



STATCAN DATA CHALLENGE

User Story

A Government of Canada Initiative



Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Agriculture and Agri-Food businesses data acquisition tool

Business Issue:

Can you use strategies such as webscraping and analytics to help CFIA collect, organize, and explore in an innovative way publicly accessible data about agriculture and agri-food businesses?

Background Material:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is Canada's largest science-based regulatory agency. Our business at the CFIA stems from a very broad mandate encompassing food safety, animal health, plant health and international trade. The CFIA manages risks in all these areas on behalf of Canadians. However, managing risk is becoming more and more challenging in the very fluid, and complex environment in which we operate.

The CFIA would like to know more about its stakeholders so that it can design and deliver services that will get better outcomes for Canadians and Canadian businesses. For the CFIA, the World Wide Web is an important source of information about our stakeholders.

The scraping would be done to gain a better understanding of the companies that fall under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's regulatory oversight. The scraped data will be used in the process of designing and delivering regulatory programs. The data we currently have about the companies that we regulate is more or less what we collect during the issuance of permissions process and results of our inspections, which doesn't provide us a complete picture of the organization and therefore potentially leaves gaps in the design and delivery of programs.

Key Points to Remember:

The CFIA is interested in information like company address, contact information, website, business size, lines of business, trade names etc. We are hoping that you can come up with a list of companies and variables of interest. As an example:

- <https://www.foodprocessing.com/top100/top-100-2018/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_food_companies#Canada

Relevant Keywords

Data acquisition, web scraping, data architecture, analytics, big data, predictive analytics, service design, service delivery, risk management, regulations.

