

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
for
AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH FUND

Funding has been secured for research projects related to agricultural policy issues for the 2017/18 fiscal year. We are therefore calling for research proposals on agricultural policy issues.

The proposed research projects will need to align with one of the following themes: (1) Structure & Performance; (2) Markets & Trade; (3) Innovation; (4) Environmental Sustainability; and (5) Consumer Demand. [See Annex 1 for more details on the themes.]

A Review Panel will assess the project proposals and provide recommendations based on alignment with policy priorities and the selection guidelines.

AAFC will allocate up to \$24,999 per research project including taxes and overhead. The overhead cannot exceed 15% of the total.

Summary of timelines

- In order for your project to be considered for review by the Panel, you will need to submit your proposal using the template provided no later than **Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 23:59 EST**. Proposals are to be sent to *Jennifer Vignola* at Jennifer.Vignola@agr.gc.ca.
- Following review by the Panel, AAFC will contact the primary applicant of selected projects the week of January 2, 2018.
- All contracts are expected to be prepared and signed by end of January 31, 2018.
- A first draft of the research paper will need to be submitted by March 15, 2018.

Selection Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria.

- *Research Theme*
Applicants must clearly specify in their proposal which theme their project falls under. [See Annex 1 for more details on the themes.]
- *Policy Relevance*
Applicants must clearly demonstrate the potential contribution of the proposed activities to agricultural and agri-food policy research and development in Canada, in terms of the achievement of specified goals and anticipated outcomes.
- *Completion Date*
 - Preference/Priority will be given to projects that will be completed on or before March 31, 2018.
 - All funded projects will have to be completed by March 31, 2019.
 - You may also submit long-term projects that will be completed by March 31, 2020 but such projects will be considered at a later date when funding becomes available.

December 4, 2017

- *Budget*
The proposed budget needs to be clear and appropriate for the scale of the proposed research. Eligible expenses can include university overhead costs (limit of 15%), data purchase, travel, and other project-related expenses.
- *Optional*
Special consideration may be given to projects involving graduate students and enhancing collaboration between universities.

Please address questions about the Agricultural Policy Research Fund to:

Jennifer Vignola

Jennifer.Vignola@agr.gc.ca

613-773-1256

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

Government of Canada

December 4, 2017

ANNEX 1 – Agriculture and Agri-food Research Themes and Policy Questions

Proposed research projects should fall under at least one of the following themes:

1. Structure and Performance
2. Markets and Trade
3. Innovation
4. Environmental Sustainability
5. Consumer Demands

1. Structure and Performance:

Analyzing the impacts of organization and structure of agri-food supply chains on farm and firm level structure, performance and competitiveness of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Key words: Value Chains, Supply chains, Food and Beverage Processing, Risk Management, Supply Management, Indigenous Agriculture, Labour Issues, Investment in Agriculture & Food Processing, Value Added, Sector Resilience, Consolidation

Examples of related policy questions of interest:

- What are the barriers in Canada to adding value or increasing competitiveness/productivity and how can the barriers be addressed? How can we accelerate growth in the agriculture and agri-food sector?
- How can we increase investments, including foreign investments, in the Canadian food processing sector and enhance the industry's competitiveness as a whole?
- What are some effective policy options for indigenous food production in Canada?

2. Markets and Trade:

Address a wide range of issues related to domestic and international markets, such as regulations, market access, technical barriers to trade, free and regional trade agreements, foreign direct investment, and their impacts on the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector.

Keywords: Trade Agreements/Negotiations, Value Chains, Supply Chains, Market Access, Price Discovery, Transportation, Investments, Subsidies, Interprovincial Trade

Examples of related policy questions of interest:

- What are the potential impacts of increased protectionism or regional versus bilateral trade agreements on the Canadian agriculture and agri-food markets and on trade?
- How do we measure and what is the effect of non-tariff trade barriers on Canadian agri-food exports to priority markets?
- What are the existing interprovincial trade barriers and what are their effects on the performance of the agriculture and agri-food sector?
- What are the factors enabling/limiting Canadian companies' decisions to export agriculture and agri-food products to priority markets?

3. Innovation:

Analyzing and understanding the various facets of innovation, impediments to innovation, and identify government policy changes needed to foster greater innovation throughout the agri-food value chain.

Keywords: Research and Development (R&D), Technology Adoption and Implementation, Innovation Adaptation, Commercialisation, Productivity Growth, Disruptive Technologies, Public and Private Funding

Examples of related policy questions of interest:

- What is the role and structure of Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) to enhance private sector investment in R&D and accelerate innovation?
- What are the returns on R&D by agriculture and agri-food sub-sector and what are the implications for policy?
- What are the impacts of artificial intelligence and other advanced or disruptive technologies in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector?

4. Environmental Sustainability:

Analyzing the impacts of agricultural production and food manufacturing on the whole supply chain, the economy and the environment.

Keywords: Climate Change, Extreme Weather Events, Pest Management, Food Loss and Waste, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, Water/Soil Quality and Preservation

Examples of related policy questions of interest:

- What would be the impact on the various components of the value chain of a reduction in food waste at the post farm gate level?
- What are the regional impacts of climate change on the supply chain, and the optimal mitigation and adaptation options?
- What are the impacts of carbon pricing on competitiveness?

5. Consumer Demands:

Analyzing issues around consumer demands for agriculture and agri-food products including the factors affecting demand, as well as the development and effectiveness of policies and regulations to address information asymmetry, consumer trust and consumer willingness to pay for food quality attributes.

Keywords: Public Acceptance, Science, Communication & Education, Standards & Regulations, Plant Health, Animal Welfare, Human Health, Organic Production, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), Gene Edittion.

Examples of related policy questions of interest:

- What would be the impact of lab created meat or other emerging disruptive technologies on the Canadian food supply chain based on consumer acceptance level?
- What are the lessons learned from GMO's that could serve to introduce new technologies?
- How do we create a bridge between specialists in new technologies and the public?
- How have social license issues affected the behaviours of key agriculture and agri-food sectors?