

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RESEARCH INTO THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND UTILIZATION OF CANADIAN PULSE CROPS

Background and Overview:

The Canadian Agri-Science Cluster Initiative is an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) program with an objective to enable industry-led agricultural programs to mobilize scientific and technical resources in support of innovative strategies and technologies that will enhance the profitability and competitiveness of their sector. Funding will be over a 3-year time period for research completed by March 31, 2013. The program will match industry cash at a maximum ratio of 75% AAFC funding and a minimum of 25% industry cash (averaged across the sum of the research projects). Maximum funding by AAFC will be \$16 million per cluster.

Key elements required for a successful Science Cluster proposal are:

- Science projects that will result in technology transfer and commercialization by the end of the three year period (March 31, 2013);
- The research program and the benefit to the industry sector must be national in scope; and
- Research projects must be reviewed by peers familiar with the industry within the scientific community.

Pulse Canada, in direct collaboration with the provincial pulse crop associations, has agreed to coordinate a Science Cluster submission on behalf of the pulse industry. Through a series of comprehensive industry consultations, the research priorities for enhancing the profitability and competitiveness of the Canadian pulse crop industry (production and marketing) have been identified along each crop line. The five specific crops of interest are peas, dry beans, lentils, chickpeas and faba beans.

Project Proposal Requirements:

In addition to the requirements in the Cluster Application Form and the format described in this document, applicants must adhere to the following.

1. **Scope of research is limited to the following elements:**
 - i. **Research Focus** *(Please refer to Appendix A for the industry-approved priorities):*
 - a) Genetic Improvement of Pulse Crops
 - b) Agronomy and Sustainable Production of Pulse Crops
 - c) Processing and Utilization of Pulse Crops

Please Note: Processing and Utilization of Pulse Crops – (Pulse Canada would like to thank all research scientists who submitted Expressions of Interest (EOI) to Pulse Canada in April 2009. Pulse Canada will be contacting those scientists whose EOIs relate to priorities identified in Appendix A to recommend they submit a full proposal to meet the requirements of this RFP. The priorities for Processing and Utilization listed in the in the Appendix A will benefit from a broad call for proposals.)

ii. ***Eligible Pulse Crops***

- a) ***Dry Pea*** - includes the yellow and green market classes, unless explicitly stated;
- b) ***Lentil*** – includes green and red market classes, unless explicitly stated;
- c) ***Chickpea*** – includes kabuli and desi market classes; and
- d) ***Faba bean***.

Please note that Dry Bean research is part of the Pulse Agri-Science research program. However, research proposals for Dry Bean are being solicited by other means.

iii. ***Funding limit:*** Subject to the final approved budget from AAFC

iv. ***Funding duration:*** Effective April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2013. ***All workplans must be completed by January 31, 2013 to ensure that all reports and expenditure documents can be submitted to AAFC before March 31, 2013.***

2. ***Specific exclusions from research proposals:***

- i. Crops – Other pulse crops not mentioned in this call.
- ii. Proposals that are focused solely on fundamental, long-term research.
- iii. Research areas not identified in Section 1.

3. ***Applicant eligibility:***

Researchers in universities, federal and provincial research institutes and for profit companies are eligible to submit proposals. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity (human and research infrastructure) to undertake proposed research. All Applicants must include a letter from their research manager or department head approving the project and acknowledging the availability of resources and access to equipment/facilities during the duration of the project.

4. ***Collaborative research:***

Collaboration among various scientific disciplines is encouraged. Because pulse crops are comprised of several varieties and market classes, research proposals that include a multidisciplinary approach involving plant breeders, agronomists, food scientists and nutritionists, and other appropriate expertise are strongly encouraged. All researchers with the relevant expertise in the selected priority areas are encouraged to apply.

Application process:

1. *Format of the research proposal:*

- a) A proposal summary, no longer than two pages, highlighting the following:
 - i. Project Title
 - ii. Objectives;
 - iii. Activities;
 - iv. Deliverables and Timelines;
 - v. Budget;
 - vi. Outputs; and
 - vii. Performance Indicators (including the communication of research results in publications in peer-reviewed journals and scientific conferences)
 - viii. Minimum of 3 scientific peers for proposal review

- b) A detailed proposal under the following sections (please note that the proposal will be evaluated under a scientific peer review process):
 - i. Rationale for the project and the associated objectives;
 - ii. Justification for the project – a comprehensive literature review showing how proposed research builds upon existing research and/or fills a critical knowledge gap;
 - iii. Research plan – includes the hypothesis to be tested, details on the experimental design, research methodologies, timelines and the expected results;
 - iv. Capability of researcher(s), institute and collaborators – indicate the scientific capability of the research team, including their expertise in the area of endeavour, and the availability of the requisite research infrastructure to support proposed work;
 - v. Requested Budget – provide details of the costs associated with the project. Where other research grants are used for matching, please indicate sources of all public funding, including federal, provincial and municipal sources.

In addition, the work plan and deliverables must be summarized and entered into the attached excel spreadsheet.

Budget should be broken down according to the template below. Also, a budget commentary is required to clarify the nature and use of other sources of funding and recipient support for the project.

Year 1 (Apr 2010 – Mar 2011)

	Requested Funding (AAFC) ^(a)	Requested Funding (non-AAFC) ^(b)	Industry Support ^(c)	Other Gov't Funding ^(d)	Recipient Support (AAFC) ^(e)	Recipient Support (non-AAFC) ^(f)	Project Total
Incremental Salaries							
Supplies							
Service Contracts							
Incremental Rent							
Equipment Purchase							
Travel and Hospitality							

Year 2 (Apr 2011 – Mar 2012)

	Requested Funding (AAFC) ^(a)	Requested Funding (non-AAFC) ^(b)	Industry Support ^(c)	Other Gov't Funding ^(d)	Recipient Support (AAFC) ^(e)	Recipient Support (non-AAFC) ^(f)	Project Total
Incremental Salaries							
Supplies							
Service Contracts							
Incremental Rent							
Equipment Purchase							
Travel and Hospitality							

Year 3 (Apr 2012 – Mar 2013)

	Requested Funding (AAFC) ^(a)	Requested Funding (non-AAFC) ^(b)	Industry Support ^(c)	Other Gov't Funding ^(d)	Recipient Support (AAFC) ^(e)	Recipient Support (non-AAFC) ^(f)	Project Total
Incremental Salaries							
Supplies							
Service Contracts							
Incremental Rent							
Equipment Purchase							
Travel and Hospitality							

Budget Notes:

(a) Funding requested for project activities proposed by AAFC researchers

- (b) Funding requested for project activities proposed by non-AAFC researchers (universities, provincial organizations, others)
 - (c) Show any support that is or will be provided by industry, including a letter of support indicating the financial commitment (excludes provincial pulse grower associations)
 - (d) Indicate support provided by other governmental funding agencies, including a letter of support indicating the financial commitment
 - (e) For project activities by AAFC researchers, indicate internal support to be provided
 - (f) For project activities by non- AAFC researchers, indicate internal support to be provided
2. ***Application evaluation criteria:*** In addition to the project proposal criteria listed under “1. *Scope of research is limited to the following elements*” project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- a) Rationale for the project and the associated objectives – **10 points**
 - b) Project justification and literature review – **20 points**
 - c) Research plan – **40 points**
 - d) Capability of researcher(s), institute and collaborators - **20 points**
 - e) Budget – **10 points**
3. ***Application deadline:*** The deadline for submission of research proposals is **November 5, 2009 at 5pm Mountain Time**. Interested applicants must complete all sections of the attached Forms. Electronic submissions in PDF format are encouraged but applicants **must** also send a signed copy of the proposal by facsimile to the contact office (see #8 below).
4. ***Notification of Applicants:*** Applicants will be informed of the funding decision by **March 31, 2010**
5. ***Collaborative Funding Agreement:*** Successful applicants external to AAFC will be asked to enter into a contract with the appropriate authority of the pulse industry. The Collaborative Funding Agreement contains the terms and conditions of the research project.
6. ***No guarantee of funding:*** Applicants must note that submission of the research proposal does not guarantee funding approval.
7. ***Confidentiality:*** All research proposals submitted with treated as confidential. Proposals will be disclosed to personnel of AAFC and to external experts, for the sole purpose of conducting a review.
8. ***Contact information:*** Dr. Ray Bergstra of MTN Consulting Associates has been contracted by Pulse Canada to develop the full submission. Therefore, all correspondence pertaining to the RFP, ***including the submission of completed research proposals*** should be directed to:

Attn: Ray Bergstra
Address: 1561 Hector Road, Edmonton AB T6R 2Z4
Email: rjbergstra@mtnconsulting.ca
Phone: 780 436 3993
Fax: 780 437 4103

For specific inquiries relating to pea, lentil and chickpea research projects, please contact Kofi Agblor of Saskatchewan Pulse Growers at kagblor@saskpulse.com. For specific inquiries relating to faba bean research projects, please contact Sheri Strydhorst of Alberta Pulse Growers at sstrydhorst@pulse.ab.ca. For specific inquiries relating to dry bean, please contact Mark Goodwin at mgconsulting@shaw.ca