



Issue 1. April 2009

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission

Researcher Newsletter

“Research - Excelling the Industry's Competitiveness”

The Researcher Newsletter is a bi-monthly communication, being published 6 times a year, for the Alberta research and extension community that provides information about funding opportunities, events, and pulse research priorities that have been identified by the industry.

Growing Forward

Since last fall, the Canadian Pulse Industry has been working on a strategy for growth of the industry in the future.. The strategy has involved development of a pulse industry vision document that includes being:

- A global leader in creating and capturing new markets for pulses
- A global leader in efficient and sustainable pulse production, processing and marketing
- A global leader in value chain innovation, creating new linkages from field to consumer, and positioning Canadian agriculture as a leading-edge supplier of agri-food solutions

While this vision requires activity in many areas, one of the main areas that APG is working on, in cooperation with other provincial pulse organizations and Pulse Canada, involves applying for research funding through an anticipated Agri-Science Cluster program. The pulse science cluster application will have 2 main objectives:

1. Increasing competitiveness through efficiency and expertise (through ensuring that producers have the tools (new varieties, agronomic tools, etc) to grow pulse crops in the most efficient and sustainable way.
2. Creating new demand for pulses (through utilization, health, nutrition, environment, etc.)

Identification of priority research topics will occur in consultation with grower reps, research scientists, and industry reps based on value to the pulse industry. **A call for research synopses to AAFC and other research scientists will follow for the priority projects and can be expected in late May to June. We will keep you informed as the program is released and details emerge.**

Although the program has not yet been officially announced, we anticipate access to \$7-12 Million in funding for the Canadian pulse industry over 3.5 years. Our industry sees this science cluster as a significant opportunity to leverage our funding and achieve more with grower dollars!



Funding Consortium Timelines

Although it seems like the funding consortium is just completing contracts from the last round of funding, it is time to start thinking about applications for 2010. The call opens on July 6, 2009 and will close on September 2, 2009. Applications will be accepted only through the electronic application system (<http://www.fundingconsortium.ca>). All interested applicants must register on the application system, and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). All applicants will be notified by October 16, 2009 regarding the status of their Letter of Intent.

In order to have successful applications, **we strongly encourage researchers interested in applying for funding to discuss their project with us and other funders before submission of an LOI.** Proposals that align with the pulse industries priorities have a much better chance of being funded than those without industry backing. We would like to have open dialogue with researchers about projects well before the deadlines so that we can work together and help you prepare an application that would be successful. By no means are we trying to prevent researchers from submitting new ideas – that is what you do best! By discussing research ideas before submitting an LOI will save everyone a lot of paperwork and frustration.

In future issues of the Research Newsletter, we will explain how the funding consortium process works to give you a better understanding and hopefully a better success rate of accessing funding.

Dissolving AARI

At the last funding consortium meeting, Stan Blade gave the group an update on changes the Government of Alberta is making to research funding. Legislation will dissolve AARI and similar funding organizations in the province. Stan has been tasked with pulling together a "BioIndustries" business plan that would fund agriculture and forestry research. Dr. Eddy Isaacs is developing the business plan for the "Energy and Environment" funding group. A third business plan is being developed for funding research of Health and Medical research. We are still awaiting details of what this will mean for funding, but Stan did indicate that this is an opportunity to get significant \$. We will keep you updated as we learn more.



#220, 5906 - 50 Street, Leduc, Alberta T9E 0R6
Telephone: (780) 986-9398
Fax: (780) 980-2570
email: office@pulse.ab.ca website: www.pulse.ab.ca

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