



Issue 2. June 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.

Industry Led Research

In this issue of the researcher newsletter, you will notice a common theme: access to federal government research funding must be accessed through industry led applications. Both Growing Forward and Agriculture and Food Council funding must now be applied for by industry organizations such as the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission (APG). As you are all aware, in the past, research scientists applied directly for research funding. Under this new model, federal, provincial and territorial government departments or agencies, universities and colleges are not eligible to apply.

Although this is going to be a significant change in the application process, this new structure will ensure that federally funded research is targeted to solve the industry's needs and make Alberta's agriculture and food industry globally competitive, profitable and sustainable. I am sure there will be growing pains as we all adjust to this new process but APG is committed to working more closely with scientists for the betterment of our industry and to successfully access research funding for scientists working on pulse crops.

Growing Forward

After much anticipation, Minister Ritz announced the Growing Forward program on May 29, 2009 (details available at www.agr.gc.ca/agri-innovations). The two most relevant components of the program for the research community are:

Canadian Agri-Science Clusters will help key industry-led agricultural organizations to pull together national scientific and technical resources to establish clusters that support innovation for enhanced profitability and competitiveness.

Developing Innovative Agri-Products (DIAP) will support industry-led science and technology projects that bridge the gap between ideas and discoveries and products in the marketplace. These investments will pay off as innovation creates new economic opportunities for farmers, agri-businesses and communities.

The Canadian Pulse Industry has been preparing for this announcement since last summer with a strong emphasis on preparing for the Pulse Agri-Science Cluster. Since this is an industry lead application, all provincial pulse organizations, Pulse Canada and the Canadian Special Crops Association have agreed to, and are in the process of signing, a project charter for “*Developing and managing research projects for Agri-Science Cluster funding under the Growing Forward program of AAFC*”. According to the project charter, the following steps will be taken to prepare and submit the Pulse Science Cluster Application:



Form Pea, Dry Bean, Lentil, Chickpea, and Fababean Croppportunity Teams. These teams will be responsible for: determining the research needs of each crop, evaluating the merit of proposals received, establishing the value of proposals, and identifying potential sources of matching funding. Croppportunity teams will be comprised of growers or their representatives, research scientists and industry members.

Form Health/Nutrition/Utilization and Sustainability Environment Working Groups. These working groups will provide input to the Croppportunity Teams for research priorities and will also play a role in identifying other sources of matching funding.

Once these groups are formed the following steps will be taken:

- Prioritize research needs for each crop based on:
 - o potential economic impact and benefit to the pulse industry
 - o the likelihood of meeting the need through research and development
 - o the short and long-term impacts of meeting the needs
- Call for research proposal synopses from researchers. Proposal synopsis will include:
 - o an objective and need for proposed research
 - o a brief description of the research methodology
 - o a list of deliverables
 - o a budget and timelines
 - o a list of people/institutions working on the project
 - o proposed funding partners
- Croppportunity teams will assess research proposal synopses and make recommendations to the proposal development team
- The proposal development team will then prioritize and select eligible proposals for the final application
- The final proposal will be submitted by Pulse Canada

The APG board has made the following recommendations for Croppportunity and Working Team representatives. Please note that these are preliminary recommendations from the APG board and are not finalized lists. We also have not yet contacted any of the individuals on these lists to gauge their interest in participating. If anyone has been missed on these lists and is interested in participating, please do not hesitate to contact Sheri Strydhorst. APG will be in contact with these individuals in the near future to provide details on meeting dates and locations.

Pea	Bean	Faba	Chickpea	Lentil
Sheri Strydhorst - APG	Sheri Strydhorst - APG	Sheri Strydhorst - APG	Manjula - ARD	Manjula - ARD
DJ Bing - AAFC	Parthiba - AAFC	Mark Olson - ARD		
Mark Olson - ARD	Ron Howard - ARD	Eduardo Beltranena - ARD		
Kan-Fa Chang - ARD	Blair Roth - Viterra	Rick Mueller - Grower		
Sheau Fang - ARD	Casey Koomen - Grower	Grower - TBA		
Chris Willenborg - UofA	Will Van Roessel - Grower			
Hector Carcamo - AAFC				
Gordon Hutton - ARD				
Ross McKenzie - ARD				
Ruurd Zijlstra - UofA				
Shelley Wetmore - Market Master				
Will Van Roessel - Grower				
Grower - TBA				



Health, Nutrition, Utilization	Sustainable Environment
Wendy Benson - APG	Gord Kurbis - Pulse Canada
Jay Han - LFPDC	Newton Lupwayi - AAFC
Thava Vansanathan - UofA	Shirley Ross - UofA
Raylene Reimer - UofC	Reynald Lemke - AAFC
Jerry Bigam - Kinnikinnick	
Michael Ganzel - UofA	
Sepallo Food Ingredients	
Peter Watts - Pulse Canada	
Heather Maskus - Pulse Canada	
Chantal/ Juillanne - Pulse Canada	

Pulse Science Cluster Funding Details:

- Federal government funding and support will be between 25% and 75% of the projected eligible expenditures to a maximum of \$16 million for the Pulse Science Cluster.
- Maximum funding from all federal, provincial/territorial and municipal government sources for the cluster will be 75% of eligible expenditures.
- The pulse industry must make a minimum 25% cash contribution.
 - o The level of risk and involvement by sector stakeholders and the level of sector and cluster economic benefit identified in the proposal will be factors in assessing the appropriateness of the proportion of public investment requested by the pulse industry.
- All funded activities must be completed by March 31, 2013. All reporting activities obligated under the Contribution Agreement and not completed by this date will not qualify as an eligible expenditure.

Eligible Projects and Activities:

- Projects must focus on the pre-commercialization development of new: Agri-products, Practices and Processes. Outcomes must be aimed at enhancing agri-industry competitiveness and profitability.
- Implementation, delivery and management of the science plans
- Scientific and technical research support
- Technology transfer and pre-commercialization activities
- Applied research work at Canadian Universities and other R&D organizations
- Applied research work at Government of Canada departments and agencies
- Utilization of research facilities and the management, scientific, technical and administrative staff needed to:
 - o Implement the proposed activities
 - o Conducted applied science projects
 - o Develop and manage intellectual property that may be generated
 - o Access technology transfer and commercialization services
 - o Prepare reports and communicate cluster results to stakeholders

Funding Consortium Timelines

The call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) opens on July 6, 2009 and will close on September 2, 2009. Applications are accepted through the electronic application system (<http://www.fundingconsortium.ca/>). 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.** Please do not hesitate to contact Sheri Strydhorst at sstrydhorst@pulse.ab.ca to discuss any new ideas.



Agriculture and Food Council has \$21.9 M

On June 23, 2009, Agriculture and Food Council announced that it will manage Alberta's \$21.9 million share of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's five-year, \$163 million Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

What does this mean for Alberta's industry?

- \$21.9 million in Alberta over 5 years, 2009 to 2014.
- Applicant should maximize appropriate cash contribution from industry, with a maximum government contribution of 85% of the total project cost.
- Capital expenditures can not exceed 25% of total contribution
- Contribution-based program; clients are paid for costs incurred upon approval of receipts and reports.
- For-profit applicants requesting more than \$100,000 will require repayable contribution
- CAAP funding is for applied or adaptive research, no basic research.
- Eligible applicants are any Canadian legal entity capable of entering into a contract with the exception of federal, provincial, territorial, municipal departments/agencies, and universities and colleges. In the event that University researchers are the most qualified to carry out project activities, an industry group can contract the work to those respective researchers.
- CAAP will not fund:
 - Advertisement, promotion or awareness activities that brand one region, commodity and/or product over another.
 - Information sharing and/or general awareness activities (symposia, AGMs, tradeshow, conferences speakers at general meetings) unless they are components of a broader project and are meant to disseminate that project's results.
 - Normal business expansion and normal commercial operations.
 - International marketing and promotion.
 - Human clinical trials.
- All project activities must be completed by December 31, 2013 and reporting submitted by March 31, 2014, any unused funds to be returned to AAFC

Agriculture and Food Council is in the process of finalizing their agreement with Agriculture and Agri Food Canada to deliver CAAP in Alberta. Once that agreement is in place and more details of the program available, we will be in contact with you to share application forms, meeting dates, etc. More information about CAAP can be found at:

http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2009&page=n90611

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1182366508375&lang=eng>



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If you know of anyone who would like to be added/deleted from the Research Newsletter mailing list, please contact us at sstrydhorst@pulse.ab.ca. If you have suggestions for topics you would like covered in future issues, please do not hesitate to let us know.