

Research Funding Policy

Approved March 18, 2019

Revised November 23, 2021

1. WGRF Vision

Profitable and sustainable western Canadian grain farmers

2. WGRF Mission

Producers directing investment in crop research to benefit western Canadian farmers

3. Priority Areas for Single Crop and Whole Farm Integrated Multi-Crop Research

For eligible crops, WGRF will invest in both single crop and whole farm integrated multi-crop research in the priority areas of variety development and production. Multi-crop research will address issues from an integrated crop and whole farm perspective, with emphasis on cross-commodity benefit. Outcomes are expected to have a positive impact on producers' long-term sustainability (economic, environmental and social).

- a. **Variety Development** e.g. genetics, breeding methods, pre-breeding, breeding, pest resistance development, breeding for crop quality, variety trialing.
- b. **Production** e.g. cropping systems, crop nutrition, pest (insect, disease, weed) management, production management, soil quality, water use efficiency, fertilizer use efficiency, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, crop quality, storage, storage pests, economic analysis.

4. Eligible Crops

- a. Major crops: barley, canola, lentil, pea, wheat.
- b. Intermediate crops: canaryseed, chickpea, corn, fababean, flax, mustard, oats, soybean, sunflower, winter cereals.

5. Funds

The Research Fund, Wheat Fund and Barley Fund can all be utilized to fund research and crop research capacity. The Research Fund is a long-term fund and will be maintained at a minimum sustainable level as determined by the Board. The Wheat Fund is for wheat research and will be depleted to zero as determined by the Board. The Barley Fund is for barley research and will be depleted to zero as determined by the Board. Staff will provide fund balance projections to the Board annually.

6. Funding Principles

- a. There must be a clear reason to expect the research (or research capacity) will benefit (short, medium, long term) western Canadian grain farmers.
- b. Research selected for funding should be capable of producing benefits for those farmers growing the crop, in the case of crop specific research.
- c. The research must be science-based.
- d. Funds are provided to researchers/organizations with demonstrated expertise and capability to carry out the research.
- e. Organizations receiving WGRF funding must be accountable to WGRF through a research agreement.

7. Eligible Recipients of Funds

WGRF's obligations as a registered charity require that recipients of WGRF funding carry out WGRF's charitable purpose to benefit western Canadian grain farmers. As such institutions are required to enter into agreements which ensure Intellectual Property (IP) rights are either 1) held by WGRF, or 2) WGRF manages the IP so that WGRF meets its charitable purpose. This includes terms requiring a reinvestment of licensing and commercialization revenues in public good research for the benefit of western Canadian grain farmers. As such, WGRF will not consider research proposals from applicants where the IP is held or managed by for-profit companies.

8. Funding Process

To enhance efficiency and collaboration, whenever possible, WGRF will:

- a. Participate in federal, regional and provincial funding processes of interest to WGRF.
- b. Collaborate with other research funding agencies and commodity organizations in processes of interest to WGRF.
- c. Utilize other processes as determined by WGRF.

9. Funding

- a. There is no maximum funding level per project.
- b. WGRF will consider up to full funding for multi-crop (cross-cutting) research and crop-specific research for eligible intermediate crops in WGRF's priority areas (variety development and production).
- c. WGRF will consider up to matching co-funding with crop commissions/associations for crop-specific research in eligible major crops in WGRF's priority areas (variety development and production).

10. Term of Funding Agreements

WGRF will fund projects for any term as determined by the Board.

11. Reporting by Recipients of Funding

Interim and final research reports and financial statements are required for all projects as determined by WGRF.

12. Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Scientific publication, extension and technology transfer of information, and acknowledgement of WGRF funding are expected.