

# THE CAPI CONNECTION

Elise Bigley | Editor

## Creating Prosperity from Chaos

Over one year ago, CAPI launched a research program under the theme "Creating Prosperity from Chaos." Initially, the chaos referred to disruptions in global trade, the sustainability of agri-food systems, and food security. Chaos took on a new meaning a year ago when the pandemic began, impacting health and wellbeing of all and bringing a chaotic "new normal" to our daily lives.

Full commentary continues on page 3

## Upcoming Events

**Trade and Climate Change**  
Virtual Conference | April 7th + 9th  
[Visit the conference website and register today!](#)

**The CAPI Big Solutions Forum**  
Webinar | May 20th  
Forum website and registration will open soon.

## What We're Reading

David Blandford studied how trade can either facilitate or impede climate change mitigation and adaptation through the use of various border measures. While both Canada and the U.S have set ambitious targets for reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 through their Climate Plans, there are major differences in approach that may lead to different impacts on trade and competitiveness. And while both countries have raised the possibility of using Border Carbon Adjustments (BCAs) to prevent carbon leakage to countries with less ambitious climate policies, the possibility that agricultural trade will not be covered leads to further challenges. Blandford argues that other border measures such as labelling and standards may be more effective methods of preventing carbon leakage.

Dr. Blandford will be discussing this work as a featured speaker at the upcoming joint CAPI-Farm Foundation Webinar on Trade and Climate Change on April 7 2021. [You can register here.](#)



## What's New at CAPI

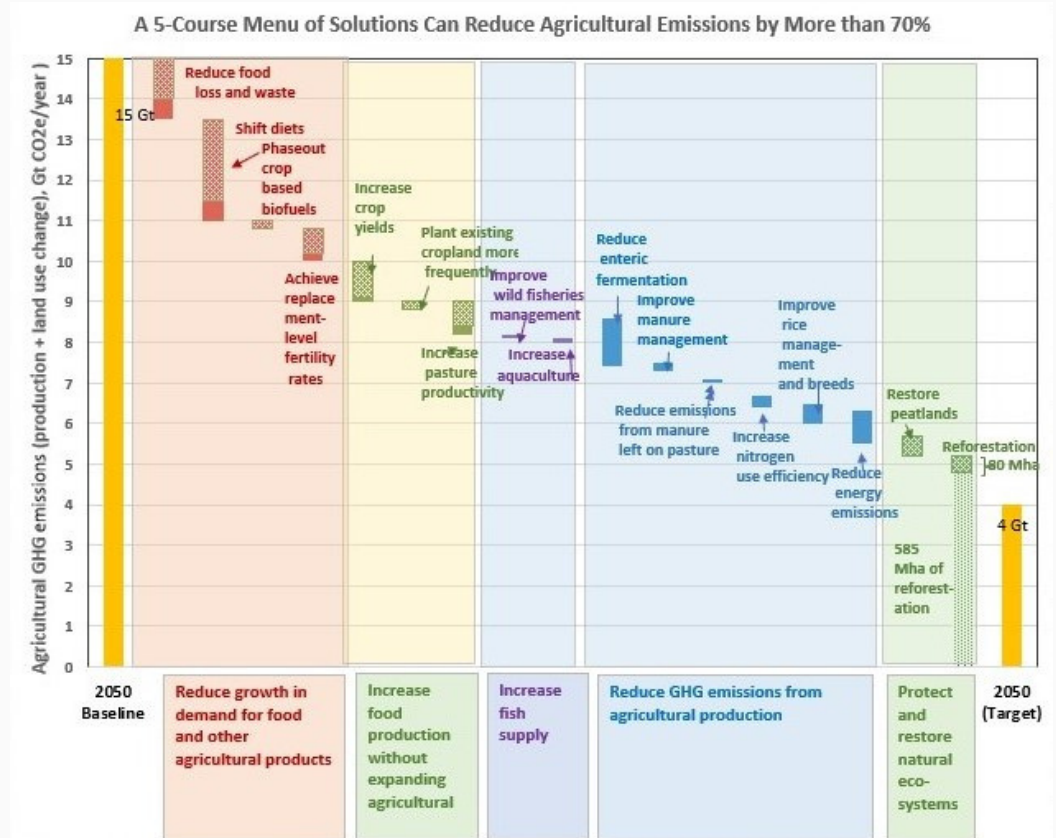
**The Feasibility of Small Local Meatpacking Plants in Canada**  
CAPI Report

**More and Better with Less: Sustainable Intensification in Agriculture**  
Webinar Recording

**The New Frontier: Investing, Sustainability and Value-Added**  
Webinar Recording

## One Great Graphic

The World Resources Institute (WRI) report on Sustainable Food Futures identifies five sets of actions to reduce the global agricultural emissions by more than 70% by 2050. This chart delineates the relative contribution of various actions that can be taken towards meeting the climate change objectives and highlights the role of innovation and improved practices for sustainable intensification which will be the key to feeding “the world without destroying it”. The CAPI Big Solutions Forum will provide a venue to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the Canadian agri-food sector in contributing to sustainable food production and global food security.



Note: Solid areas represent agricultural production emissions. Hatched areas represent emissions from land-use change.

Source: GlobAgri-WRR model. World Resources Institute (WRI).

<https://www.wri.org/publication/creating-sustainable-food-future>.

## Support CAPI

You can make a difference... Consider becoming a partner or supporter of our work through the Canadian Agri-Food Foundation, a registered charity. Your commitment is vital as it is urgent to intensify our efforts as agriculture and agri-food can be essential solution providers for the economy, environment, health, food and global security but creative policy changes are essential. [Click here](#) to learn more.

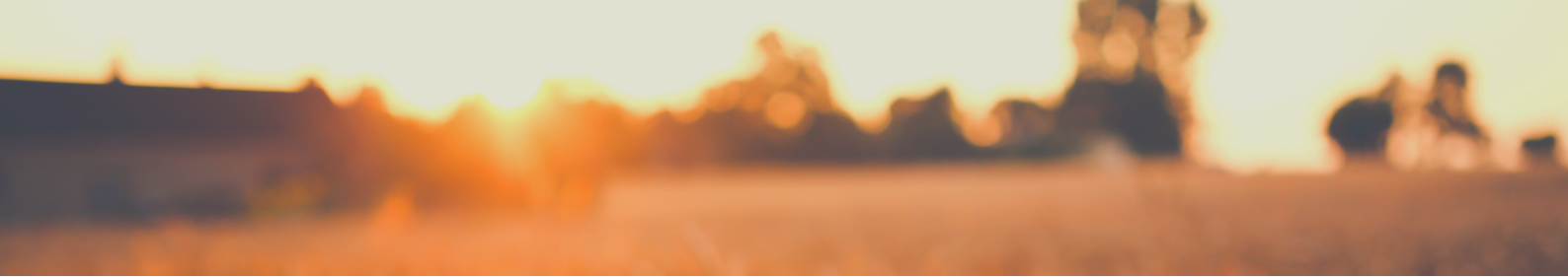
## CAPI Webinars Sponsor Spotlight



**FERTILIZER CANADA**  
**FERTILISANTS CANADA**

CAPI acknowledges the overall support of its many partners particularly Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

**Canada**



# Creating Prosperity from Chaos

continued from page 1

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One constant has been the need to create prosperity. Canada's agri-food system already contributes significantly to Canada's economic, environmental, and social objectives. For example, the system accounts for almost 7% of Canada's GDP, more than 12% of Canada's employment, more than \$74 billion in exports, stores on average 10 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year and is an essential source of food security in Canada and around the world. Research papers, dialogues, and webinars held by CAPI over the last 12 months have clearly indicated that Canada's agri-food system, while facing serious challenges, has a significant potential to contribute further to economic, environmental, and social outcomes for Canadians.

The Creating Prosperity from Chaos program will culminate in May 2021, when the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute hosts the Big Solutions Forum (BSF). The BSF will bring the learnings from CAPI's research program and webinars to animate a deliberate dialogue with a broad group of participants on potential strategies and solutions.

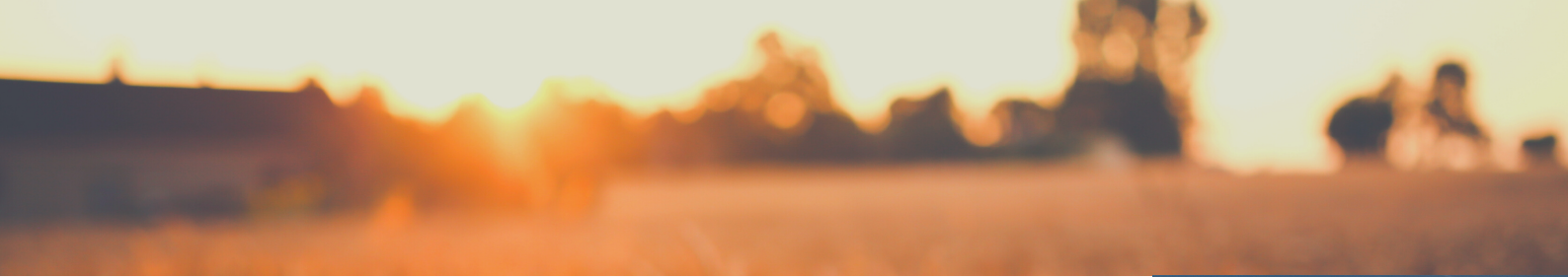
CAPI will share more details on the BSF in the weeks ahead, but before looking forward, it is essential to look back at the outcomes of the Creating Prosperity from Chaos program. The research program focused on four priority areas:

- (1) increased trade and international cooperation;
- (2) the development of green growth technologies/practices;
- (3) adding value to products and enhancing natural capital; and
- (4) improved efficiency and sustainable intensification in agriculture.

## (1) Prosperity through... increased trade and international cooperation

As part of its ongoing collaboration with the Foundation (FF), CAPI co-hosted a workshop and two webinars on trade and sustainability. CAPI also convened representatives from the sector, policy research community and government in a "conversation" on trade in a chaotic world and the role of trade in sustainable food production. This work led to recommendations which can be found along with a Synthesis Report and recorded webinars on CAPI's website.

CAPI and the FF will co-host the virtual conference on "Trade and Climate Change" in April 2021. The conference will explore topics including climate change policies and their impacts on agricultural production and trade and how various industry players are adapting to new policies through opportunities like carbon markets and emission trading, sustainable sourcing, and investments.



(2) Prosperity through... the development of green growth technologies/practices  
CAPI and the Arrell Food Institute (AFI) investigated how Canada can build a more resilient agri-food system under the Growing Stronger project. CAPI hosted two additional dialogues. The first dialogue focused on potential green innovations and demand for green agri-food products. A second dialogue addressed how local food can coexist with food produced to deliver food autonomy and fit into the green growth paradigm. The final report of the Growing Stronger partnership is published on the CAPI website.

(3) Prosperity through... adding value to products and enhancing natural capital  
In February 2020, CAPI released a snapshot of current trends in agri-food processing, building off a landmark processed food sector research program from 2013/2014. Building off this work, CAPI has undertaken several initiatives on how to create prosperity through adding value and enhancing natural capital.

CAPI commissioned a research paper and held a Dialogue on whether Canada's meatpacking industry would have been more resilient during COVID if there were smaller, regionally dispersed meatpacking plants across Canada.

To better understand the challenges to increasing value-added investing in Canada and the potential benefits of green growth and ESG investing, CAPI held a webinar in February 2021.

(4) Prosperity through... improved efficiency and sustainable intensification in agriculture & conserving natural capital  
Finally, CAPI looked at how achieving sustainability and profitability will require increasing the efficient use of natural resources. The World Resources Institute (WRI) report on Sustainable Food Futures identifies how to feed a growing population without "increasing emissions, fueling deforestation or exacerbating poverty."

CAPI held two webinars focusing on sustainable intensification in March 2021. The first webinar focused on the science of sustainable intensification, including a presentation by Dr. Tim Searchinger, lead author of the WRI report. The second webinar brought leaders together to talk about how sustainable intensification is changing the business of agriculture.

CAPI looks forward to sharing more information on the BSF with you in next month's newsletter and then sharing the results at the end of May. If you are interested in learning more about the BSF and how you can get involved please contact Elise Bigley at [bigleye@capi-icpa.ca](mailto:bigleye@capi-icpa.ca).

Tyler McCann, Chief Engagement Officer

