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Research Funding Supports Future of Soybeans in Manitoba

Carman, MB – The Manitoba Pulse Growers Association (MPGA) is very pleased with the \$7 million funding announced today by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for the breeding project led by the Canadian Field Crop Research Alliance (CFCRA) under Growing Forward 2 (GF2).

The “Canadian Field Crop Genetics Improvement Cluster”, a five-year, \$10.3 million initiative, will bring together researchers from the public and private sectors to enhance the genetics of soybeans, grain corn, oats, and barley in order to produce high-yielding, low input, disease-resistant varieties.

Specifically, MPGA is interested in two activities in the cluster: short season soybean improvement research, including high yields, speciality traits, and identification of resistance to root rots, and the development of very short season herbicide tolerant soybean varieties adapted to the Canadian Prairies.

“Soybean research dedicated to the unique climate and growing conditions of the Prairie Provinces is very beneficial for our increasing acres,” says Kyle Friesen, Chair of MPGA. “Short season herbicide tolerant soybean varieties with high yields, speciality traits and resistance to disease will be highly sought after by growers in Manitoba, and even in Saskatchewan and Alberta.”

MPGA is pleased that the federal government recognizes the importance of plant breeding through their investment in this initiative. This will build upon the success of a previous breeding project completed by the CFCRA under the initial Growing Forward program.

MPGA is a member of the CFCRA, a not-for-profit entity founded in 2010 with an interest in advancing the genetic capacity of field crops in Canada, particularly soybean, corn, wheat, barley, and oat. CFCRA is an alliance of provincial farm organizations and industry partners, including: Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO); Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec (FPCCQ); Manitoba Pulse Growers Association (MPGA); Manitoba Corn Growers Association (MCGA); Atlantic Grains Council (AGC); SeCan Association (SeCan); and PepsiCo Foods Canada, a business unit of PepsiCo Canada ULC.

About MPGA

MPGA was founded in 1984 and represents nearly 3,000 producers in Manitoba who grow soybeans, edible beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas and faba beans. MPGA’s mission is to provide pulse grower members with production knowledge and market development support, through focused research, advocacy and linkages with industry partners. Recently, Manitoba has seen tremendous expansion of soybean acres and MPGA aims to lead the soybean industry in western Canada, especially in research.

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