NOTICE OF UPCOMING LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) RELEASE IN NOVEMBER 2016

October 3, 2016

Dear Researchers,

The Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance (CFCRA) would like to give you advance notice of an upcoming research Letter of Intent (LOI) release in mid-November 2016. This will be the first stage in our planning for the next federal Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) expected to start in April 2018 (the successor to the current Growing Forward 2 (GF2) programming).

The CFCRA is a not-for-profit entity founded in 2010 with an interest in advancing the genetic capacity of field crops in Canada, particularly soybean, corn, wheat, barley, and oat. The Alliance is comprised of provincial farm organizations and industry partners, including: Atlantic Grains Council; Producteurs de grains du Québec; Grain Farmers of Ontario; Manitoba Corn Growers Association; Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers; Saskatchewan Pulse Growers; SeCan Association; and PepsiCo Inc. Global R&D.

Since 2013, the CFCRA has been leading a five-year, $10.3 million GF2 AgriScience cluster research program, funding corn and soybean research nationally, and eastern Canadian barley and oat. With the current federal APF expiring in March 2018, CFCRA has begun thinking ahead to 2018 by planning for a cluster initiative under a new federal APF.

While the current cluster research program is centered on genetic improvement, plans for a future cluster will see the scope of research expanded to become more comprehensive. This includes work on the entire field cropping system, including plant pathology, entomology, weed management, nutrient management, soil health, etc., in addition to a continued focus on genetic improvements for more comprehensive crop improvements. More specific priorities and research targets will be released when the official call for LOIs is issued.

In addition to an expanded research scope, the geographic scope of a new cluster will also expand. Although the current cluster includes corn and soybean research nationally, and barley and oat for eastern Canada, a new cluster under the next APF will focus on corn, oat and soybean nationally, and barley for eastern Canada. With this expanded research and geographic scope in mind, CFCRA is strongly encouraging national collaboration on projects.

Timeline Summary: CFCRA will be releasing a call for LOIs in mid-November 2016, with a deadline to receive completed LOIs by mid-December 2016. A request for full proposals will follow in late winter 2017, with the plan to have a draft research program proposal submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in summer 2017.

Please start thinking about our sector over the next five to seven year time frame to plan ways in which we can work towards outcomes that provide high value returns to Canadian farmers, grain value chains, and taxpayers providing funding. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Czerwinski (Project Manager) by phone or email (519-767-0212/mczerwinski@gfo.ca)

Sincerely,

Jeff Reid, President, CFCRA
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