

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel

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

Ministry	Agriculture
Title of Travel	India / UAE Trade and Investment Mission
Location	New Delhi and Mumbai, India, and Dubai, UAE
Date(s)	February 13 - 22, 2023
Participants	Honourable David Marit, Minister of Agriculture James Cherewyk, Chief of Staff to Minister Marit Paul Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture
Purpose of Travel	To reinforce relationships with key buyers; explore new market diversification opportunities; promote investments in Saskatchewan; profile Saskatchewan food and feed ingredients and Saskatchewan research and innovation capabilities; and advocate for long-term trade with India
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants	
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)	\$21,182.57
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)	\$314.57
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)	\$5,597.42
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)	\$2,383.74
Conference & Registration Fees	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)	\$1,543.65
Subtotal	\$31,021.95
General Travel Expenditures	
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)	\$205.77
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)	\$1,095.63
Subtotal	\$1,301.40
TOTAL	\$32,323.35

Overview of Travel and Objectives

In 2022, India imported \$405 million worth of agrifood products from SK, with lentils representing 97 per cent of the trade.

The same year, the UAE imported \$363 million worth of agrifood products from SK. Trade includes mainly canola seed, lentils and wheat.

Mission objectives included:

- Reinforcing relationships with key buyers of pulses, canola, wheat, and other commodities;
- Exploring new market diversification opportunities in South Asia and the Middle East;
- Promoting investments in Saskatchewan to support SK Growth Plan, especially in the agrifood value-added segment;
- Profiling SK food and feed ingredients, along with SK research and innovation capabilities, with a focus on global food security and sustainability; and
- Advocating for a long-term, transparent, and rules-based trade with India.

Travel Activity

During his stop in Toronto, the Minister met with Maple Leaf Foods and Global Food and Ingredients. Both companies have plants in SK and headquarters in Toronto.

While in India, the Minister met with representatives from the Indian government (Ministries of Agriculture, Food processing, and Consumer Affairs), and influencing market groups such as the Forum of Indian Food Importers FIFI and the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED).

The Minister addressed the international pulse industry at the opening ceremony of the Sixth edition of the Pulses Conclave held in Mumbai from February 16-18. He also held meetings with large pulse and agrifood companies and trade partners, such as Viterra, ETG, Esarco Exim, Agrocorp International, Seasons Overseas, and Tata Consumer Products.

The Pulses Conclave is put on by the India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) and is the apex body of India's pulses and grains industry and trade. IPGA has a membership of over 400 including various regional associations of the Pulses industry. The association has a pan India reach of over 10,000 stakeholders involved in the farming, processing, warehousing and import business of Pulses across the entire value chain.

Pulse Canada participated in the Pulse Conclave and joined the SK delegation for some meetings.

In Dubai, the Minister engaged with key stakeholders at the Gulfood Show held from February 20-24, 2023, including speaking at a panel discussion on sustainable food production. This year was the biggest edition in Gulfood's history bringing together over 5,000 leading food and beverage companies, showcasing 100,000 new products from more than 125 countries.

He met with key importing companies including: AGT, Al Ghurair, Arab and India Spices, Al Amir, and Simply Gourmet.

The Minister also met with UAE government representatives, the Canada UAE Business Council, and discussed investment opportunities in SK for some Gulf capital interests. The Global Institute for Food Security participated in the Gulfood Inspire Conference.