



In April 2022, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry emphasized the urgent need to combat soil degradation caused by climate impacts, urbanization, and mismanagement. The committee called for designating soil as a strategic national asset and developing a national soil strategy focused on conservation, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience.

Challenges

Key recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry included the establishment of soil-based incentives (tax credits, crop insurance, carbon markets) and improving soil health data collection. Collaboration among governments and stakeholders is vital to ensure the long-term sustainability of soils and economic prosperity for agricultural producers.

The committee's findings stress immediate action on soil degradation and call for designating soil as a national asset, improving data collection, and establishing soil-based incentives for farmers.

Saskatchewan's Contributions

Commodity	% of Canada's Production
Lentils	91%
Chickpeas	87%
Flaxseed	82%
Durum Wheat	80%
Mustard	76%
Canola	53%
Dry Peas	49%
Non-Durum Wheat	44%
Oats	39%

Commodity	% of Canada's Exports
Chickpeas	91%
Lentils	88%
Flaxseed	84%
Durum Wheat	81%
Canary Seed	70%
Dry Peas	67%
Mustard	59%
Canola	53%
Barley	52%
Oats	51%
Canola Oil	50%
Canola Meal	41%
Non-Durum Wheat	40%
Rye	29%

Saskatchewan leads in zero-till farming, significantly improving soil health and advancing emissions reduction efforts. In 2023, Saskatchewan exceeded its 2030 Growth Plan target with \$20.2 billion in agri-food exports.

Advocacy Asks

SARM supports and advocates for practical soil management practices such as no-till farming and crop diversification to promote sustainability. In order to further improve soil health in the province and nationwide, SARM is advocating to implement the following policy improvements:

SOIL CARBON CREDITS:

A separate offset structure is needed for soil carbon credits, recognizing the unique role of ongoing soil carbon sequestration in climate goals.

COLLABORATIVE POLICY:

Regulatory changes on soil health should involve industry and producer consultation, ensuring policies are informed by those directly impacted.

**Thank you
for your time!**

SARM looks forward to working with the federal government on projects and initiatives positively impacting Saskatchewan's rural municipalities.