



Harvesting success internationally: Ontario Food Cluster

As the global market hungers for reliable sources of high-quality food at competitive prices, the [Ontario Food Cluster](#) welcomes international investments to its growing cluster of 2,500 food and beverage companies. With manufacturing revenue approaching \$34 billion, these companies harvest success from within Canada's largest pool of agri-food talent, in Ontario.

Canada is a growing market for food products, with retail sales expected to continue growing at an estimated CAGR of 4.6% between now and 2014. Ontario has 31.8% of Canada's supermarket and convenience/specialty food store market share - more than any other province.



Ontario Food Cluster cities are located within the purple region

Earlier this year, Ontario Food Cluster members attended ANUGA 2011, in Cologne, Germany and IFT11 Food Expo, in New Orleans, U.S.A. to "taste" trade and investment potential with over 150,000 global food industry executives.

The Ontario Food Cluster garnered national and international media attention at ANUGA 2011. The Globe and Mail's [Healthy Chocolate? Sweet!](#) and [Canada's food producers relish taste of success](#) as well as [Food & Beverage Asia's article](#), the Snapshot from [Foodnews New Zealand](#) and [Food in Canada Magazine's article](#) are some of the best.

You can read all the ANUGA 2011 and IFT11 coverage [at the Ontario Food Cluster news page](#).

A compelling choice for the global agri-food sector

A variety of factors converge to give the Ontario Food Cluster its competitive advantage in the agri-food sector. The province boasts rich agricultural lands that produce more than 200 agricultural commodities – a diversity unmatched in most parts of the world. The extensive transportation network in Ontario connects the province with markets in North America and around the globe. The Greater Toronto Area and south-western Ontario are within a two hour drive, or less, from most cities in the north-eastern U.S.

Ontario agri-food companies tap into a renewable resource of 5,200 annual graduates from 64 food-specific college and university programs. There are also more than 500 well-funded R&D experts working in Ontario's academic institutions, or in 132 research institutes, networks, and associations devoted to excellence in food production, processing and packaging.

Canada's Federal Government and the Government of Ontario both participate in creating agri-sector opportunity, and as Canada's food heartland, Ontario is a strong beneficiary of incentives. The federally funded, [Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program \(CAAP\) is one such program. Funding is \\$163 million over five years \(2009-2014\) to eligible projects. The program has the objective of facilitating the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector's ability to seize opportunities.](#)

[For more incentive programs of interest to innovative, agri-food and beverage companies, go to this page at the Ontario Food Cluster Web site.](#)

New Chair advances Ontario's sustainable food production

Following a year-long international search, [Loblaw Companies Limited \(Loblaw\) and the University of Guelph](#) appointed Professor Ralph Martin the Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production. A Canadian first, the chair position was made possible by a \$3-million gift from Loblaw, a subsidiary of George Weston Limited and Canada's largest food distributor.

Martin is leading the charge to meet increasing challenges in agriculture and food production systems. The Chair will also assemble a core of researchers in agri-food production, lead collaborations in public and private sectors, and serve as a resource for government agri-food policy development.

The healthy choice for expanding food industry companies

With its innovative research climate and easy access to ingredients and global markets, Ontario's agri-food industry is a leading North American hub for food production and processing. The province's expanding agri-food cluster includes internationally focused companies such as General Mills Canada, H.J. Heinz Company of Canada, Maple Leaf Foods, Kellogg Canada, Saputo, Dare Foods, Schneider Foods, Cargill Canada, George Weston Ltd. and Unilever.

Ontario is Canada's largest province by population, and the agriculture and agri-food sector is its number one employer. Approximately 110,000 people in Ontario work directly in agri-food processing/manufacturing, with another 100,000 workers in related sectors such as distribution, retail and food service. Ontario has a global reputation for food quality and sustainable sources of agricultural raw materials, state-of-the-art automated food processing methods, and world class food safety standards.

Visit the [Success Profiles](#) page at the Ontario Food Cluster website for more information.

Get to know the Ontario Food Cluster team

The [Ontario Food Cluster](#) travels the world presenting investment opportunities and team members are always available to discuss Ontario's agri-food business advantages. Please get in touch with [Barbara Maly](#), the Guelph member of the Ontario Food Cluster and the head of the organization for 2012, to set up a meeting.

More about the Ontario Food Cluster

A recent example of infrastructure momentum in the Ontario Food Cluster is the 60,000 square foot Institute of Food Processing Technology (IFPT) at Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, in Waterloo Region, created in partnership with the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors (AOFPP). The institute opened its doors in October 2011.

An example of innovation within the Ontario Food Cluster includes a technology developed at the University of Guelph for creating a more healthy chocolate bar with fat replacements that are completely metabolized and do not interfere with the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins.

Learn more about why the Ontario Food Cluster offers the ideal location to grow your company at

www.ontariofoodcluster.com



The Ontario Food Cluster represents major food producing regions

The Ontario Food Cluster includes the Greater Toronto Area, the City of Guelph and Waterloo Region. Partners include Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Ontario Food Cluster receives economic development expertise from the following organizations: the [Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance](#), [Canada's Technology Triangle \(Waterloo Region\)](#), and [Grow Guelph \(City of Guelph and University of Guelph\)](#). For contact information to any of these organizations, please see the [contact page at the Ontario Food Cluster Web site](#).



Top 10 reasons to invest in Ontario

- Stable, highly talented, motivated workforce
- Access to the North American market (NAFTA)
- Ontario is the economic engine of Canada
- World class research institutions
- Innovation leadership
- Superior infrastructure
- Business incentives
- Low risk business environment
- Openness to diversity / multiculturalism
- Quality of life

[Visit the Ontario Food Cluster.](#)