



## **Ag-West Bio applauds federal funding for Natural Products Canada**

*New Centre of Excellence will add value to Saskatchewan's agriculture, food and health sectors*

February 12, 2016 – (Saskatoon SK) Today, Ag-West Bio welcomes the creation of Natural Products Canada Inc. (NPC), the nation's newest Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research.

The Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence has committed \$14 million over 5 years to fund NPC's efforts to establish Canada as a global leader in the development and commercialization of natural products.

"I welcome Ag-West Bio as a founding member of NPC," said Shelley King, Chief Executive Officer, Natural Products Canada Inc. "Ag-West Bio and the Saskatchewan team have added significant value to NPC."

Canada's four regional NPC nodes involve Ag-West Bio as NPC West, the Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (OBIO) as NPC Ontario, the Institute for Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) as NPC Quebec, and the Prince Edward Island BioAlliance as NPC Atlantic.

"This new Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research – Natural Products Canada – is an important step in the development of a range of innovative, science-based products for the benefit of our producers and consumers," says Wilf Keller, president and CEO of Ag-West Bio. "We are pleased to represent Western Canada in this initiative and would like to acknowledge and thank our local partners for their invaluable support."

Contribution partners from Saskatchewan include Ag-West Bio, Bioriginal, Innovation Saskatchewan, Novozymes, POS Bio-Sciences, Saskatchewan Research Council, and the University of Saskatchewan. These organizations have committed their support for this initiative.

Please contact Ag-West Bio to learn more about this important new endeavour.

### *Additional information*

- [CECR fact sheet](#)
- [Federal news release](#)
- *Following: NCP backgrounder, Ag-West Bio backgrounder*

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**About Natural Products Canada Inc.**

Natural Products Canada (NPC) is a national, not-for-profit centre of excellence for natural products research and commercialization. NPC drives commercialization of natural products for the benefit of the economy, and the health and well-being of Canadians; builds on previous national, regional and provincial investments; and, links and aligns key players nationally and internationally. NPC's regional nodes provide national scope for NPC, with integrated support from Canada's vast partner network of human, financial, infrastructure, and science and technology resources. Established in 2015, NPC is hosted at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI.

**About Ag-West Bio**

Ag-West Bio is Saskatchewan's bioscience industry association. The company works as a catalyst for developing partnerships and industry growth in the bio-economy through investments, aiding strategic alliances, and providing business planning support, regulatory advice and communications. Funding for Ag-West Bio is provided the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward II program, with support from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program.