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AUTHORS

Ohi Ahmed
Guillaume Lhermie

KEY MESSAGE

New trade, marketing, and infrastructure measures echo farmgate priorities but implementation and agriculture-specific targeting will determine impact.

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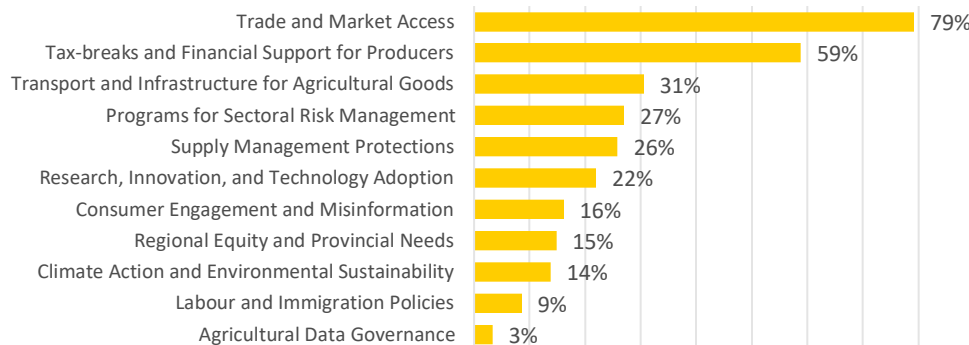
TRADING UP: BUDGET 2025 AND THE EMERGING ARCHITECTURE OF CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD MARKET ACCESS

As we reviewed the newly elected federal government's first [budget](#), we attempted to determine whether it reflects the priorities and concerns of farmers, who work at the intersection of economic productivity, food security, and public policy.

Agricultural producers have consistently reported that trade-related issues are often overlooked in federal policies. To analyze Canadian farmers' priorities, The Simpson Centre surveyed 979 farmers as part of the "[Voices from the Field](#)" project. These findings were used to evaluate if the federal budget aligns with farmers' commercial priorities. Budget 2025 speaks directly to farmers' top preferences of addressing trade, market access, and trade-enabling infrastructure (**Figure 1**). The \$75 million AgriMarketing budget supports diversification and

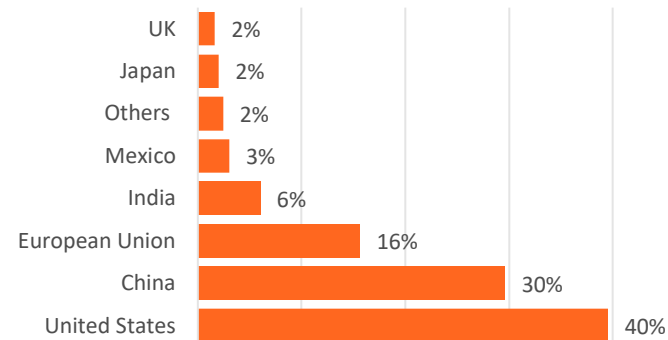
Figure 1. Top 3 Policy Priorities*

(*% of times a farmer mentioned a policy as one of their top three policy priorities)



market promotion, reinforcing producers' desire to open and deepen export opportunities for crops and livestock. The \$1 billion Farm Credit Canada Trade Disruption Customer Support Program and the \$76 million Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) digital trade systems budgets address trade-oriented risk management and infrastructural issues. Acknowledgement of Chinese tariffs responds to farmers who see China as a key market, while Indo-Pacific and European trade strategies align with approximately 22% of farmers' preferences for these export destinations (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Top priority international markets for farmers
(% of farmers)



Broader efforts to cut red tape, invest \$6 billion in transportation infrastructure, expand Export Development Canada's business by \$25 billion, and use the Major Projects Office, together with the Strategic Response Fund and the Regional Tariff Response Initiative, have been announced. These are all designed to reduce bottlenecks, improve infrastructure, value-added processing and logistics, and support adaptation rather than impose retaliatory tariffs: measures farmers expressed their opinions on during the national survey (**Figure 3**, see Appendix).

There are some gaps between farmers' priorities and the federal budget's directions. The budget's approach to Chinese tariffs is primarily reactive. Farmers' demands for stronger dispute-resolution tools, the need for actions on non-tariff barriers, and

domestic processing limitations are only partially addressed. Lastly, while trade diversification packages are substantial, it remains uncertain how much funding will be allocated specifically to agriculture versus other sectors, raising questions about the level of support at the farm and agri-food level.

EDITORIAL PRACTICES STATEMENT

This manuscript is a rapid contribution to the policy conversation that has been open-reviewed by at least one University of Calgary faculty member prior to publication.

APPENDIX

Figure 3. Measures farmers are in favour of (%)
(max. 3 per farmer)

