

BACKGROUNDER

Canadian *Triticum* Advancement through Genomics (CTAG) Project

Wheat is a staple food crop contributing approximately \$4 billion annually to the Canadian agriculture industry. Wheat production comprised more than 20 per cent of Canadian farm crop income during 2005-2009 (Statistics Canada 2010) and a total value of approximately \$11 billion when value-added food processing is considered.

The three-year \$8.5 million CTAG project aims to enable geneticists and breeders to characterize the genes at the most fundamental level: the DNA sequence. The wheat DNA sequence holds the key to genetic improvements, allowing growers to meet the increasing demands for high quality food and feed produced in an environmentally sensitive, sustainable and profitable manner.

Funding Partners

Genome Canada- \$4,102,385

Province of Saskatchewan- \$1,533,667

Western Grains Research Foundation- \$1,126,782

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (India)- \$999,999

Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund- \$295,636

Alberta Innovates/Genome Alberta- \$207,779

Viterra- \$120,578

National Institute for Agricultural Research (France)- \$120,000

Total- \$8,506,826

Genome Prairie, a non-profit organization established in 2000, fosters world-class innovation and commercialization on the Prairies by managing research projects and facilitating regional participation for genomic research and knowledge transfer. It delivers public education and awareness of societal impacts including ethical, economic, environmental and legal issues related to genomics.