



Keith Degenhardt, Chairman
Western Grains Research Foundation
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Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2

April 30, 2010

Dear Keith,

Please find below input gathered from our directors and delegates regarding crop research priorities for the WGRF Endowment Fund.

There are four major areas where people thought the fund could be used: Research, People, Infrastructure, and Marketing. The inputs that didn't match any of the four areas are categorized under "Others".

1) Research

The following are the choices of potential research topics suggested by directors and delegates. Development of the following barley varieties:

- Higher and stable yielding varieties which would be able to deal with the changing climate and sudden weather changes
- Higher yielding varieties which would allow barley to compete against corn and other grains
- drought tolerant varieties
- fusarium resistant varieties
- lower input use (includes fertilizer, especially nitrogen and water/rainfall, and pesticides) variety
- tailoring varieties of barley to meet specific needs including higher starch percentage and specific feeding ingredients, higher extractions for ethanol use, higher concentrations of beta glucans, extractable amino acids and other components

Other research topics suggested:

- midge and sawfly resistant wheat
- precision agriculture, gps, gis, data management, on farm research
- fungicide management

- pesticide risk reduction
- integrated crop management
- fertility management
- inter-row seeding
- rotational systems research
- researches on agronomy , GM traits of barley that can be used to develop different varieties for different purposes
- the development of a low level presence policy for GM events and work done on suitable acceptance levels of don and ochratoxins
- the development of new technologies farmers could use resulting in more sustainable agriculture. For example, in order to eliminate annual seeding research could be done to develop a technology which would allow a perennial gene to be introduced from foxtail barley to regular annual barley

- development of fast, cheap and accurate testing of all crops to:
 - o better identify superior qualities for extraction, feeding, malting, etc. purposes
 - o identify inclusion problems such as micotoxins, moulds, other crops in sample, etc. before they are a problem further down the food chain/delivery chain
 - o identify GM products if necessary for sale

2) People (students and researchers)

- Invest money on universities in Western Canada to attract students for future crop research.
- Ensuring we have the people power and facilities to be world leaders in research
- Offering scholarship to students for crop and seed research
- Invest in management skill development course

3) Infrastructure

- computer / technology on the farm (wireless, computer in tractors, communication, blackberries...)
- nursery
- Putting together Lacombe research station

4) Marketing

- Better marketing strategies for barley which will generate favorable net prices.
- Market analysis of both international and domestic markets to increase the understanding of the current market needs and ensuring the markets accept new varieties.

5) Others

- Funding for the fractionation of Barley to suit other non typical uses
- The money should go back to the farmers or should be spent on the direct support of farmers
- direct the earnings from the fund via all grain, oilseed, and pulse commissions in order to eliminating the huge administration dilemma
- Establish a protocol on how to manage intellectual property right

I hope you find the information useful. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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