



**Invitation to Submit LOI (Letter of Interest)
to conduct Wild Rice Research in Saskatchewan**

Deadline for submission:
December 7, 2018

Send by email to:
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Ag-West Bio Inc., (AWB) would like to invite interested parties to submit letters of interest relating to conducting science-based research in the **advancement of wild rice production and processing** in Saskatchewan.

Please find attached a template for use in submitting an LOI.

If enough interest exists AWB will act as the lead applicant and prepare and apply for cost shared funding to the **AAFC AgriScience Research project program** under the current round of funding as part of the CAP (Canadian Agriculture Partnership), for the funding years 2018-2023. **The CAP project program allows for up to 85% cost shared funding, (including up to 10% in kind support) for activities contained within a project up to a maximum value of \$5 Million in AAFC funding support over a period of up to 5 years.** Activities can be either Vote1 (AAFC led) or Vote 10 (Industry led) or a combination of the two. Please see the link below to the AAFC website describing the AgriScience project program, including the applicant guide: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/agriscience-program-projects/?id=1516993063537>.

Submission of an LOI does not guarantee funding or that a particular activity would be included in the project. Pending approval, funding would likely become eligible to be timed with the start of the next AAFC fiscal year, (April 1, 2019).

As AWB is already acting as the Lead Applicant and Administrator under the recently approved and funded AAFC Diverse Field Crop Cluster, (DFCC), we have both the capacity and the experience to act as the lead Applicant for a Wild Rice Improvement Project.

AWB, in early discussion with wild rice industry players and research institutions has identified some key theme areas that would be of interest including;

- Improving production volume reliability and sustainability.
- Improving processing technology, especially as it relates to the high degree of broken (devalued), wild rice that occurs with current handling and processing methods.
- Field scale phenotyping.
- Profiling efforts of existing varieties, genomic and/or phenomic.
- Mitigation approaches to deal with environmental losses due to wind, water levels, heavy rain.
- High level of empty kernels currently delivered to processing plants.
- Value added processing technology to increase the value of end user product.
- Assessment of wild rice composition – may lead to other high value food use.
- Harvest technology including assessing maturity / timing issues.
- Advanced imaging technologies – drones etc. to conduct field scale assessments.
- Advanced production approaches to mitigate environmental risk factors.

Wild Rice production in Saskatchewan has not received the attention or support of the scientific research community to any great degree in Saskatchewan and considerable opportunity exists for improvement and growth. Please refer to this [PowerPoint](#) and this [pdf document](#) for background on the current state of the industry.

Submitted activities require that a PI (Principal Investigator) lead the research activity with sufficient training and/or expertise in the area of interest.

AAFC has provided input (below) that outlines the priority areas and eligible activities they envision as part of the AAFC project program.

1.4 Program priorities and eligible activities

Five (5) areas were identified to address key industry and government priorities through Project activities. Projects are expected to address at least one priority.

Program priorities and examples of eligible activities are:

- Improve support for minor commodities, emerging, and transformative areas. Examples of eligible activities include:
 - conducting scientific research that responds to the needs of crops and livestock with a small production base and emerging market potential
 - value added transformation, such as bioproducts from agricultural fibre and agricultural residue from plants
 - ideas that can positively transform agricultural production such as the application of emerging technologies (for example, robotics, sensors, artificial intelligence, big data analytics)
- Invest in discovery and applied science for major commodity sectors. Examples of eligible activities include:
 - science that maintains economic growth in Canada's major commodity sectors such as canola, wheat, dairy, beef and pork, etc., and continue to perform scientific research to maintain momentum of economic growth already benefitting the sector
 - research aligned with one or more of the science objectives (increasing agricultural productivity, improving traits for food and non-food uses, addressing threats to the agriculture and agri-food value chain, and improving environmental performance)
 - activities that align with crop variety development and finishing; or, resistance to pest and disease
 - activities that address agreed upon priorities of the sector (such as those identified by the Value Chain Round Tables)
- Enhance efforts in clean growth, environment, and climate change, such as:
 - addressing environmental challenges and adaptation to changing climate, agricultural impacts on air, water and soil
 - reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions
 - transforming agricultural products into biofuels
 - water management and soil management
- Accelerate growth of Canada's food and beverage processing or value-added sector, for example:

- ensuring the safety and quality of foods
- research addressing market access issues leading to increased exports
- Strengthen knowledge transfer and adoption, for example:
 - ensuring that research programs include consideration of end users and practical application of research results
 - making information readily available in formats easily accessible, such as social media, brochures, videos

For clarity, the following activities are excluded from the above list and are ineligible:

- any activities, including research, occurring at the commercialization phase of development for products, practices, processes, systems, or technologies

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or seek more information.

Regards,

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