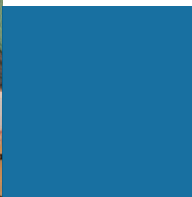




Sector Table Workshop: Report to Participants February 2017

AGRICULTURE



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AGRICULTURE SECTOR TABLE



Key issues

local procurement & import replacement; education & awareness; partnerships & collaboration across sectors; capacity and potential of local food processing facilities

Opportunities to explore

local food movement & investment, e.g. community economic development investment funds; branding/marketing; food security; adding value through technology; developing export markets

Strong points

network of local suppliers; land availability; passion and expertise; strong network of R&D agencies and institutions supporting innovation and productivity improvements in agri-food

Weak points & threats

government regulations & barriers to growth; internal "can't do" attitude; lack of co-operation & communication within sector; labour supply (shortage); limited processing facilities; lack of public awareness re: value of local agriculture

Proposed actions in 2017

Create "buy local" awareness campaign supported by evidence, promoting economic and social benefits.

Assess capacity and potential in local food processing facilities; promote opportunities for business development & investment.

Through partnerships, coordinate workshops & training sessions to support knowledge-sharing; facilitate discussion about Valley branding.

THE SECTOR TABLE WORKSHOP

On Dec. 7, the Valley REN hosted a workshop in Kentville with more than 60 people from five key sectors in the Annapolis Valley: agriculture, tourism, information and communications technologies (ICT), manufacturing, and sustainable energy.

Our facilitator, Common Good Solutions, led the five "sector tables" in a SWOT analysis.

Key points from the Agriculture Sector Table are noted here, with suggestions for how the Valley REN can help the business community grow these sectors.

Read the full report [here](#).

Read highlights from [all sector tables](#).

Post your comments [here](#).