

## Provincial Agricultural R&D Strategic Business Plan Communiqué - August, 2002

Over the past several years, considerable time and attention has been dedicated to reviewing the agricultural research and development system. As a result of these reviews, it is apparent that there are several key issues that need to be addressed including fragmentation in the system, the need for innovation, clear direction and focus, and the need for the system to be well-funded and efficient.

In an effort to address the issues in the current R&D system, a Provincial Agricultural R&D Strategic Business Plan is being developed by multiple stakeholders. This plan will be developed by December 2002 and will include the following:

- Strategic research and development priorities with specific outcome measures
- Strategies to develop a research and development system in which the entire system works together to achieve a shared vision and that values collaboration, alignment and joint ventures
- An implementation plan that outlines strategies, actions, resources, outputs and measures

Some of the benefits of developing a Provincial Agricultural R&D Strategic Business Plan include:

- A shared vision for the Provincial agricultural industry
- Enhanced positioning of Alberta as a national/global leader in specific agricultural and related sciences
- A focal point for public policy
- Increased accountability and alignment in the agricultural R&D System
- Clearly identified direction for private and public investment in high quality, strategically aligned R&D

The Provincial Agricultural R&D Strategic Business Plan will include: **Preface** (Environmental Scan and Benefits of having a Business Plan), **Who** (all stakeholders, funders and performers), **Vision, Key Operational Issues, Strategic Priorities** (under development—driven by the Network process), **Goals, Strategies, Actions, Resources, Budget, Outputs/Outcomes, Accountability processes** (under development).

### Where is the Process at today?

Since the development of the Business Plan includes many stakeholders, three Focus Groups were held in June 2002 to capture input and suggestions. Each Focus Group resulted in an eager readiness and enthusiasm to build a collaborative, integrated, well-funded and innovative R&D system in Alberta. From focus group participants, several people volunteered to build the first draft of the Business Plan. This team of volunteers is called the R & D Strategy Team.

**The Team** includes David Andersen, Joe Booth, Peter Burnett, Darcy Fitzgerald, Clif Foster, Les Fuller, Keith Jones, Dick Peter, Neal Oberg, Myka Osinchuk and Robert Rogers. They will complete the first draft of the Business Plan in August/02.

There is also a six-member support team working with the R&D Strategy Team consisting of Maureen Bolen, Alan Hall, Don Macyk, Brent McEwan, Freda Molenkamp, and Scott Wright. For further information about the R & D strategy and summaries of the Focus Group discussions go to the team website at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/rds](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/rds)