

difference between the domestic and export price for Canadian wheat. This payment represents the difference between the domestic and export price of Canadian wheat.

11.8.1.4 The Canadian International Grains Institute

The Canadian International Grains Institute was incorporated in July 1972; it operates in affiliation with the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Grain Commission and financial responsibility is shared by the federal government and the Canadian Wheat Board. It is designed to contribute to the maintenance and enlargement of markets at home and abroad for Canadian grains, oilseeds and their products, and offers instructional programs to foreign participants selected from countries purchasing these commodities and to Canadians associated with the grain industry. Courses are offered in grain handling, transportation, marketing, flour milling, bread baking and macaroni manufacturing, and lectures and practical training are given in analytical methods used in processing and utilization of grains and oilseeds. The Institute is located in the Canadian Grain Commission Building in Winnipeg. Facilities include classrooms, conference rooms, offices, library, laboratories, a nine-ton, 24-hour-capacity flour mill and a pilot bakery.

11.8.1.5 The Canada Grains Council

The Canada Grains Council was established in 1969 to improve co-ordination and to assist in reaching agreement within the industry on recommendations to government. Its principal aim is to increase Canada's share of world markets for all grains and grain products and to effect their efficient utilization domestically. Membership in the Council is open to all non-governmental organizations and associations whose members are directly engaged in grain production, processing, handling, transportation or marketing.

The administrative costs of the Council are shared by the federal government and the industry members. The Council currently has 29 member organizations representing thousands of individuals. At least two general meetings are held each year; the Board of Directors meets about 10 times a year. The Council is served by a small secretariat.

11.8.2 Government involvement in other farm products

Governments in Canada at both the federal and provincial levels have from the beginning enacted measures to improve and expand the performance of the agricultural sector. Originally, the emphasis was on production increases and the control and eradication of pests and diseases. Gradually, however, with rising production and increasing specialization on the part of farmers, problems in marketing began to emerge.

To ensure quality, inspection and grading procedures and standards were established, but the periodic collapse of prices caused by bumper crops and intensified by the general inability of large numbers of producers to bargain on an equitable basis with far fewer buyers has been a much more difficult part of the marketing problem.

The first attempts to provide bargaining power to producers was the organization of voluntary marketing co-operatives. All provinces eventually passed legislation for incorporation of these co-operatives, and most of them also provided additional assistance in various forms. Federally, the introduction of the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act provided for financial guarantees to producers willing to market their crops on a pooling-of-returns basis. More information on co-operative organizations is given in Chapter 18.

Although much co-operative marketing was successful, particularly in the first years of incorporation, it was found that the voluntary aspect for many marketing co-operatives was a serious weakness. Many members dropped out in good times to make their own deals. A type of marketing organization was needed with the legal power to control the output of all producers of a certain product in a certain area, and as a result marketing control legislation was adopted providing for various types of boards and agencies.

11.8.2.1 Product controls

The federal and provincial departments of agriculture co-operate in establishing and enforcing grades of quality standards for various foods. Some control over size and types of containers used for distribution of agricultural products is exercised by the Canada Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs enforces regulations pertaining to weights and measures.