



For immediate release  
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**Saskatchewan’s bioscience industry association Ag-West Bio receives \$7.5M in government funding**

Saskatoon, SK: Ag-West Bio will continue its work to support commercialization of bioscience technologies in Saskatchewan, thanks to \$7.5 million in funding over the next five years through the federal-provincial-territorial Growing Forward 2 policy framework. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart made the announcement today, just before Ag-West Bio’s 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at Prairieland Park.

Dr. Wilf Keller, President and CEO of Ag-West Bio, says this funding will ensure that Ag-West Bio has the resources to continue working with companies to guide them through the critical start-up phase, through early-stage funding, support and mentoring. “Ag-West Bio fills the gap between technology development and commercialization. Saskatchewan companies can take advantage of the networks we build within and outside of the province; these connections result in partnerships and funding crucial for success.”

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth aims to establish Saskatchewan as an international leader in bioscience by 2020. To help reach this goal and re-confirm Government’s commitment to science, research and innovation, this year’s Provincial Budget included a record investment of \$27.7 million in agricultural research and innovation, an increase of 104 per cent since 2007.

Ag-West Bio achieves its mandate to help grow the province’s bioscience sector through business support, communications and collaboration with numerous partners. Their 2013-18 strategic plan looks to strengthen Saskatchewan’s bioeconomy, with investment in new companies to support Saskatchewan’s goal of becoming a global leader in bioscience by 2020.

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