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**Half a Century of Changes in International Competitiveness of
Canadian Agriculture**

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The growth and prosperity of the agri-food sector in Canada critically depends on international trade as the domestic market is fairly small. In an increasingly globalized market for agri-food commodities, it is very important to maintain and enhance international competitiveness of Canadian agriculture. While international competitiveness of various agri-food sectors in Canada has been at the centre of many policy debates, discussion and predictions in recent years, to the best of our knowledge, nobody has investigated how competitive the agri-food sectors have been in Canada in the past and if they became more or less competitive compared to their counterparts in the United States. An attempt is made in this research to shed lights on these issues by focusing on wheat, beef and pork sectors.

While there are a number of alternative approaches to measure competitiveness, we employed the Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) and the Normalized Revealed Comparative Advantage (NRCA) to measure international competitiveness of the selected agri-food sectors from 1961 to 2011. The results show that Canada enjoyed revealed comparative advantage in wheat but not in beef or pork sectors. The results also demonstrate that international competitiveness of the wheat and pork sector declined while the competitiveness of the beef sector improved during Post-NAFTA and Post-WTO periods compared to Pre-NAFTA and Pre-WTO periods. Finally, Canadian wheat sector has been less competitive but the beef and pork sectors have been more competitive than their counterparts in the United States.

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