

Press release – 03 June 2020

**International scientific cooperation: new framework agreement extended to several key areas between Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and INRAE**

**A new framework agreement for the next five years has just been signed by Gilles Saindon, Assistant Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Philippe Mauguin, Chair and CEO of INRAE. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is the principal performer of public research in the fields of agriculture and agri-food, in relation with the environment, in Canada.**

Both entities have been working together for many years in several key areas of shared interest. They are also active together in international and multilateral fora involving research. Since their first agreement in 2015, the two scientific organizations have developed numerous collaborations, for example on carbon sequestration in soil, ruminants and their effects on the environment (GHG) and the physiology of milk production and milk quality.

This new agreement reinforces their scientific collaboration and will facilitate as from this year new projects on emerging topics, co-selected and co-financed by the two organizations, based on exchanges, particularly of young researchers, and this in several fields such as the microbiome of plants and soils, open innovation (living labs), agri-food processes, livestock farming and dairy products, but also in other areas of common interest which will be identified in the years to come.

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Created on January 1, 2020, the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE) is a major player in research and innovation. INRAE carries out targeted research and resulted from the merger of INRA and IRSTEA. It is a community of 12,000 people with 268 research, experimental research, and support units located in 18 regional centres throughout France. Internationally, INRAE is among the top research organisations in the agricultural and food sciences as well as in the plant and animal sciences. It also ranks 11th globally in ecology and environmental science. It is the world's leading research organisation specialising in agriculture, food, and the environment. INRAE’s main goal is to be a key player in the transitions necessary to address major global challenges. Faced with a growing world population, climate change, resource scarcity, and declining biodiversity, the institute is developing solutions that involve multiperformance agriculture, high-quality food, and the sustainable management of resources and ecosystems.