



## Research Funding Policy

**Approved March 18, 2019**

**A. WGRF Vision**

*Profitable and sustainable western Canadian grain farmers*

**B. WGRF Mission**

*Producers directing investment in crop research to benefit western Canadian farmers*

**C. Priority Areas for Single Crop and Whole Farm Integrated Multi-Crop Research**

For eligible crops, WGRF will invest in both single crop and whole farm integrated multi-crop research in the priority areas of variety development and production. Multi-crop research will address issues from an integrated crop and whole farm perspective, with emphasis on cross-commodity benefit. Outcomes are expected to have a positive impact on producers' long-term sustainability (economic, environmental and social).

- a. **Variety Development** e.g. genetics, breeding methods, pre-breeding, breeding, pest resistance development, breeding for crop quality, variety trialing;
- b. **Production** e.g. cropping systems, crop nutrition, pest (insect, disease, weed) management, production management, water use efficiency, fertilizer use efficiency, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, crop quality, storage, storage pests, economic analysis.

**D. Eligible Crops**

- a. Major crops: barley, canola, lentil, pea, wheat.
- b. Intermediate crops: canaryseed, chickpea, corn, fababean, flax, mustard, oats, soybean, sunflower, winter cereals.

**E. Funds**

The Endowment Fund, Wheat Fund and Barley Fund can all be utilized to fund research and crop research capacity. The Endowment Fund is a long-term fund and will be maintained at a minimum sustainable level as determined by the Board. The Wheat Fund is a sinking fund dedicated to wheat research and will be depleted to zero as determined by the Board. The Barley Fund is a sinking fund dedicated to barley research and will be depleted to zero as determined by the Board. Staff will provide fund balance projections to the Board annually.

**F. Funding Principles**

Principles that guide the Board's research funding decisions are:

1. There must be a clear reason to expect the research (or research capacity) will benefit (short, medium, long term) western Canadian grain farmers;
2. Research selected for funding should be capable of producing benefits for those farmers growing the crop, in the case of crop specific research;
3. The research must be science-based;
4. Funds are provided to researchers/organizations with demonstrated expertise and capability to carry out the research;
5. Organizations receiving WGRF funding must be accountable to WGRF through a research agreement;

6. Matching funding (co-funding) will be encouraged but may not be required;
7. Proprietary research with restricted intellectual property rights will only be considered if significant producer benefits are likely, and/or if WGRF receives a return from commercialized research.

**G. Research Committee**

The WGRF Board may, at its discretion, appoint a Research Committee to review and rank applications.

**H. Eligible Recipients of Funds**

Within the scope of WGRF's obligations as a public charity, eligible recipients include all organizations that agree to the terms and conditions of a WGRF research agreement.

**I. Funding Process**

To enhance efficiency and collaboration, whenever possible, WGRF will:

1. Participate in federal and provincial funding processes of interest to WGRF;
2. Collaborate with other research funding agencies and commodity organizations in processes of interest to WGRF;
3. Utilize other processes as determined by the Board.

WGRF's LOI and proposal review process is described in a separate document.

**J. Funding**

There is no maximum funding level per project.

WGRF will consider full funding (i.e. unmatched) for multi-crop research and eligible intermediate crop research in WGRF's priority areas (variety development and production).

For crop-specific research in eligible major crops, WGRF will encourage matching co-funding (by the crop commissions/associations). The research must target major western Canadian issues in WGRF's priority areas (variety development and production). WGRF will seek input and consensus from the commissions/associations on the most important research issues.

**K. Term of Funding Agreements**

WGRF will fund projects for any term as determined by the Board.

**L. Reporting by Fund Recipients**

At a minimum, research recipients shall report annually to WGRF with respect to the use of WGRF funds and the progress of the research. Final research reports and financial statements are required for all projects. WGRF reserves the right to require additional reporting as per the WGRF agreement.

**M. Communications**

Scientific publication, extension and technology transfer of information, and acknowledgement of WGRF funding are expected.