

2025 FARMER SURVEY: CONFIDENCE LEVELS AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

The Simpson Centre's survey of 979 Canadian farmers prior to the 2025 federal election resulted in two [policy briefs](#) addressing political alignment and policy preferences among farmers and key ballot-box issues.

Farmers' **confidence in agricultural institutions** varied significantly, reflecting differing levels of perceived experiences with federal and provincial governance, crown corporations, and non-profits. Respective Provincial Ministries of Agriculture stood out as one of the most trusted institutions. At the same time, federal institutions fared worse, with Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada receiving low trust scores. Farm Credit Canada, a crown corporation, emerged as the most trusted organization, with 57.2% of respondents expressing high confidence.

Technical or service-oriented agencies received more favourable evaluations, while regulatory and climate-focused institutions faced greater scepticism. This could signal the need for improved communication, transparency, and engagement from federal regulators.

Most producers believe federal policies favor **environmental sustainability over economic growth** (see Fig. 1), albeit with notable regional contrasts. Quebec had the highest percentage of farmers (45.63%) who felt policies were balanced, while Alberta producers (38.29%) felt policies strongly prioritize environmental sustainability, sacrificing economic growth potential.

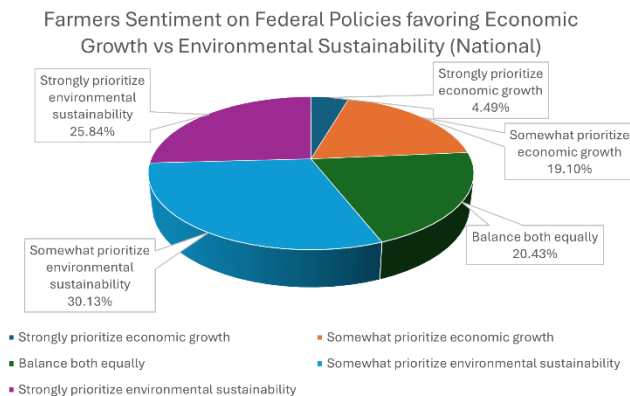


Fig.1

Farmers' key **environmental priorities**, meanwhile, emphasized financial support, conservation, and risk preparedness (see Fig. 2). In terms of **water management**, there was strong support for policy interventions that simplify water governance across jurisdictions and promote innovation (see Fig. 3). These preferences call for coherent, innovation-driven, and technology-supported water management policy, grounded in local realities but scalable for broader impact.

Environmental and climate priorities of farmers

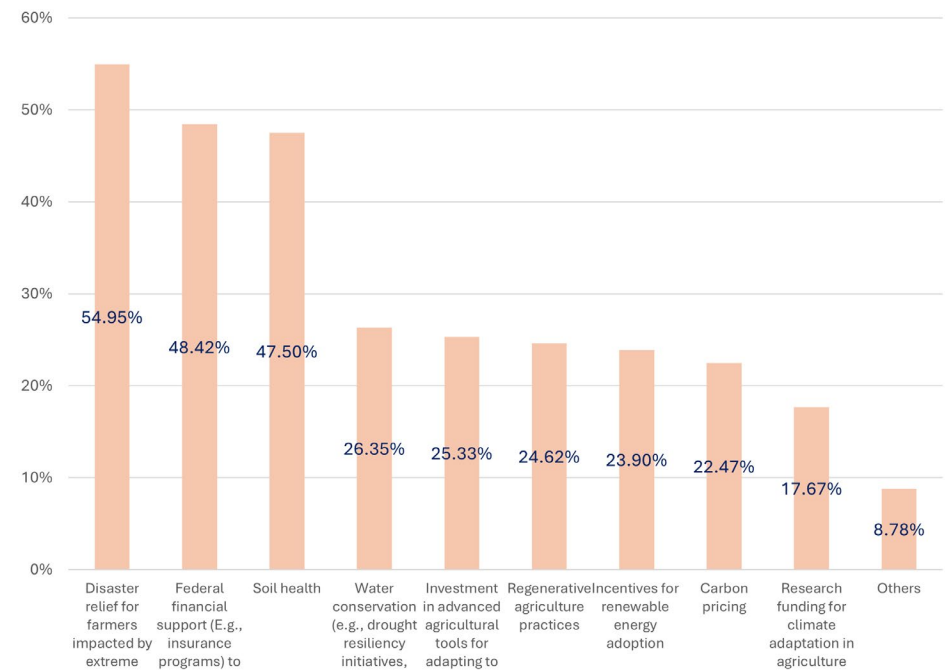


Fig.2

Policy Intervention priorities for Water Management

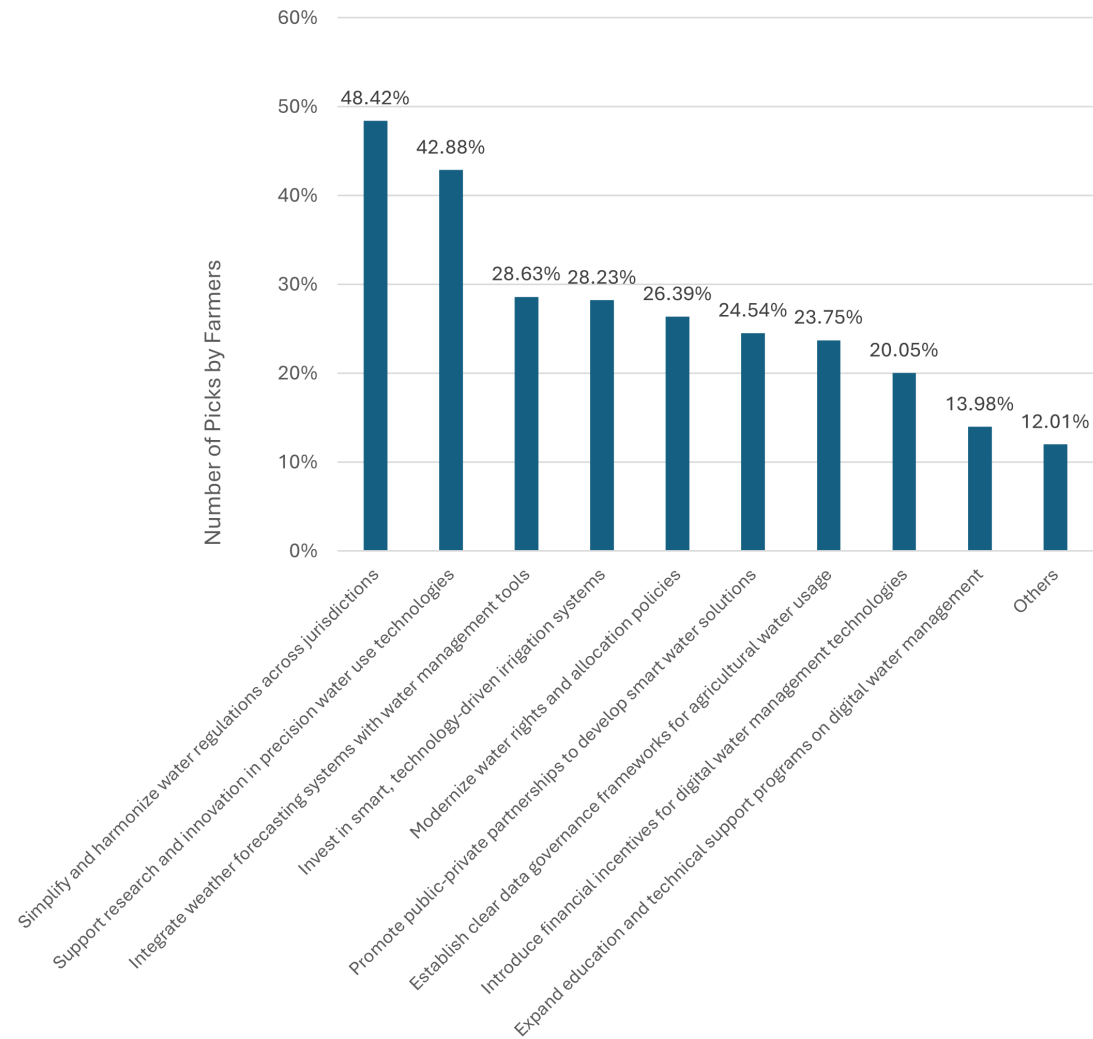


Fig.3