

Working Group	Agriculture & Food #1
Action Plan Initiative	Financial Protection For Produce Sellers
Deliverable outcome	Develop comparable approaches to financial risk mitigation tools to protect Canadian and U.S. fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations.
Task team members	Canada - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [e-mail: rcc-fetp@agr.gc.ca] US - United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [e-mail: RCC-BTB@one.usda.gov]
Action items	Action Item 1: Develop comparable approaches to financial risk mitigation tools for produce suppliers.
	Interim Deliverables
0-6 Months (January 2012 - May 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of general information on 1) the benefits provided to produce sellers under the U.S. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) and 2) Canada's requisitioned report on possible instruments to be used in a Canadian Context to reduce instances of slow payment and non-payment to suppliers of fresh produce and to improve suppliers' ability to receive payment when buyers become insolvent or bankrupt. - Consultant to complete research on legal options for financial risk mitigation tools by [March 31, 2012]. Options expected to be included in the research include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Changes to relevant regulatory frameworks 2) Modifications of existing infrastructure 3) Other legal instruments as feasible 4) Self regulation 5) Security/contribution based funds 6) Other options that may have been identified - Task Force review of Canada's legal research report [Task Force review will include discussion with stakeholders]. - Identify any additional analysis required. - Jointly review AMS best practices for multifaceted due diligence.

Work in Progress - draft for discussion

<p>6-12 Months (June - December 2012)</p>	<p>By September 30, 2012: Finalize the implementation plan. This includes completing the analysis, confirming comparability & prioritized options, including the proposed path for implementation of each option. Post September 30, 2012 If legislative option is selected for Federal Legislation, public comments will be sought through publication in the "Canada Gazette". By December 31, 2012: Begin implementation of selected options based on achievability (process requirements, stakeholder agreement, & capacity).</p>
<p>12-18 Months (January - June 2013)</p>	<p>By March 31, 2013: - Consultation, planning and, where possible, beginning of implementation for more complex options, per the September 30 2012 implementation plan.</p> <p>Also during this 6 month period: - Begin implementation of any remaining selected options, based on achievability.</p> <p>- Assess implementation process thus far, identifying any implementation obstacles and paths toward resolution.</p>
<p>Beyond 18 Months (June 2013 & Beyond)</p>	<p>After March 31, 2013: - Continue work on the implementation plan, as necessary.</p>
<p>*Key Considerations</p>	<p>Approach chosen will need to respect constitutional, legislative and political restrictions to create a made-in-Canada solution.</p>