



Advancing Agriculture through Research

Strategic Priorities

Research

Goal

- Fund crop research and WGRF targeted crop research to benefit western Canadian grain farmers.

Objectives

- Fund WGRF targeted research.
- Proactively respond to changing production and research funding challenges.
- Fund research that provides the greatest impact (short and long-term profitability) to western Canadian grain farmers.
- Collaborate with other funding agencies on research opportunities.
- Focus on public research.
- Monitor and support the enhanced Canadian crop research capacity.

Outputs

- WGRF is the leader and funder of research on cross cutting research priorities (Weed Management; Disease Management; Insect Pest Management; Plant Nutrition, Response to weather variability and climate change and Sustainable Resource Management) that address whole farm issues using multi-crop approach.
- WGRF research funding encompasses a broad range of major and intermediate crops. (inclusion of emerging crops is reviewed annually).
- Priority research areas are variety development and production.
- WGRF collaborates with producer commodity organizations and funding agencies on research calls, funding and administration of projects.
- WGRF will participate in policy discussion in relation to research capacity.
- WGRF monitors and supports the enhanced research capacity, programing, research chairs and infrastructure.
- WGRF to provide funding to scholarships.
- New funding opportunities are leveraged.
- Remaining wheat and barley funds are invested in research consistent with the priorities of the wheat and barley commissions/associations.

Communication

Goal

- Continue to improve awareness of WGRF and facilitate the exchange of knowledge.

Objectives

- Understand priorities of members and stakeholders.
- Describe WGRF accomplishments, priorities and initiatives to members and stakeholders.
- Communicate WGRF's research funding activities and their outcomes.
- Encourage extension and knowledge transfer and the exchange of results to farmers and agronomists.

Outputs

- Regular interaction occurs between WGRF and members and stakeholders to share information and identify research and knowledge transfer opportunities.
- Information on new project funding and outcomes of WGRF funded research is made available to farmers and agronomists.
- Research results are provided to agronomists and farmers through support of extension and knowledge transfer tools and events.
- A positive WGRF reputation is maintained.

Research Fund

Goal

To remain a long term significant, stable funder of crop research.

Objectives

- Maintain charitable status as required by Canada Revenue Agency's disbursement quota rules and ensuring that expenditures fall within those allowed as a registered charity by Canada Revenue Agency.
- Maintain the research fund at a stable level.
- Invest in research depending on revenue and quality and need of research.
- Accept and promote charitable donations.
- Members support long-term research fund investment strategy.

Outputs

- Research funding plan includes consideration for meeting the 5% disbursement quota required by Canada Revenue Agency for all charities.
- The Research Fund is maintained at a sustainable level adjusted for inflation.
- Development of effective protocol for accepting donations.
- Directors and WGRF communicate the long-term Research Fund investment strategy.

Governance

Goal

- Provide Effective Governance.

Objective

- Ensure all WGRF policies and procedures reflect good practices.
- Maintain effective board and committee decision making processes.
- Be a long-term sustainable research funder, with a sound strategic plan and highly respected for governance and decision-making processes.
- Create an environment for continued growth by being receptive to new ideas and opportunities within the parameters of the vision and mission.

Outputs

- Board meetings are conducted regularly (minimum three per year).
- Committee meetings are conducted effectively with a minimum of one per year.
- Board decisions are effectively executed.
- Semi-annual program reports and quarterly financial reports are received from management.
- The strategic plan is reviewed and monitored regularly.
- WGRF adheres to current and relevant policies and operating procedures.
- An annual external audit is conducted, with no significant concerns reported.
- Annual Member Meetings are conducted.
- Members receive semi-annual updates.
- A positive environment is maintained for Directors and staff, encouraging low turnover.
- Ensure the Research Committee structure enables the board to effectively share the workload.
- Administrative costs to support programming are 10% or less.