



PLAN Policy Network - Meeting Summary

Date: September 18, 2024

Key Information:

The first meeting of the Policies for Land Use, Agriculture, and Nature (PLAN) Policy Network, organized by CAPI on September 18, successfully brought together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders focused on improving Canada's agricultural and land use policies.

During the session, participants engaged deeply with three main questions aimed at understanding and addressing the complex balance between agricultural productivity, land preservation, and biodiversity conservation:

1. What is the most pressing challenge? Members across different provinces shared their local concerns. For example, a British Columbia participant discussed the high cost of land, which makes farming financially unfeasible, leading to increased sales of agricultural land for development. An Alberta member expressed worries about how renewable energy projects might be displacing traditional agriculture.
2. How do these challenges impact your work or community? The economic pressures of land use emerged as a common theme. The need for profitable farming operations versus conservation efforts represents a critical tension, affecting decisions on the ground. This economic drive, participants agreed, is shaping the landscape of Canadian agriculture, often at the expense of long-term sustainability.
3. What solutions or improvements are most needed? There was a consensus that while existing tools for managing land use and agricultural practices are in place, they lack the robustness and flexibility required to address the nuanced needs of different regions effectively. Participants stressed the necessity for a clearer vision from the federal government, emphasizing that recognizing agriculture as a critical component of national security and economic stability is overdue.

The meeting highlighted the PLAN Policy Network's role as a key forum for voices across the agriculture sector to come together, sharing insights and forging pathways forward.