

CYBERSECURITY IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



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Workshop theme: This workshop will provide a foundation of knowledge to participants about the scope and scale of the current threat to producers, work through a few concrete scenarios of cyber security breaches to do a threat assessment, and look at response and mitigation measures that could be in place to prevent future security breaches.



MERINA JOHNSTON- Moderator
Senior Manager, Strategy & Projects, Canadian Agriculture, Scotiabank

As Senior Manager of Projects and Strategy, Merina Johnston provides guidance and oversight for the design and implementation of key initiatives for Canadian Agriculture at Scotiabank, working in areas such as sustainability, marketing, partnerships, and data management. Prior to taking on this position in 2022, Merina was the General Manager of Holstein Ontario for five years, responsible for the day-to-day organizational management of the not-for-profit, as well as financial oversight, strategic development, stakeholder relations, and people management. Merina has an MBA from Queen's University, with a focus in sustainability and social impact, a Bachelor of Business Administration from Laurentian University, and an Advanced Accounting Diploma from St. Lawrence College.



ALI DEGHANTANHA - Presenter
Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence

Dr. Ali Dehghantanha (CISSP, CISM), a trailblazing luminary at the intersection of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. A distinguished academic-entrepreneur, he marries deep technical prowess with visionary insights, making him a compelling figure for those steeped in the tech universe of cybersecurity. Renowned for his revolutionary application of machine learning techniques to cyber threat hunting, cyber threat intelligence, and enterprise risk management, Dr. Dehghantanha stands as a pioneering thought leader and disruptor in the field. Collaborating closely with highly technical professionals, he is a vanguard in elevating their practices to counter the escalating sophistication of cyber threats. Recipient of the esteemed IEEE Outstanding Leadership Award in 2021, Dr. Dehghantanha's leadership is indisputable. His distinction as the Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence since 2020 underscores his exceptional influence. His prolific research echoes in his extensive body of work, encompassing 4 influential books, 2 US Patents, over 80 impactful Journal papers, and over 20 influential conference papers. Dr. Dehghantanha's interdisciplinary expertise and exceptional research acumen mark him as an invaluable ally for organizations navigating the dynamic terrain of cybersecurity and AI.

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KATHERINE MACDONALD - Presenter
Director General, Strategic Management, Information Systems Branch at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Katherine MacDonald is Director General, Strategic Management, in the Information Systems Branch at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Her mandate covers digital agriculture and agricultural technology, cyber security in agriculture, project management and governance, information management, the Canadian Agricultural Library and more. She has worked in various policy executive roles in AAFC since 2008, and more recently as Corporate Secretary. She has been with the department since 2005 and worked previously for the Canada Revenue Agency. She attended Carleton University and has a Bachelor of Journalism. She lives and works in Ottawa.



CHARLES-FÉLIX ROSS - Presenter
Executive Director, Union des producteurs agricoles

Mr. Ross holds a master's degree in rural economics and agrifood policy analysis from Cornell University in Ithaca, USA, and a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Université Laval. He is also a member of the Ordre des agronomes. Mr. Ross began his career at the Union des producteurs agricoles as an agro-economist with the Direction recherches et politiques agricoles (DREPA). In 1997, he became General Secretary of the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec, a position he held until 2008. His time with this federation made a major contribution to the growth of the sector, the development of production and the introduction of market structuring tools. From 2008 to 2016, he was Director of DREPA and Deputy Managing Director of the Union. Since 2016, he has been Managing Director of the Union des producteurs agricoles. Mr. Ross is recognised for his extensive expertise as an economist, particularly in the fields of agriculture, agri-food and international trade.



JANOS BOTSCHNER- Presenter
Principal Consultant, HumInsight

Dr. Janos Botschner leads the Cyber Security in Canadian Agriculture initiative for the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance. Funded by the Government of Canada, this is focused on understanding and supporting cybersecurity preparedness across Canadian agriculture. Janos is a social scientist whose professional work covers the spectrum of issues related to collaborative public safety and well-being, with a focus on understanding, and responding adaptively to, the complex issues and emerging opportunities of today's world. Janos' family was involved in value-added production and manufacturing using agricultural inputs for generations, and his wife's family has been farming in Ontario for over 160 years. CSKA is a non-profit corporation that supports governments, organizations, communities and others in developing, implementing and assessing new approaches to improving community safety and well-being outcomes.