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## **Investment Agriculture Foundation contributes \$1.4 million to new projects**

**June 15, 2010 Victoria, B.C.** – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) will contribute up to \$1.4 million toward 16 new projects to help the B.C. agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

The list includes new projects contracted between January 1 and April 30, 2010. Funding for these projects is provided by IAF through programs it delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. The projects include regional agricultural area plans, educational events for growers and activities that will enable sectors to take a strategic approach in addressing emerging issues and innovation.

“While some things aren’t possible for us to fund, many activities are eligible,” says Stuart Wilson, IAF chair. “We encourage industry groups to talk to us about their priorities. That way, we can identify which activities we can support.”

### **CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ADAPTATION PROGRAM**

Funding for the following projects is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. CAAP is a five-year, \$163 million national program aimed at helping the sector adapt and remain competitive. The Foundation delivers CAAP in British Columbia and has been allocated \$6.2 million over the period 2009-2014.

#### **Certified Organic Associations of B.C.**

\$900,000

Organic Sector Development Strategic Initiative (S0011)

This strategic initiative supports five goals: increasing the capacity of the organics sector, building confidence in certified organic systems and products, promoting environmental stewardship, advancing organic research and innovation, and strengthening infrastructure. COABC is now accepting applications for funding for projects that will assist the organic sector’s development.

#### **Cariboo Central Interior Poultry Producers' Association**

\$8,500

2nd Annual Rabbit and Poultry Forum (SP148)

This educational event was held on March 27, 2010 in Quesnel providing area residents with information about poultry and rabbit production. More than 100 people attended.

#### **FARM Community Council**

\$5,350

"Knowledge Network" Pilot for the Small Farm Operators (SP145)

This one-year pilot will establish and prove the utility of an online discussion forum, the purpose of which is to encourage the many independent small farm operators, which constitute much of the community agriculture sector, to share ideas, establish markets,

buy and sell and generally improve their networking, farm management, organizing and economic capabilities.

**Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission** \$50,000

Northern Adapted Flax Variety Demonstration Project (W0134 / SK5004CO)

This project is one integral component of the national flax strategy with the objective to develop new flax varieties better adapted to the northern prairie region of Western Canada, which includes the B.C. Peace Region.

**AGRI-FOOD FUTURES FUND**

Funding for these projects is provided through the federal-provincial Agri-Food Futures Fund.

**B.C. Blueberry Council** \$79,920

Food Safety Education Program for Direct Market Blueberries (AF015-A216)

This project will provide food safety education to producers who direct market their berries to the public. It will include half-day workshops with follow-up farm visits for approximately 250 farms.

**B.C. Food Processors' Association** \$138,458

Organizational Infrastructure Development for B.C. Agri-Food Innovation and Commercialization Hub (AF014-A119)

Bringing new products to market can be daunting for small and medium sized producers of food and bioproducts. This project aims to breathe life into a virtual centre that will assist the agri-food sector with the commercialization process. Building on recommendations of a feasibility study previously funded by IAF, the project includes the development of a governance model, stakeholder engagement plan and marketing materials, and the establishment of an inventory of facilities and other resources that currently exist around the province.

**B.C. Honey Producers' Association** \$11,467

Integrated Pest Management for B.C. Beekeepers (AF011-S011)

Decreasing colony losses and mite levels, improving overall nutrition, and enhancing beekeepers' proficiency in queen rearing and varroa resistance assessment is the focus of a series of beekeeping workshops this spring. Three regional one-day workshops address issues specific to the area. One was held in Kamloops in March with two more running in Comox and Castlegar in May 2010. In addition, two-day master beekeeping sessions are also being offered. An April session held in Langley and another upcoming this June in Williams Lake both filled quickly.

**Campbell Valley Food Group Inc.** \$30,000

Business Plan for a Food Processing Facility in South Langley/Campbell Valley (AF014-A129)

A group of Langley businesses are pooling resources to develop a business plan for a small to medium-scale, flexible co-processing facility that would provide year-round processing capacity in the south Langley area.

**Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique** \$4,000

Towards a B.C. Economuseum Network (AF010-IA10)

This project included the coordination of an event to bring together partners, businesses and Economuseum model founders to discuss the Economuseum model – a craft and agri-foods business whose products are the fruit of an authentic technique or know-how – and opportunities for creating an Economuseum network in B.C.

**Wine Islands Growers' Association** \$2,350

2010 Viticulture and Enology Conference (AF002-I0490)

This two-day conference includes technical presentations on coastal grape growing and wine making designed to increase grower knowledge and further develop this wine region. The event was held in Brentwood Bay on May 15-16, 2010.

**SAFETY NET**

Funding for these projects is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.

**B.C. Landscape & Nursery Association** \$36,938

Strategic Plan for BC's Ornamental Nursery Industry (A0607)

The ornamental nursery sector in B.C. recognizes the need to take a strategic approach to identify new and emerging issues affecting industry and to develop a strategy to enable the sector to effectively adapt and capture new opportunities over the next three years.

**City of Chilliwack** \$40,000

Chilliwack Agricultural Area Plan (B0016.21)

This plan will be developed in conjunction with a review of Chilliwack's Official Community Plan. It will include policies and procedures that address rural-urban interface issues. An economic impact analysis of the area's agricultural sector will also be conducted.

**Corporation of Delta** \$30,000

Delta Agricultural Plan (B0016.22)

Agriculture in Delta is facing a number of challenges, including the new South Fraser Perimeter Road and the transportation of farm vehicles. The community will create its vision for the future of agriculture, updating previous planning work which was also funded by IAF.

**District of West Kelowna** \$40,000

West Kelowna Agricultural Plan (B0016.27)

West Kelowna is B.C.'s newest municipality, incorporated in December 2007. Agricultural production is a key economic driver in the region and an Agricultural Advisory Committee has already been established to oversee plan development.

**Regional District of Alberni-Clayquot** \$30,000

Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan (B0016.24)

By conducting background research and an environmental assessment and identifying local agricultural opportunities, this plan will provide strategic direction for future agricultural growth and development in the Alberni Valley.

**LIVESTOCK WASTE TISSUE INITIATIVE**

Funding for this project is provided through the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative.

**Smart Risk Control Inc.** \$54,818

FADES Planning Phase V - Facilitated Planning (LWTI 041)

This project will address a series of individual tasks designed to advance and support the B.C. Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan for 2010.

IAF is an industry-led not-for-profit that strategically invests federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects that benefit the agriculture and agri-food industry in B.C. For more information on IAF and the programs it delivers, visit [www.iafbc.ca](http://www.iafbc.ca).

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For more information on any of these projects, media may contact the organization leading the project or:

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