



MANIFESTO

For the next generation of farmers and our farm future

We, the farm and forest producers of Quebec, call for a groundswell of support from citizens and government in favour of a viable and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector.

For over 100 years, our mission has been to feed the world with determination and passion, in spite of the many challenges we have encountered along the way.

Today, we find ourselves at a landmark moment in our history: the future of our farms is now more uncertain than ever. The unprecedented confluence of economic, environmental, climatic, and social factors we are witnessing today gravely threatens both the future of our farming sector and our capacity to achieve Quebec's food autonomy.

The last year has been a gruelling one for farmers, and one that illustrates the situation well: input prices soaring from inflation, interest rates ratcheting up and up, horrendous weather conditions severely damaging crops—and all this amid an ever-stiffer regulatory environment, labour shortages, and massive pressure on farmland. What can we do to ensure young farmers continue seeking out their livelihood in this sector with confidence?

As the major instability resulting from these new factors gradually becomes the new normal, our provincial and federal policies are failing to keep up, even though they already provide some of the lowest levels of funding among the OECD countries.

Today, we, the 42,000 farm and forestry producers of Quebec, call on the government to make our mission—which is so integral to Quebec society—a real priority. We are asking for a new bio-food policy that is strong and fully equipped to handle the economic, environmental, and social norms that now pervade the world in which we operate: cutthroat, globalized, and rocked by climate change.

We, the women and men who feed the population, must be at the heart of a societal project that allows us to practice our profession in a manner that is viable, supported by effective safety nets, and governed by a framework that is conducive to progressive environmental sustainability.

In this spirit, we urge public officials to meaningfully put us at the centre of the key strategies to be undertaken. We must be at the heart of the solutions!

A century ago, we united as producers. Since then, we have worked in concert with successive governments to build Quebec agriculture as we know it today: a sector that is among the most productive in North America, organized in the most collective manner, the most strongly oriented towards family farming, and the most in step with what society and the environment demand of us.

Our desire, now stronger than ever, is that agriculture be able continue in this new context, so that our next generation of producers, our farmland, our sugar bushes, and our family farms will still be here 100 years from now to provide healthy food and actively foster the resilience of this land.