needs and vision for agricultural policy.
- Ensure that all AAFC staff receive gender-sensitivity training and that training is updated regularly.
- Provide funding to support the enactment of the federal plan by requiring that within four years, all farm organizations, commodity groups and businesses providing input to the development of agricultural policy develop and implement a strategy to achieve gender equality and equity in organizational structure and policy content. To qualify for funding support to achieve this goal, organizations will need to develop and enact strategies and policies that substantially increase women's participation and leadership in the organization.

Policy Development Process

2. That AAFC, with existing farm women's and farm organizations:

- Undertake a community-based participatory process to develop an inclusive farmer-friendly

agricultural policy development process.

- Negotiate a realistic time line for developing agricultural policy, one that respects the seasonality of farming, the competing priorities that farmers must balance (e.g., off-farm employment) and the very limited finances farmers have to fund lobbying efforts on their behalf.
- Provide farm and farm women's organizations with that time line.
- Ensure that any changes in the time line are renegotiated at least six months in advance of the original time.

Farmer Participation in the Definition of Policy Goals

3. That AAFC, with existing farm women's and farm organizations:

- Use community-based processes to define the goals and objectives that farmers and rural communities want a gendered Canadian food and agriculture policy to achieve.
- Develop mechanisms to share these goals and objectives with other governments and government departments whose initiatives operate in or affect rural communities.
- Engage in a grass-roots process to develop segregated marketing and distribution food chains.
- Research, define and implement size-appropriate regulatory requirements.

Ensure Fair Compensation for Production and Labour

4. That AAFC, with existing farm women's and farm organizations:
 - Research and define market strategies by which farmers can be fairly compensated for legitimate production costs, receive a fair return on investment and earn an income equivalent to that of urban families.
 - Develop mechanisms by which identified farmer-friendly market strategies can be implemented and expanded.
 - Track the distribution of consumer dollars in food prices by developing criteria defining what constitutes "fair distribution" of profit among players in the food chain, establishing consequences for non-compliance, implementing the plan and monitoring compliance, and disseminating results with the general public.
 - Define and determine what constitutes a fair price for particular farm inputs and whether farm input prices are fair.
 - Determine and monitor compliance, and implement consequences for unfair pricing.

Redistribute Power and Control

5. That AAFC, in consultation with existing farm women's and farm organizations:
 - Identify and act upon opportunities to increase fairness in international trade. One way of doing that is to support strongly farmer-friendly production and marketing structures in international trade negotiations, and encourage the development of similar strategies in other countries.

- In conjunction with existing national farmers' organizations, research and develop legislative and regulatory mechanisms to limit vertical integration in food-related industries, thereby increasing competition.
- Support the participation of existing farm organizations and movements in having a legitimate place, voice and influence in international forums where agricultural policies are discussed and decided.

Environmental Stewardship

6. That AAFC in conjunction with existing farm women's and farm organizations:
 - Establish research funding for existing farm and farm women's organizations to partner with academic researchers to investigate the comparative quality of food produced under different farming systems; calculate the real costs and benefits of small-scale, organic and conventional agriculture; determine the value of farmers' environmental stewardship and responsible production practices; investigate methods by which farmers can be fairly compensated for environmental stewardship and responsible production practices; select the most appropriate remuneration strategy and develop an implementation plan for remunerating farmers for environmental stewardship; and enact and monitor the plan.
 - Co-fund a plan to remunerate farmers for environmental stewardship, together with other federal departments and provinces.