



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



The Agriculture Sector

The Drought Research Initiative

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)

Canada

The Drought Research Initiative (DRI) and Agriculture

- The agriculture and agri-food sector is a key contributor to Canada's economy
- AAFC created the **Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)** to help address environmental priorities in a more effective and efficient manner
- Drought affects agricultural production
 - ~230,000 farmers manage over 167 million acres (67.6 million ha) of agricultural land
- Improved knowledge of drought (drivers, monitoring, impacts, adaptation options) important to the sector

Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB)

- **A new Branch of AAFC bringing expertise and innovative environmental solutions to the sector**



- **Science-based** with integrated technical, professional and practical expertise
- Focused on finding **regionally-relevant solutions** for national priorities
- **Working with partners** in a strategic and collaborative manner

AESB: Business Lines

- ***Agri-Environmental Innovations and Solutions***
- ***Agri-Environmental Knowledge & Decision Support***
 - Identify key environmental challenges and opportunities
 - Develop policy that aligns with national environmental priorities
 - Provide information and decision-support tools for clients and partners
 - Provide knowledge and information on natural resource management issues
- ***Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Practices***
 - Investigate and demonstrate agri-environmental practices
 - Raise awareness and share information on beneficial management practices
 - Support agri-environmental risk assessment and planning

Some Benefits of DRI

- **Sound science to inform** policy discussions and development (i.e. data and analyses) and for decision-support tools
- **Communication network** of knowledge and information between researchers and various interests (e.g. agriculture, hydro, water resources management) and regions
- Improved **forecasting** of potential drought (teleconnections analysis; Drought Early Warning System)
- Increase sector's **capacity** on drought-related environmental issues



Thank you