



GenomePrairie



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

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Genome Prairie
Phone: (306) 668-3570
www.genomeprairie.ca

Saskatchewan Agriculture funding to Genome Prairie

Genome Prairie is pleased to receive funding of \$2.4 million from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for four research projects, including flax genomics and the commercialization of agricultural products.

Funding for the flax project, called Total Utilization of Flax Genomics (TUFGEN), is \$1.2 million. Funding for the commercialization project, called Value Generation through Genomics (VALGEN), is \$680,000.

"Research is a top priority for our government and we are pleased to provide this funding," said Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud. "These projects will provide long-term benefits for producers and help move agriculture forward in our province."

This funding also includes \$77,200 for research into Microbial Genomics for Biofuels and BioProducts, a project undertaken with the University of Manitoba, and \$470,000 for a project examining Synthetic BioSystems for the Production of High Value Plant Metabolites at the National Research Council's Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon.

VALGEN project co-leader Dr. Peter Phillips of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy located at Saskatchewan's two universities said, "VALGEN will help new products and technologies realize their economic and social potential. The project will also help identify solutions to problems that may arise."

TUFGEN project co-leader Dr. Gordon Rowland of the U of S College of Agriculture and Bioresources said the project's goals are to develop flax as a dual-purpose crop and to sequence the flax genome. "This is an invaluable contribution to flax research that will help to increase its value for producers."

For more information, contact:

Carol Reynolds, Genome Prairie, Saskatoon
Phone (306) 668-3574; Cell: (306) 241-9033

Jenna Webb, Media Relations, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Regina
Phone: (306) 787-5960

Joanne Paulson, VALGEN project, Research Communications Officer
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, Saskatoon
Phone: (306) 966-8393

Dr. Gordon Rowland, TUFGEN project
College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan
Phone: (306) 966-4977