

Ag Matters

November 13, 2025



APAS Highlights Urgent Need for Rail System Protections in Senate Committee



On November 5, APAS highlighted the consequences of labor disruptions on the agricultural sector and urged for essential changes at a Senate Committee meeting.

L- APAS VP, Chris Procyk

Chris Procyk, Vice President of APAS, addressed the importance of uninterrupted rail and port services for Saskatchewan farmers who rely on them as the primary method to transport grain to global markets.

Financial Fallout and Proposed Solutions

Labor disruptions lead to a halt in revenue for farmers, who are paid only upon grain delivery. Procyk cited personal hardships faced during the 2024 labor disturbance, including interest costs and service delays that place the financial burden on farmers and tarnish Canada's agricultural reliability globally.

To prevent such impacts, APAS proposed:

1. Expanding the definition of essential services to include grain transportation.
2. Extending Labour Code protections to cover the entire grain transit process.
3. Accelerating the government's response time to labor disputes.

The conversation with the committee extended to defining "economic harm" more clearly and enhancing government intervention measures. As alternatives to rail are limited, APAS advocated for more robust tools to ensure the agricultural economy's movement, including quicker, more informed interventions by the Canada Industrial Relations Board.

APAS's testimony at the Senate Committee painted a clear picture of the challenges faced by farmers due to rail disruptions and outlined necessary legislative updates to protect one of Canada's vital industries.

[Watch the Senate Committee](#)

A Case for Broadening APP's \$500,000 Interest-Free Loan

The government's decision to enhance the Advanced Payment Program (APP) to \$500,000 interest-free loan exclusively for canola producers was a strategic step.

However, this decision brings to light a pivotal question: Why should such financial support be limited solely to one type of crop when the agricultural sector encompasses a diverse array of commodities, each with its own set of challenges—including rising input costs and low prices that are not limited to canola alone?

Canadian agriculture thrives on diversity, and our international trade relations depend on a variety of commodities. By offering the same level of APP support to all products, Canada can reinforce its competitive edge on the global stage. This comprehensive approach would ensure that no sector of the agriculture market is disadvantaged, making the market overall more resilient.

Limiting the APP enhancement to canola alone does not take into full account the diverse and interconnected nature of Canadian agriculture. As input costs continue to soar and market dynamics evolve, extending support across agriculture is not just beneficial but necessary. Such inclusivity in policy-making will strengthen the entire agricultural sector, ensuring sustainability and prosperity for all Canadian farmers. Every ag product matters and broad policy support will enable farmers to manage their production systems most effectively.

Canadian Grain Commission - Trade Memo

Darkened Kernels in Canada Western Amber Durum

Attention farmers - do you produce amber durum? If yes, you need to know this.

Effective immediately, darkened kernels are now to be considered as smudge, and not severe midge damage. The Official Grain Grading Guide will reference this trade memo to ensure this direction is consistently applied.



Sound Kernels



Darkened Kernels

What does this mean?

That durum that was previously graded but not delivered to an elevator will be eligible to be graded under the new standards.

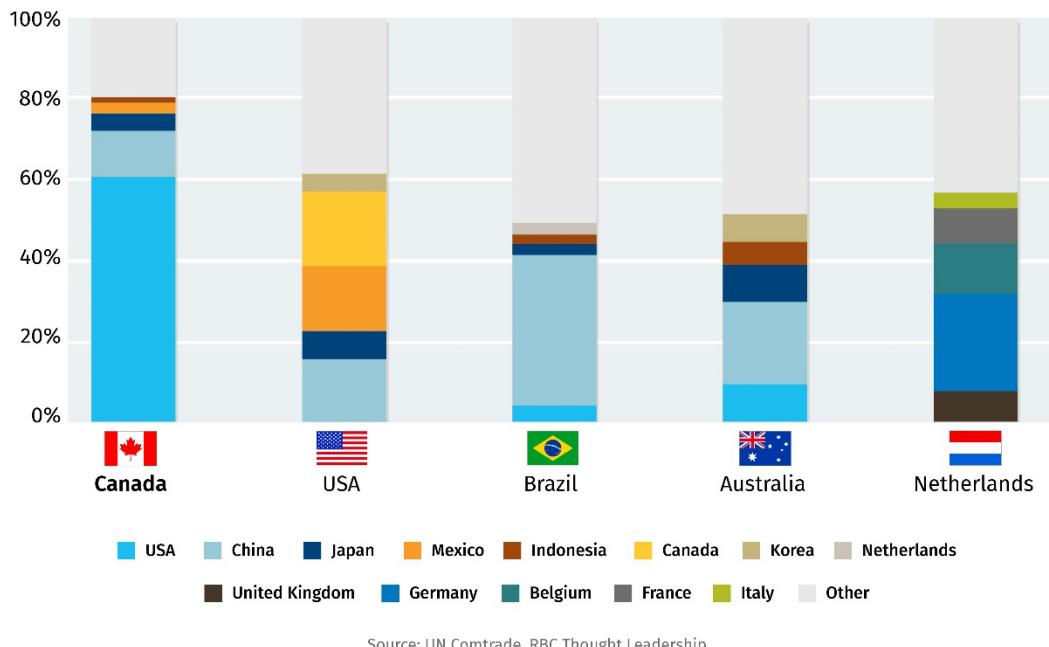
[Read the CGC Trade Memo](#)

Food First: How Agriculture can Lead a New Era of Canadian Exports by RBC

A RBC report says that the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sectors have transformed into significant drivers of exports, generating \$100 billion annually. The U.S. is the largest importer, accounting for nearly 60% of this trade. Over the past 20 years, Canada has become a leading supplier of products like canola, potash, and processed foods to America, supported by major investments in agri-food processing and export capacities. The agri-food industry has become Canada's largest manufacturing revenue source, with export values having quadrupled since 2000.

Canada's exports are less diverse compared to key competitors

Select top exporters and the distribution of their top 5 agri-food export destinations



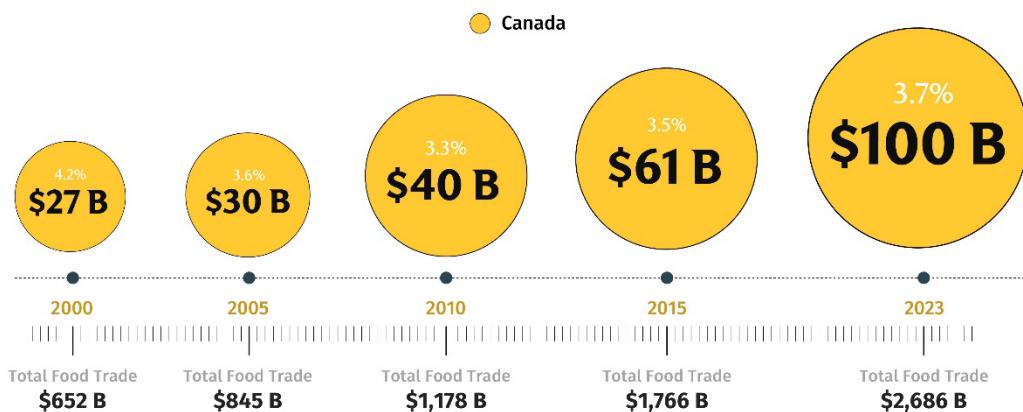
Source: UN Comtrade, RBC Thought Leadership

However, Canada faces increasing challenges.

1. Dependence on the U.S. Market - the strong reliance on the U.S. makes Canadian agriculture vulnerable to tariffs and trade conflicts. If tariffs are applied, Canada risks losing its position as a low-cost exporter.
2. Declining Global Competitiveness - Canada, once a leader in agriculture exports, has slipped from 5th to 7th globally, overtaken by competitors like China and Brazil. Export market share has dropped by 12% since 2000, leading to \$23 billion in forgone export value in 2023.
3. Rising Competition - countries like Brazil, Ecuador, and Australia are aggressively expanding their presence in high-growth markets, particularly Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, regions where Canada has traditionally competed.

Canada grows in value, but market share falls

Canada's agriculture and agri-food market share and export value



Source: UN Comtrade, BCG, RBC Thought Leadership

The report also identifies strategies to reclaim and expand Canada's export share.

1. Leverage Existing Trade Agreements - Canada has 15 free trade agreements covering two-thirds of the global economy. Agreements like CETA (Canada-European Union Trade Agreement) and others in Asia and Latin America provide opportunities to grow exports through reduced tariffs.
2. Expand in New Growth Markets - Southeast and South Asia, driven by rising consumer spending, present high-value export opportunities. Strategic trade partnerships can position Canada in these fast-growing regions.
3. Strengthen Food Diplomacy - maintaining relationships with current markets while growing ties with new allies can boost global competitiveness.

By pursuing these strategies, Canada's agriculture export share could grow by 30% by 2035, adding \$44 billion to the sector.

[Read RBC's Report](#)

APAS in the News

[Tariffs and Peas - BNN Bloomberg, November 8](#)

[Federal Budget - Farms.com November 5](#)

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