

Round Table Funding

AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!

The so-called "Joint Funders' Consortium" has made great strides forward in research funding this year. The round table process made allocating grants significantly more cooperative, more efficient and more effective.

The gains have been made in a number of areas. Shared resources, particularly in technical reviews, avoid duplication of effort and keep costs down for the funding agencies. Better coordination makes for better investment for the industry. And by having funders team up, larger integrated projects can be considered.

But the real benefits are for the applicants. In the joint application process, a single project application is reviewed by all the funders. A pre-application presents a concept rather than a detailed full application, and provides all applicants with fair review and faster response to their proposals.

Investment is what the process is all about. In coordinating the funding activities, scarce dollars can be stretched farther. ACIDF, for example, entered the negotiations with a prioritized list of applications and a target budget able to fund the first eleven. When we left the round table fully 17 of our top priorities had funding.

Challenges Ahead

The joint funding program is just beginning. Plans for expanding the process to include other agencies are well underway. In the mean time there are a few challenges to work through.

The first is how to manage several funders supporting one project. In the past the applicant would have to negotiate with each funder, sign separate contracts, and perhaps even have several reporting requirements. Instead, a single contract is being developed, incorporating the requirements of all the funders. Each project will be assigned to a funder to act as liaison with the other agencies involved in the funding. The result will be a single contract, a single set of reporting requirements and a single contact for negotiations.

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Round Table *(continued)*

A second challenge will be the intellectual property (IP) issues. Multiple investors (including industry investment) will lead to complex agreements. The expectations of current round table participants regarding IP are very close together, so there should be few, if any, adjustments for specific contracts. In the future, however, as the number of participants increase, IP considerations will become increasingly important as grant contracts are negotiated.

The Winning Team

Success like this doesn't come without lots of hard work. The picture below shows the negotiating teams (left to right): Neil Oberg (AARI), Ross Bricker (AVAC), Joan Unger (AARI), Cam Klapstein (ACIDF), Mark MacNaughton (ACIDF), Bill Buchta (DLFOA), Freda Molenkamp (AARI), Kieth Jones (AVAC), Marilyn Stecyk (facilitator, Kaleidoscope Consulting), John Christensen (Ag & Food Council), Darcy Fitzgerald (ALIDF), Doug Walkey (ACIDF), Don Macyk (AARI), and Alan Hall (AAFRD).

Special Thanks to Freda Molenkamp and Joan Unger for their hard work in organizing, coordinating, and hosting the round table!



Approved Projects (To April 2002)

The 2001/2 Research/Science projects have been reviewed and successful applicants have been notified. We will make the approved project information available when the funding contracts are complete.

In the mean time, here are some statistics on projects reviewed by the ACIDF.

Total Applications (crop related) 390 (244)

Projects Funded (to date) 30

Proposals Received By Sector Designation

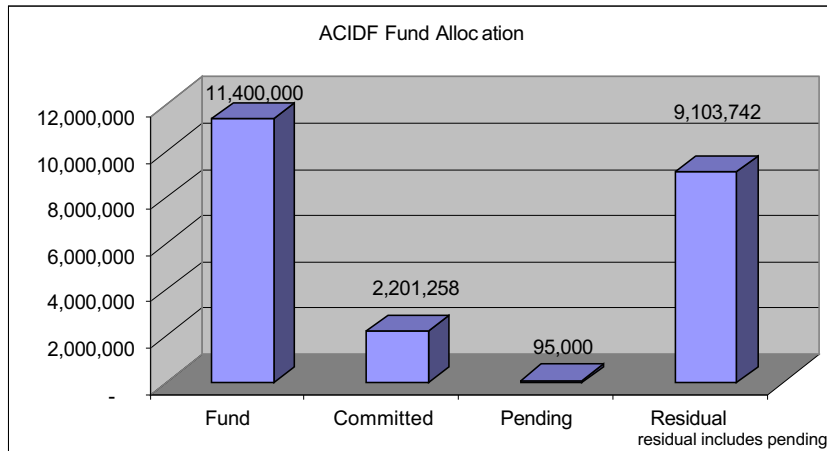
	Request	Total Project	Grants	Count
Animal	488,690	1,610,540	-	3
Cereal	10,207,522	25,921,012	354,159	36
Forage	3,827,972	10,775,843	285,300	23
Horticulture	2,720,168	5,784,297	246,720	34
Oilseed	6,159,056	17,620,596	484,775	29
overarching	16,246,446	38,506,822	373,816	64
Special Crops	9,587,421	20,128,315	276,613	49
value added	985,866	3,029,580	179,875	6
Totals:	50,223,141	123,377,004	2,201,258	244

Signed projects funded to date.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Contact</i>
2002C001N	Crop Development Opportunity Initiative	C. Foster (chair)
2002C003N	Development of a Compositional Data Base for Alberta Pulse Crops	C. Phillips (CAIT)
2002C004N	Woody Ornamental Catalogue	LANTA
2002C085N	Applied Forage Research Compilation	Alberta Forage Council
2002C099N	Growing Pulses: A Field School for East Central Alberta	CARA
2002C102N	Alfalfa Seed & Leaf-cutter Bee Production & Marketing Manual	Irrigated Alfalfa Seed Producers Assoc.
2002C105N	Barley Sample Identification Program for the Japanese Shochu Market	D. Driedger (CDC-South)
2002C107N	International Speaker Funding for FarmTech 2002	Rick Taillieu
2002C110N	Evaluation of Pulse Dehulling and Splitting Techniques	Marshall Eliason
2002C112N	Effect of Tuber Chemical Composition and Growing Temperature on Russet Burbank Potato Flesh Color	Darcy Driedger
2002C113N	Value-Added Process Development of Pretreated Barley	Hong Qi

Money Spent

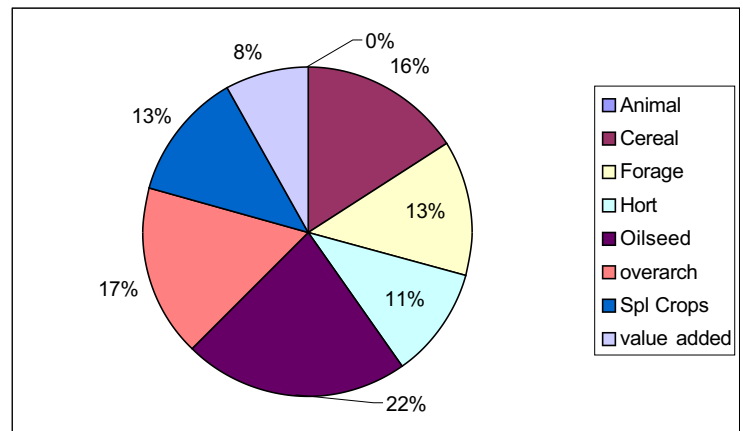
Here is a snapshot of money committed to projects this fiscal year.



The first column is the initial fund of money given to ACIDF. The second column represents the money committed to research and non-science projects to date. The third column is projects currently being considered for funding. The final column is the remaining funds to cover administration as well s future year’s disbursements.

Information on the ACIDF “burn-down rate” or rate of disbursement is available from our

Grants awarded by crop sector:



Of course there must be fifty different ways of looking at how grants are applied to the industry. Few hold much meaning because grants are awarded based on the quality of the individual project compared to other projects available. So at the risk of clouding the issue with facts, here is a breakdown of the 2001/2 grants:

<u>Project Activity</u>	<u># of Projects Funded</u>
Production	10
Environment	1
Value added	6
Market development	6
Extension	4
Other	3