



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

NEWS RELEASE

Funding programs have a big impact on Saskatchewan's economy

Saskatoon (March 26, 2009) – The results of an economic impact study on two Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) funded programs delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS), show that the funding from these programs, and the additional funding leveraged from them, have had a significant economic impact on Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector as well as the provincial and national economies.

Over \$24.4 million had been disbursed as of April 29, 2008 to 1,129 eligible projects since 1996 thanks to funding from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) and the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS) programs. To date, ACS has approved 1,194 projects for a commitment of approximately \$37.38 million under the CARDS and ACAAFS programs. Under the CARDS program alone, industry matched the \$20.5 million AAFC funding with their own \$36.2 million contribution.

“This study clearly showed the immense value these funding programs have had on the agriculture and agri-food sector as well as on the economies of Saskatchewan and Canada,” said Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director. “We appreciated receiving industry input on our programs and the study validated our belief that investment back into the industry is important. AAFC funding programs like ours encourage entrepreneurship by helping small and medium sized enterprises reduce their risk and take the next step. It also provides industry with necessary funding for emerging issues and improved research activities.”

The study, which was completed by Insightrix Research in the last half of 2008, found the total increase in the value of goods and services sold as a direct result of CARDS and ACAAFS funding was estimated to be \$66 million. On account of these expenditures, Canada's GDP increased by \$24.7 million, including \$16.9 million to people as income. In addition, funding provided by ACS generated a direct total of 468 new jobs in Canada, which would not have been possible without the AAFC funding.

Dmytryshyn believes the delivery model of the programs has been a major factor in their success: “As a council that is made up of industry representatives from across the agriculture and agri-food sector, we are able to quickly respond to the needs of industry. We work closely with our industry partners to ensure funding reaches projects that will further research, address issues and provide the sector with long-term success and opportunities.”

The entire economic impact study is available on the ACS website at www.agcouncil.ca. For more information on ACS and programs delivered by the council, please call (306) 975-6847, toll free at 1-800-641-8256, or send an E-mail to info@agcouncil.ca.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Laurie Dmytryshyn
Executive Director
(306) 975-6849
dmytryshynl@agcouncil.ca



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

Backgrounder

- The Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program is a five-year, \$240 million program designed to position Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector at the leading edge to capture new opportunities. Funding for the ACAA Program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).
- The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) distributes Saskatchewan's \$3.7 million annual share of the ACAA program.
- To date, ACS has committed funding to 285 projects for a total of \$16,867,088 through the ACAA and Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI) programs. Of the 285 projects, 14 were BOPI projects for a commitment of \$2,298,997. Funding for BOPI is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- ACAA was launched in April 2004 as the successor to the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Program. To date, CARD funding has supported 909 projects for a commitment of \$20,521,493. In addition, this funding has leveraged more than \$36 million in industry financial contributions for the projects.
- ACS also delivers the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative, the Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program, the Agriculture Mentorship Initiative, the Food Professionals Management Program, and the Centre for Agribusiness Training and Education (CATE).

For more information on ACS and our programs, please visit our website at www.agcouncil.ca, E-mail us at info@agcouncil.ca or call us at (306) 975-6847 or toll free at 1-800-641-8256.