



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Investment Agriculture Foundation Expands Small Projects Program**

**June 6, 2006 – Victoria, B.C.** After a successful first year pilot, the Investment Agriculture Foundation's Small Projects Program is being continued with an increase in funding. The funding cap of this popular program has been doubled to \$10,000.

"The program has been able to provide quick decisions on small project applications, generally within two weeks," said Bob McCoubrey, Foundation director and small projects committee member. "Now that the program has been expanded we are hoping to receive more applications from smaller and emerging industry groups."

The program addresses the needs of smaller industry organizations undertaking lower cost projects. Due to reduced paperwork at both the application and report stages of the project, it has been successful in offering efficient access to funding. Twenty five small projects have been successfully funded to date.

Projects funded during the first year of the program include demonstration projects, applied research, speaker costs, marketing plans and educational projects. Funding grants ranged from \$500 to \$5,000; the ratio of industry funding has varied.

The B.C. Food Systems Network received \$3,000 for *Sorrento Gathering 2005: Land and Food*, a conference held in September 2005. The conference brought together more than 100 policy analysts, farmers, health professionals and community food programs to bridge the gap between B.C. food producers and the community health and food security movement.

"I was very appreciative that the Foundation was able to fund this type of project," said Cathleen Kneen, executive director of the B.C. Food Systems Network. "The application was very straightforward and the program manager helped shepherd us through the process."

Other projects that have received IAF Small Projects funding include:

- The Okanagan Packinghouse Fieldmens Group received IAF funds to bring Dr. Hoitink from Ohio State University to provide growers and public with information regarding effective use of organic mulches and composts. The seminar took place in February 2005 in Summerland.

- more -

---

*Funding provided by:*

- The B.C. Grain Producers Association received IAF funds to conduct a small-scale study about the viability of producing field pea varieties for short growing season areas such as the Peace River Region. The study, which is currently taking place, will determine whether a five year breeding project is feasible.
- The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee recently held a forum entitled *Agriculture – Building it Right* on May 17, 2006. The chamber received IAF funding for the forum that addressed predevelopment site evaluation on new and expanding farms.
- The B.C. Egg Producers Board hosted the July 2005 National Egg Producers conference in Vancouver and used IAF funds to provide a conference facilitator and a speaker for a biosecurity workshop.

Unlike the regular funding application stream, which has set application deadlines during the year, small projects applications can be submitted at any time. Contact IAF program managers or visit the IAF web site for more information ([www.iafbc.ca/how.to.apply.htm](http://www.iafbc.ca/how.to.apply.htm)).

The Investment Agriculture Foundation is a non-profit organization responsible for the distribution of federal and provincial funds toward innovative projects benefiting the agri-food industry in B.C.

**For more information about IAF funding opportunities, contact:**

Emily MacNair  
Program Manager, Plant Industries  
250-356-0119  
[Emily.MacNair@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Emily.MacNair@gov.bc.ca)

Coreen Moroziuk  
Program Manager, Animal Industries  
778-371-7443  
[iafcoreen@shaw.ca](mailto:iafcoreen@shaw.ca)

**For more information about specific small projects funded by IAF, contact:**

Sandra Tretick  
Communications Coordinator  
250-356-1672

---

*Funding provided by:*

