

SEED VARIETY USE AGREEMENT

Value. Transparency. Choice.

There's a Real Need for More Plant Breeding Investment

The seed industry is proposing a seed value creation system that will enhance the way plant breeding programs are funded in Canada. The goal is to increase research investment in variety development for cereal, pulse and specialty crop producers.

Catch the competition

Research investment in cereals in Canada is lagging behind several global competitors. Currently, investment in wheat variety research in Canada is approximately \$2.13 per acre.¹ Compare this to about \$3.00 per acre in Australia and France and a whopping \$7.31 per acre in the United Kingdom. The math is clear – we need to invest more in our public and private breeding programs to keep up. Seed innovation is accelerating globally; Canada must act now to remain competitive.

INVESTMENT IN WHEAT
VARIETY RESEARCH (PER ACRE)



Increased breeding program capacity

Plant breeding is a numbers game. In other words, the more crossing and testing done in the lab and field, the higher chance of success. Both private and public breeding programs need to be large scale and high capacity to make progress. Canola, corn and soybeans are examples of crops with several high-capacity breeding programs. Wheat, pulses and specialty crops currently don't have the same plant breeding capacity. The result of more capacity is faster access to better varieties that fight pests, withstand Canadian weather and maximize the unique agronomic situation of our geography.

Innovation incentive

"Incentivizing creativity is key to innovation," says Kofi Agblor, managing director, Crop Development Centre (CDC)

at the University of Saskatchewan. He is excited by what a seed value creation system could mean for the CDC breeding program, which has delivered top varieties like CDC Copeland, CDC Maxim and CDC Bethune. Between 1991 and 2015, producers made an additional profit of \$3.8 billion growing CDC varieties.²

"We need state-of-the-art research facilities," says Agblor. A seed value creation system will help build first-class infrastructure that attracts high-caliber scientific and technical personnel, he adds. "The bottom line is to create more value. This money goes back into our facilities, into people, and into research tools," says Agblor. "We need to continuously bring new varieties that meet what the consumer is looking for and what the farmer is looking for in terms of the challenges in the field."

¹Exploring Options for Producer Involvement in Wheat and Barley Variety Development, JRG Consulting Group

²Economic Impact of Plant Breeding at the Crop Development Centre, JRG Consulting Group

Creating value for Canadian producers

The Seed Variety Use Agreement (SVUA) is a proposed value creation model that will drive plant breeding investment and benefit everyone in the seed value chain, starting with producers. It will allow breeders, if they choose, to set a Seed Variety Use Fee (SVUF) on farm-saved seed that reflects an appropriate value for providing an improved variety to the producer.

Endorsed by the Seed Synergy partners. Visit seedvaluecreation.ca for more information.

