



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harper Government Helps Boost Crop Productivity in the West

CARMAN, MANITOBA — Today, the Honourable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced federal support for the purchase of specialized agricultural equipment to seed and harvest soybean and corn research test fields.

“With the increasing demand for specialty crops like soybeans and corn, it is critical that producers be well-positioned to respond and remain competitive,” said Minister Rempel. “Agriculture is one of Canada’s top economic sectors and by supporting research projects like this one led by the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association, our Government is showing its commitment to Canada’s continued economic growth and long-term prosperity.”

Western Economic Development Canada’s (WD) investment of \$242,000, through the Western Diversification Program, will enable the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association, in partnership with the Manitoba Corn Growers Association, to undertake agronomic research. This work will result in improved crop productivity and yields, allowing farmers to capitalize on the increase in domestic and international market demand, while reducing production risks.

“The Manitoba Pulse Growers Association is very pleased with the funding received from Western Economic Diversification Canada to put towards a research row crop seeder and row crop combine,” said Roxanne Lewko, Executive Director. “Soybean and corn acres in the province are increasing, and the research conducted by Dr. Yvonne Lawley at the University of Manitoba on these crops is resulting in best management practices that farmers can use. Agronomic research provides incredible value to farmers and this funding commitment reflects the government’s recognition of that and indicates the importance of this type of work in the future.”

“The Manitoba Corn Growers Association has been excited to have Dr. Yvonne Lawley working with us on corn projects through the University of Manitoba. This additional funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada for this joint project with the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association to purchase specific equipment for corn will increase the opportunity and scope of the research

projects that we are able to do in the coming years,” said Theresa Bergsma, General Manager, Manitoba Corn Growers Association.

Since 2006, the Harper Government, through WD, has invested in job-creating, small- and medium-sized businesses, aerospace, marine and defence industries, and supported innovative entrepreneurs in pursuing emerging markets. By continuing to promote new economic opportunities, WD is helping to create jobs, economic growth, and long-term prosperity.

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