Call for Letters of Intent – Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance – National Hemp Cluster

The Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance (CHTA) is a not for profit organization incorporated in 2003 with domestic and international membership from hemp producers to retailers. The CHTA mission is to create an economically sustainable Canadian hemp industry, benefitting all stakeholders along the value chain and enhancing the nation’s health and natural environment.

In preparation for this new cluster application, CHTA is inviting researchers to submit letters of intent for the National Hemp Cluster. The next Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) is expected to be accepting funding applications by summer or fall of 2017 and be fully launched by April 1, 2018.

The CHTA National Hemp Cluster will support and develop a group of projects that address our national hemp research priorities. In order to fully benefit from the cluster structure under the next APF, the CHTA will coordinate and collaborate with the groups and organizations leading other relevant clusters, such as the Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance (CFCRA), the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), Swine Innovation Porc, and the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) and the National Barley Cluster.

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED NATIONAL HEMP CLUSTER

The CHTA members and expected funding consortium partners have developed a list of national hemp research priorities that we would like to see tackled through this cluster under the next APF. This list is not comprehensive, but rather highlights strategic priorities that are necessary to address in order to enhance the profitability and sustainability of Canada’s hemp industry. National research priorities for hemp include, but are not limited to, the following:

Fibre

- Fiber yield/quality of seed varieties vs dual purpose varieties + economics.
- Harvesting of dual purpose varieties to maximize fibre quality.
- Retting methods to fulfill specific requirements of various end users of fibre + economics.
- Novel uses of hemp post-decortication residues.
- Life Cycle Analyses and recyclability of hemp fibre products.
Food and Health

Effects of dehulled hempseed, hempseed oil and hemp protein:
   a. Biomarkers for Cardiovascular disease: Serum lipids, inflammatory biomarkers, etc.
   b. Biomarkers for diabetes: Glucose, insulin sensitivity, hemoglobin A1C, etc.
   c. Satiety and weight control

Agronomy

Production

   • Maximum economic fertility levels
   • Green manure varieties and termination dates for maximum soil nutrition
   • Effects of extreme seeding dates – yield, height, biomass
   • Economics of soil amendments
   • Evaluating new weed control products or methods - Minor Use – conventional and biological pest controls

Harvesting

   • Modifications to equipment – saving more seed during high moisture harvesting
   • Reducing aeration drying time – horizontal air flow in bins
   • Methods of incorporating all post-harvest fiber

Feed

   • Assessment of the efficacy and safety of (whole hemp, hulled hemp, hemp meal, hempseed oil, screenings, hulls and chaff) as an animal feed; poultry, swine, dairy, beef.

Projects should NOT BE in excess of a total of $1 million for the five year period.

Submissions should detail clear, outcomes-based research with commercialization and/or knowledge transfer plans that will advance the Canadian hemp industry in the areas of innovation, (environmental) sustainability, risk management, public trust, value-added agriculture and/or the ability to develop market opportunities. Communication strategies to provide growers and industry with focused deliverables are required.

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