



## Introduction

Agriculture in Saskatchewan is a major contributor to both the provincial and global economies. A growing world population places pressure on diminishing farmland and quality water supplies. This mounting demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre may be a challenge for other regions, but creates an opportunity for Saskatchewan by building on our natural advantages and industry strengths.

## What is the Crop Strategy?

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Strategy focuses on fostering a vibrant and prosperous crops sector that contributes to and benefits from the global demand of a growing world population.

The Crop Strategy is built on three pillars:

- I. Innovation and Science;
- II. Leadership and Investment; and
- III. Building on Strengths – Moving Crops to the Next Level.

### ***The Crop Strategy is:***

- Building on Saskatchewan's agriculture successes;
- Positioning Saskatchewan on the cutting edge of agriculture technology;
- Increasing the influence of Saskatchewan in determining research direction;
- Increasing the influence of Saskatchewan in developing policy and programming at the national level; and
- Leading to increased investment attraction in Saskatchewan.

## I. Innovation and Science

This pillar supports the creation of a knowledge-based economy. The Crop Strategy will contribute to the economy through biotechnology, new crop development, increased production, value-added opportunities and sustainable energy development. This pillar focuses on two main objectives:

1. Ministry investment in progressive and relevant research, innovation and commercialization that benefits the agriculture sector. This will be achieved through funding programs such as the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), Strategic Research Program (SRP), Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technology (ADOPT) and Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI).
2. Ministry collaboration with industry research and development programming to ensure Saskatchewan is the preferred place to make future and larger investments in plant science innovations. Some examples of partnerships include: Genome Canada, farmer organizations and the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

## II. Leadership and Investment

Together with industry, other provincial ministries and governments, the Crop Strategy will enhance opportunities for Saskatchewan's crop sectors by focusing on key agricultural issues. This pillar focuses on four key objectives. The Ministry will:

1. Advocate for science-based regulation that is predictable and allows for research and development investments to be made with confidence.
2. Overcome existing trade barriers by addressing market access issues. Examples include, encouraging development of low level presence policy (LLP) for Canada and ensuring the priorities of Saskatchewan's crop sectors are addressed in all bilateral free trade negotiations.
3. Support for irrigation infill and expansion.
4. Create an attractive business climate for the agriculture industry. Establish the infrastructure that will support crop development and improve agricultural competitiveness by understanding regulatory impediments and institutional, infrastructure, taxation, innovation, investment, and transportation needs and issues.

## III. Building on Strengths - Moving Crops to the Next Level

This pillar is aimed to increase the overall profitability of farmers throughout the value chain, from improved varieties and technologies, to value-adding and developing new market opportunities. This pillar focuses on five key objectives:

1. Collaborating with industry groups to capture growth opportunities and foster innovation and competitiveness.
2. Increasing returns for field and high value crops.
3. Introducing new crops and expanding cropping and marketing options for farmers.
4. Adding value to existing commodities through processing opportunities.
5. Enhancing Ministry services related to diagnostics, pest control or production practices.

### Why Saskatchewan?

- Has 42 per cent of Canada's cultivated land;
- Potential for additional irrigated acres;
- Successful commodity associations with research and development focus;
- Innovative farmers;
- Research capacity in both public and private sectors;
- Government committed to creating a competitive business climate;
- Stable and secure economy; and
- Best research and development tax credits in Canada.

