

IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE  
CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR THE CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD SECTOR  
JANUARY 20-22 JANVIER 2016 • CHÂTEAU LAURIER • OTTAWA

À LA CROISÉE DES CHEMINS:  
LES DÉFIS À VENIR POUR LE SECTEUR AGROALIMENTAIRE CANADIEN

ABSTRACT 11

**Competitiveness, Exchange Rate, and Labour Productivity of Food  
Manufacturing**

Presenter: Natalia Piedrahita

Advisor: Dr. Getu Hailu

Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph

This paper addresses the question of whether export orientation influences the productivity growth of the Canadian food manufacturing industry. In order to answer this question, we aim to estimate labour productivity and the export to sales ratio, which is then used in econometric estimation to determine the relationship between exports and productivity. This research has important implications for targeting policies on exports and productivity enhancement. In particular, the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), presents an opportunity for Canada to increase its productivity growth and to increase foreign demand for domestic products as barriers to trade fall. Ultimately, if it is found that exports play a role in increasing productivity growth, then policy instruments focused on lowering barriers to trade would be beneficial to Canadian food manufacturers.