

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel

(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Agriculture	
Title of Travel	Mission to India, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)	
Location	Dubai, UAE; Dhaka, Bangladesh; and Lonavala, India	
Date(s)	February 6 - 14, 2020	
Participants	Honourable David Marit, Minister of Agriculture Amanda Plummer, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture Rick Burton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture	
Purpose of Travel	Market Development and Trade Advocacy Mission	
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants		
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees)		\$15,608.77
Ground Travel (including taxis and parking)		\$1,113.59
Accommodation (including room charges, incidentals, related taxes and fees)		\$5,876.78
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)		\$889.59
Conference & Registration Fees		\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, and other sundry expenditures)		\$1,004.82
Subtotal		\$24,493.55
General Travel Expenditures		
Business Hosting Expenses (luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)		\$769.20
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)		\$2,480.99
Subtotal		\$3,250.19
TOTAL		\$27,743.74

Overview of Travel and Objectives

Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India accounted for 10 per cent of Saskatchewan's agri-food exports in 2019. Each of these markets ranked in Saskatchewan's top 10 agri-food and agri-product export market destinations in 2019, with Bangladesh being the fourth largest, UAE being sixth largest and India being the eighth largest. It is also important to note that agri-food exports to both Bangladesh and India increased 180 per cent from 2018 and agri-food exports to UAE increased 40 per cent from 2018.

Exports are built on strong personal relationships and we need to foster our trading relations, listen to what our importers are telling us, and work to grow our export opportunities. This mission helped to gain a better understanding of stakeholders' needs, reinforced relationships with key buyers, supported trade development, and profiled Saskatchewan food and feed ingredients, along with SK research and innovation capabilities. This mission allowed us to explore new market diversification opportunities in South Asia and the Middle East, and the future opportunities for growth in these markets.

Travel Activity:

During this mission, Minister Marit met with companies that import Saskatchewan products (canola, pulses and wheat). Minister Marit also met with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Commerce for Bangladesh. While in Bangladesh, officials witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Global Institute for Food Security and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council. Minister Marit gave a speech at the Pulse Conclave in India highlighting Saskatchewan's position as a preferred supplier of high quality agri-commodities and advocate for a resolution to ongoing pulse market access issues in India.

While in the UAE, Minister Marit met with and toured the facilities of Al Ghurair, the largest importer and processor of canola seed in the Middle East. Minister Marit also met with Arab India Spices, a major pulse importer in the UAE, where he spoke about opportunities to increase Saskatchewan pulse exports into the region.

While in Bangladesh, Minister Marit highlighted Saskatchewan as a reliable and quality supplier of food and feed ingredients. Minister Marit met with City Group and Meghna Group, key wheat, canola and pulse importers and processors, as Bangladesh is a large and growing market for the province among others. The Minister also met with senior Bangladeshi government ministers and officials to discuss emerging market opportunities for our agricultural products. Minister Marit also attended a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing by the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan with research partners from Bangladesh's Ministry of Agriculture. This MOU solidified a research and training development partnership between GIFS and officials in Bangladesh.

Minister Marit concluded his mission in India, by taking part in the fifth biannual Pulses Conclave in Lonavala. The Minister was a keynote speaker at the conference where he stressed the importance of a transparent, predictable and rules based trading environment. With delegates in attendance from all major pulse-producing countries in the world, the conference provided a forum to meet with key pulse importers and discuss opportunities and barriers facing the sector.