

Information Bulletin

August 12, 2011

Researchers invited to apply to new Value Chain Sustainability Funding Program

Edmonton... Increased competitiveness and profitability of Alberta's agriculture and forestry sectors through decreased cost of production or increased value of products is the aim of the new "Value Chain Sustainability" research and innovation program. Launched on August 12, 2011 by Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and its funding partners, this innovative three-year program has base funding of \$3 million, with the unique ability to obtain additional funds from the funding partners if projects are in alignment with their research needs.

Researchers with a strong Alberta connection within private industry, academic institutions, provincial and federal research centres or non-profit research establishments are invited to submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the program, as the first step of the application process for a non-repayable research grant. Applicants from multidisciplinary teams and collaborators are encouraged to foster innovative research projects. The deadline for receipt of the LOI is Monday, September 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. MDT. Forms and additional information is available at <http://bio.albertainnovates.ca/funding/vcs/>.

Up to \$500,000 per project is available for eligible expenses over three years. There is some flexibility to award larger grants depending upon the scope of the project. Research should support the advancement of competitiveness and sustainability of Alberta's forest, crop, livestock and food industries.

Areas of interest involve, but are not limited to:

- Development of novel traits or attributes to address market issues, and meet consumer demands for agriculture and forest products;
- System and productivity management that emphasizes the protection of forest and agricultural resources against environmental stresses; and,
- Optimization of production systems that maximize yield and quality, or contribute to social license to operate.



This program brings together forestry and agricultural communities in a unique initiative that strengthens collaboration within Alberta's research and innovation system, and holds potential for outstanding value chain sustainability innovations. Funding partners include Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions, Alberta Innovates Energy and Environment, Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, Foothills Research Institute and Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund.



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