

Canadian Wheat Research Priorities 2020 Through 2022 Released

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Cereals Canada Publish Wheat Research Priorities Through to 2022

Winnipeg, December 9, 2020 – Today, on behalf of the entire value chain, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Cereals Canada released updated wheat research priorities through to 2022.

The Economic Strategy Tables and Budget 2020 have both identified Agriculture as a key sector to drive Canadian economic growth. The Economic Strategy Table set a challenging growth target of increasing agricultural and agri-food exports to exports to \$75 billion annually by 2025. Agricultural growth will create jobs for Canadians in both urban and rural Canada and in every region of the country.

Canada's wheat sector is at the heart of Canadian agriculture. Achieving our ambitious export goals will only be accomplished if the profitability of this vital component of the industry increases for every part of the value chain, including farmers. Research and technology will drive the necessary growth in productivity and profitability. Collaboration between public and private researchers and full communications between each link in the value chain will significantly enhance our ability to deliver the innovation the sector requires.

National wheat research priorities have been developed and refined through a unique national collaboration of farmers, federal and provincial governments, public research institutions, exporters and processors, led by Cereals Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The five research priorities are:

- improving wheat yield
- improving wheat yield reliability
- increasing sustainability
- improving food safety
- increasing our ability to respond to consumer needs, both internationally and domestically, by enhancing the feedback mechanisms between purchasers, researchers, and producers.

The first report on priorities was released in 2017. Today's installment refines the objectives and measurements for the five research priority themes and updates the priorities based on new understanding of the value chain. The report lays out the priority areas of research that public, private and producer groups should focus on for the next two years in order to ensure that this \$7 billion wheat industry provides growing and sustainable profitability into the future.

Today's report lays out a roadmap for innovation for public and private researchers, farmer-led organizations that fund innovation, and governments who continue to invest in wheat research and development. The report also provides a first picture of where research dollars are spent, allowing the value chain to measure work against the established goals and refine objectives for success.

Stakeholders in every region of the country can use this document to better understand where efforts and funding should be focused in order to achieve greater success for Canada's important wheat sector.

We encourage everyone involved in the wheat industry to read the Wheat Research Priorities Report. It can be found at:

English <https://cerealscanada.ca/reports/522-wheat-research-priorities-2020/file>

French <https://cerealscanada.ca/reports/523-wheat-research-priorities-fr-2020/file>

Quick facts

- **Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada has valued the Canadian wheat industry at \$6.6B in 2017, \$7.4B in 2018 and \$7.1B in 2019.**
- **In 2019, wheat exports were valued at almost \$7.1 B.**
- **In the last three years, Canada exported to 90 countries with some of our biggest buyers being the United States, Indonesia, China and Japan.**

Quotes

Quote from the Minister of Agriculture

“Research and innovation are the backbone of a strong, sustainable wheat industry and I am pleased to see such collective vision and collaboration . Being part of this visioning exercise and helping to support the identified research areas through the Government’s various programs and resources will ensure that Canada’s wheat sector remains world-class.”

- Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

“Agriculture and Agri-food Canada’s science and innovation play a fundamental role in driving growth in sustainable agricultural production. The ongoing competitiveness of the sector depends on Canada’s ability to respond to evolving consumer needs, both within Canada as well as internationally. This collaborative work helps focus our efforts on the areas that matter most.”

- Dr. Gilles Saindon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada

“Research and technology development are the most important competitive advantage for Canadian agriculture. A national vision to help drive innovation that is shared by the entire value chain – from farmers, researchers, exporters, processors and through to consumers – is a critically important tool that will help us maintain and develop this advantage.”

- Cam Dahl, Chief Strategy Officer, Cereals Canada