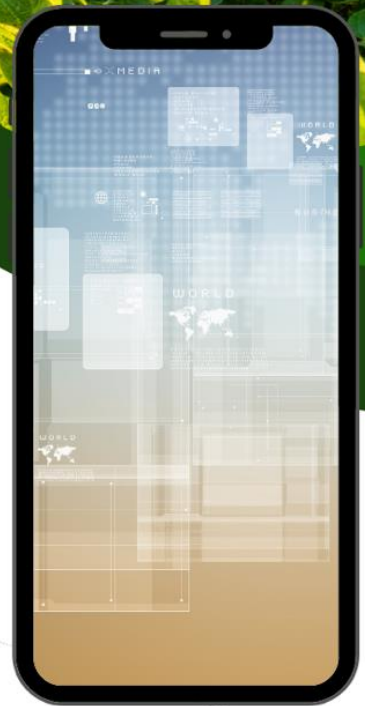




Digital Agri-Food Policy Forum





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Objective

The CAPI & EMILI **Digital Agri-Food Policy Forum** will convene a group of leaders from across Canada's agri-food ecosystem to discuss shared challenges, exchange perspectives, and identify practical opportunities to advance digital agriculture. The intent is not to develop a prescriptive strategy, but to create a **focused space for informed, solution-oriented discussion that can help move the needle on persistent barriers.**

CAPI's role is grounded in its longstanding convening function and its position as a trusted, neutral voice. EMILI is a not for profit that works with various stakeholders to increase the development and adoption of new and emerging on-farm technologies. Through research and engagement, particularly our [2025](#) and [2026](#) Digital Agri-food Reports, we have observed a highly fragmented landscape with limited opportunities for cross-sector dialogue at a national level. This Forum is designed to address that gap by **bringing together actors who do not typically sit at the same table, and by enabling more coherent conversations across the system.**

The Forum will be established for a defined period, with a clear scope and set of activities. Future work emerging from these discussions will be determined collectively by participating organizations.

Outcome / Measure of Success

Success will be reflected in the extent to which the Network is able to:

- establish a clearer, shared understanding of key challenges and opportunities in digital agriculture;
- foster alignment, or at minimum informed dialogue, across a diverse set of actors;
- strengthen relationships and connections that enable more coordinated action and advocacy; and
- generate practical insights that can inform policy discussions and decision-making.

Dissemination

While monthly discussions are convened within a small group (the Forum) to enable depth, key insights will be translated into shareable outputs and mobilized to inform broader policy and system-level decision making. This could include and is not limited to: monthly policy briefs, annual reports, webinars, in-person events.

Meeting Structure

The Network will meet monthly. Each session will begin with a short expert briefing (approximately 30 minutes, including Q&A) to establish a shared understanding of the topic, followed by a moderated discussion among members to identify challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions.

Participation will be limited to **20 participants** to enable meaningful dialogue and exchange.

There is the opportunity for an in-person meeting in Ottawa in September 2026. Participants are asked to cover their own travel expenses where possible.

Proposed Session Topics

Meeting 1 – Introduction & Roadmap (June 2026)

- Participant introductions
- Overview of the purpose and objectives of the Network
- Discussion of the key themes shaping digital agriculture in Canada
- Overview of advocacy priorities and gaps

Meeting 2 – Facilitating a coordinated national network of commercial validation infrastructure to de-risk adoption.

- Framing the adoption challenge and opportunity in digital agriculture
- The role of demonstration sites and proving return on investment for producers
- Perspectives from organizations working directly in this space (e.g., EMILI, CFIN, CAAIN) on what has worked and where gaps remain

Meeting 3 – Reviewing growth-stage financing tools that reflect agri-food.

- Understanding the agri-food tech startup ecosystem in Canada
- Investment dynamics and barriers to scale
- Why some Canadian startups relocate abroad
- Strategies for retaining innovation and intellectual property in Canada

Meeting 4 – Faster and more predictable commercialization decisions through regulation?

- The relationship between regulatory frameworks and investment decisions
- Identifying where could regulation speed up to accommodate investment?
- Perspectives from both industry and regulators

Meeting 5 – Food Tech Focus

- Ensuring that digital innovation strategies address both the farm and food manufacturing segments
- Unique opportunities and challenges in food technology adoption

Meeting 6 – Spurring Investment

- Increasing investor awareness and understanding of opportunities in agri-food technology
- Perspectives from investors active in the sector, as well as those who have not yet invested
- Exploring both the “why” and “why not” behind investment decisions

Meeting 7 – Data Governance & Interoperability

- The importance of interoperability (AGCO Perspective)
- Best practices and emerging approaches, including academic insights (e.g., University of Guelph, PEI Federation of Agriculture)

Meeting 8 – Canadian Case Studies

- Lessons from other sectors navigating similar challenges
- Case study: data governance in Canadian healthcare
 - Insights from the Pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy
- Cybersecurity considerations and safeguards

Meeting 9 – The Role of Government

- Reflecting on the themes discussed to date
- Identifying the appropriate role of public policy in enabling innovation, investment, and adoption

Meeting 10 – Lessons from Other Jurisdictions

- International perspectives and examples
- Case study: Australia's approach to digital agriculture and innovation

Meeting 11 – Summary of progress & review of action items

- Summarizing work done to-date
- Reviewing identified action items or areas of future work
- Participant feedback and refinement

Meeting 12 – Final Recommendations & Next Steps

- Identifying opportunities for collaboration, advocacy, and implementation
- Framing the narrative positively and Canada's potential to attract investment in digital agriculture
- Potential for interface with public policy makers