

What does trade *have to do with the sustainability of Canada's food systems?*

Globally, Canada ranks high in agriculture and food product exports—fifth in agricultural exports alone.

We are the world's biggest exporter of canola, wheat, and lentils.

An advisory council established by the government suggests that Canada should double its share of agriculture and food product exports.



That's the equivalent of an additional USD 30 billion in exports, or 2% of current GDP.

But there are sustainability implications with increased exports and trade.



About half of greenhouse gas emissions from Canada's food industry come from the production of exported products.

Food and agriculture production in Canada is also highly dependent on foreign, migrant, and undocumented workers.

Many have poor living conditions, have no healthcare or worker protections, and lack permanent resident status.



Canada's food export objectives must align with social and environmental imperatives for a more just food system for people and the planet.

BASED ON DATA FROM:

Advisory Council on Economic Growth. (2017). *Positioning Canada as a global trading hub*. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/aceg-ccce/pdf/trade-commerce-eng.pdf>

Migrant Rights Network. (May 8, 2020). *Migrants are the food chain – We sustain the world*. <https://migrantrights.ca/migrantfood-chain/>

Wang, J. & Mamane, A. (2015). *Household food consumption and Canadian greenhouse gas emissions, 2015*. Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/16-508-x/16-508-x2019004-eng.htm>