



CRI

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

Regulators' Capacity Fund

Barriers to Domestic Red Meat Trade

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Lead Organization:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

Timeline:

Jan 2022 – Mar 2022

Funding:

\$25,000

ABOUT THE RCF

The CRI's Regulators' Capacity Fund empowers federal regulators to better consider economic, competitiveness, and resilience factors in regulatory design and implementation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project analyzed regulatory and non-regulatory barriers to domestic red meat trade in Canada. It provided a comprehensive overview of federal and provincial inspection systems and system views. It complements the international study, together informing improvements to Canada's interprovincial meat trade framework.

The Challenge:

The trade of red meat between provinces is hindered by differences in federal and provincial meat inspection standards and regulations. These barriers limit market access and competitiveness for some producers and processors.

The Approach:

AAFC conducted an in-depth analysis of the policy and market context for federal and provincial meat inspection and interprovincial trade. Stakeholder consultations provided insights into the advantages and disadvantages of federal vs. provincial standards and barriers to adopting federal standards. The project identified potential pathways to facilitate interprovincial trade, considering the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations and other international practices.

The Impact:

The project confirmed existing challenges and highlighted potential pathways for enhancing domestic trade of red meat. The findings supported federal government efforts to communicate and address these challenges, providing a foundation for further work to understand the implications on international trade and the readiness of different provinces to move forward.

Lessons Learned:

Complexity: There is variation in provincial standards and inspection, and also deviation between each province's standards/inspection versus federal

National Standard: Canada requires a national standard for meat regulation (*Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*) as a basis for functional international trade. The most promising pathway to facilitate greater interprovincial trade in red meats is through conversion of provincially inspected establishments to a federal standard.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging stakeholders ensures comprehensive analysis and practical recommendations.

Future Work: Further work is needed to better understand scope and scale of differences between provincial standards and inspections and the federal system.

This project demonstrates the importance of comprehensive analysis and stakeholder engagement in addressing complex regulatory challenges to enhance domestic trade and competitiveness.