

Our strengths:

This network has many strengths including: extending soil conservation information to producers, assisting in the development of agriculture environmental policy, designing and delivering soil conservation programs, interacting with researchers and, public education initiatives associated with environmental agriculture issues.

Most recent success:

- 2000 – established a national “Taking Charge” (TC) network of producer associations
- 2000 – created a millennium art project
- 2001-05 – designed and delivered the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture (GHGMP)
- 2006 – delivered the program, Canadian Agricultural Producers Addressing Environmental Initiatives (CAPAEI)

Significant Achievements:

- **GHGMP & CAPAEI**– established (annually) over 400 BMP demonstrations, 200-250 field days, 300-400 meetings and workshops plus many factsheets, newsletters, news articles CDs etc. Each year from 2001 through 2006, between 40,000-50,000 producers attended events and received information on environmental agriculture BMPs.
- **TC Network** – has developed links and is working with other provincial conservation organizations, University Agriculture research, AAFC researchers, Industry and public.

Policy Development and Issue Positions: SCCC principles

Environmental Goods & Services

- Linked with other federal/provincial environmental initiatives.
- Based on sound science – how much does it help?
- Programs available to all producers so that all can participate.
- Be flexible so that they can apply regionally, provincially and federally.
- Determining value of service must be comprehensive and involve all stakeholders.
- First and foremost, EGS must protect resources. Secondly it should adequately compensate producers and landowners who provide the EGS.

Next Generation Ag Policy

- Outcomes that result from policies must be measurable.
- Need continuity between programs and between change of governments.
- Need to have national funding source available for proposals.
- National programs encouraging BMP adoption should be delivered by producer organizations.
- Producers must be involved in all phases of policy and program development.
- Policies need to have regional flexibility.
- Need on-going communication between stakeholders.
- Policies must involve adequate incentives to encourage BMP adoption.
- Must involve on-going research to develop innovation and quantify benefits.
- Adequately reward innovators and early adopters of new technology and BMPs.
- Need a carbon offset system that allows for broad-based participation from all producers who have helped create soil sinks.

The organizations represented on our board of directors currently include:

Producer Organizations

- Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA)
- Peace River Soil Conservation Association (PRSCA)
- Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS)
- Reduced Tillage Linkages – Alberta (RTL)
- Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA)
- Manitoba Zero Tillage Research Association (MZTRA)
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)
- Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAO)
- Club Action Semis Direct – Quebec
- New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association (NBSCIA)
- Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS)
- Prince Edward Island Soil and Crop Improvement Association (PEISCIA)
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture

Non-Government Organizations

- Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA)
- Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre (ECSWCC)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)

Industry

- Agricore United (Sask Wheat Pool)
- International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)

Government

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Manitoba Agriculture and Food (MAF)
- Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)

For more information on SCCC, our programs and policy positions please contact our head office:

Doug McKell, P.Ag.
Executive Director
Soil Conservation Council of Canada
Indian Head Research Farm
Box 234
Indian Head, SK
S0G 2K0
306-695-4212
email: info@soilcc.ca