

# Evaluation of the Census of Agriculture and Innovation in the Agriculture Statistics Program

## ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Statistics Canada evaluates programs such as the Agriculture Statistics Program (ASP) to ensure that products align with user needs and that related internal processes are effective and efficient. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Treasury Board's Policy on Results (2016).

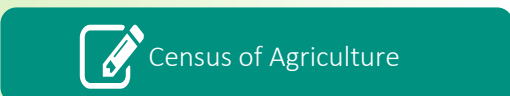
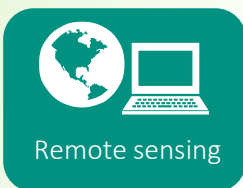
The main objective of the evaluation was to provide a neutral, evidence-based assessment of the 2016 Census of Agriculture (CEAG) dissemination strategy, the design and delivery of the CEAG migration to the Integrated Business Statistics Program (IBSP), and ASP projects supporting Statistics Canada's modernization initiative.



**85%**  
**OF INFORMANTS**  
said the CEAG  
covered the issues  
important to their  
organization

## ABOUT THE ASP

The mandate of the ASP is to provide economic and social statistics pertaining to the characteristics and performance of the Canadian agriculture sector and its people.



## WHAT WE LEARNED



The majority of users considered the 2016 CEAG dissemination an improvement over the 2011 CEAG and were satisfied with the overall approach taken.



CEAG data were used for multiple purposes, with data tables being the product of choice.



CEAG migration to the IBSP is expected to improve efficiency and has been well managed to date. However, unresolved issues pose a risk.



ASP projects were aligned with the modernization pillars and expected results.



Overall, governance structures were in place for the ASP projects reviewed. However, some elements of project management and the sharing of best practices could be strengthened.

# HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE CEAG AND ASP INNOVATION PROJECTS?



For the 2021 CEAG, the Agriculture Division should explore ways to improve the timeliness of the last two sets of data tables (historical data and socioeconomic data) and increase cross-analysis with non-agricultural sectors.



Unresolved issues for the migration to the IBSP, including incompatibilities between the IBSP and the Collection Management Portal, as well as the IBSP processing capacity, should be addressed prior to the production phase.



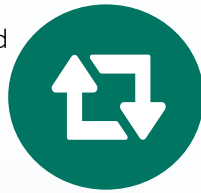
Web tools should include guidance on how to use them and how to interpret data from them. A proactive approach to launching new tools should be taken.



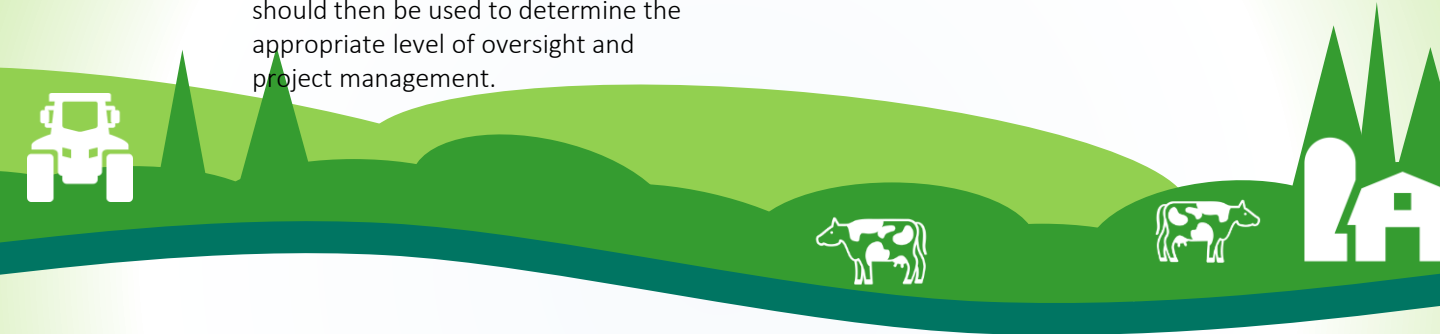
Significant risks during the production phase, particularly with regard to data quality assessments and the exercising of roles and responsibilities, should be monitored and mitigated.



Planning processes for future projects outside the scope of the Departmental Project Management Framework should include an initial assessment that takes into account elements such as risk, materiality, public visibility and interdependencies. The assessment should then be used to determine the appropriate level of oversight and project management.



Processes and tools for documenting and sharing best practices should be implemented, and lessons learned from other organizations (internal and external) should be leveraged.



## USER SATISFACTION

How satisfied are CEAG users with...?

