TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
A FARMERS’ PERSPECTIVE

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WHAT THIS RESEARCH IS ABOUT
The role sustainability of the Southern Ontario agricultural production system underlie a complex and evolving multistakeholder process in which farmers face challenges having their voices heard. Therefore, this research intends to engage farmers in a dialogue about the transition to sustainability and determine if aspects of Ontario’s sustainable agricultural policy are in line with farmers perspectives. Farmers knowledge and perspectives are a valuable and necessary addition to the future of agricultural policy in Ontario.

METHODOLOGY
This research will apply two qualitative research methods: narrative and case studies in order to identify farmers perspectives on the process of transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices.

• Data will be collected from field crop farmers within Southern Ontario.
• This research will focus exclusively on provincial level policy and programming.

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ANTICIPATED RESEARCH FINDINGS
• To describe farmers motivational factors for transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices.
• To provide insight into mismatch between the policy expectations and adoption of sustainable practices by farmers.
• To highlight that farmers’ motivations and expectations are essential considerations to ensure success of sustainable agricultural policy and programs.
• This research will create a leverage point for mutual understanding and future dialogue between farmers and policy makers.

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