

Economic Sustainability



Research That Powers Resilient Agriculture: The Strategic Research Program



The [Strategic Research Program \(SRP\)](#), funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, builds Saskatchewan's capacity for innovation by supporting several specialized five-year research chairs in the areas of crop genetic improvement, livestock development, soil science, and food and bioproducts development. These experts lead long-term projects that turn scientific discoveries into practical tools for farmers and ranchers, helping the agriculture sector adapt to environmental variability and market demands.

Crop Genetic Improvement – Research focuses on developing high-yielding varieties of key crops including wheat, oats, barley, flax, peas, chickpeas, soybeans, coriander, caraway and canary seed that are more tolerant of heat, drought and disease. Advanced genomic tools improve traits like grain quality and pest resistance, reducing input needs and supporting stable production during challenging growing seasons.

Livestock Development – Research focuses on improving cow-calf systems, forage crops and feed strategies to keep herds healthy and productive under variable conditions. Genomic tools identify animals with better feed efficiency and growth performance, allowing producers to select cattle that thrive while using fewer resources.

Soil and Environment – Healthy soils are the foundation of resilient agriculture. SRP projects explore ways to increase soil carbon storage, reduce erosion and improve nutrient-use efficiency. These practices protect soil structure, maintain fertility and support long-term land stewardship, ensuring farms remain productive for future generations.

Food and Bioproducts Development – SRP research adds value to Saskatchewan crops by advancing lipid and protein quality for food and industrial uses to give crops like canola, wheat, barley, peas and flax greater nutritional value and processing efficiency. Innovations include high-protein canola meal, omega-3-rich flax foods, and new applications for oilseed crops in cosmetics, lubricants, plastics and pharmaceuticals. These advancements create new markets and reduce waste, strengthening and diversifying the province's agri-food economy.

Why It Matters

Strong research capacity ensures Saskatchewan producers have the tools to succeed in changing conditions. These innovations improve food security, support emissions intensity improvements, train the next generation of scientists and agronomists and create new economic opportunities. By investing in science today, Saskatchewan is building a resilient agriculture sector that can thrive for generations to come.

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