

Resolution PC1-24: Financial Sustainability for Field Crop Development Centre (FCDC)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation facilitate the establishment of a stable funding framework for FCDC that includes the retention of existing infrastructure, sites and human capital for the continued enhancement of programs for seed breeding and agronomic research.

Response:

To help further the development and continued innovation of agricultural research, the FCDC has been relaunched as the Western Crop Innovations (WCI), a non-profit corporation with an interim board. The new structure will revitalize the organization, promote a renewed vision, and better position Alberta to meet the agricultural industry's needs.

Officially starting up April 1, 2024, WCI will carry on the FCDC's important research, including its well-known barley breeding program. Its current programming will undergo a review and where necessary, be transitioned to ensure crop innovations support Alberta's farmers' needs now and into the future.

The re-launch was driven by representatives from government, commissions and agricultural producer groups, specifically from the crops and livestock sector, academia, malting and seed industries, who met to discuss the future of FCDC. All stakeholders affirmed that the FCDC must continue, but the focus and priorities of the centre need to be revamped.

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