Accelerating the Advancement of Agricultural Innovation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

The answers below are highlights for your reference. Please refer to all sections of the Terms and Conditions and Application Form in the links posted to each Program web page, along with any other posted Resources.

Which Program do I apply to for my project?
There are two programs in the Science and Research theme of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership) in Alberta:

- Accelerating the Advancement of Agricultural Innovation (Accelerating Innovation)
- Adapting Innovative Solutions in Agriculture (Adapting Solutions)

Applicants may choose which Program is the better fit. They may also mark the box at the top of Part C of the Application Form in order to be considered for the other Program.

Accelerating Innovation
- for projects that test innovations that are new to the province or new to a specific agricultural sector.

For example:
- new agricultural innovation from another country/province that is untested in Alberta agriculture
- new innovation in Alberta tested in beef but untested in sheep
- new non-agriculture use from any place, that is untested in Alberta agriculture
- knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) of the innovation potential in Alberta

Adapting Solutions
- for innovative solutions that tend to be leading edge or excellent practice elsewhere and have not been adopted or adapted for use yet in Alberta.

For example:
- established agricultural innovation in use in another country/province that is in limited use in Alberta or not in use in Alberta agriculture
- established innovation in Alberta used in beef and could be adapted for use in sheep
- established non-agriculture use from any place that works (even commercially) and could be adapted for Alberta conditions
- knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) of the known knowledge/practice and how it could be used here

What activities are eligible under the programs?
Refer to sections 2.0, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Terms and Conditions. Along a research continuum, project applied research activities in each of the two Programs would appear somewhere between ‘basic research’ and ‘private research.’ Every project must include a detailed plan for
KTT. This is especially important in the Adapting Solutions Program. Part F of the Application has a KTT template to be included as part of any project plan. Projects that are KTT-only are also eligible; applied research activity is not mandatory in the Application.

**How do I know if I am eligible to apply?**
Refer to sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Terms and Conditions. The list of eligible applicants for the two Programs are the same and are listed on the web page and the program documents. List one (only) legal entity applicant for the grant in Part B of the Application, line 1: “Legal Name of Business or Organization”.

**Are producers eligible?**
Refer to the Application and sections 2.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Terms and Conditions. Active producers, like other applicants, will be able to submit an application for applied research projects along with a robust KTT plan. KTT-only projects are also eligible.

**What grant funds are available?**
Refer to section 6.0 of the Terms and Conditions. All project costs are shared by the applicant and the grant.

**How many times can I apply?**
Applicants can apply more than once to a Program in any year. Applicants can apply to one or both Programs in any year.

**What grant funds are available?**
Refer to section 6.0 of the Terms and Conditions. All project costs are shared by the applicant and the grant. If an applicant met all conditions and was successful in their grant applications, the maximum grants awarded to any applicant for both Programs combined could potentially reach $1,000,000 during the Programs term to the end of fiscal year 2022-23. Submission of a completed application does not guarantee that an applicant will receive funding from the Programs. There is limited funding in the Programs.

**What proportion of a project is covered by the grant in each Program?**
Refer to section 6.2 of the Terms and Conditions. Approved capital expenditures may be reimbursed up to 20% of the applicant’s expense. Other approved, non-capital, expenses are shared 50% grant: 50% applicant.

Example 1.
A project that includes a $1,000,000 of eligible capital expenses could be eligible for a grant that includes $200,000 (i.e. 20%) for the capital expenses of the project.

Example 2.
An application for $58,000 ($50,000 eligible capital expenses and $8,000 of eligible non-capital expenses) could be eligible for a grant of $10,000 + $4,000 = $10,000.

Example 3.
An applicant has a $7,000,000 project approved of eligible activities to be conducted over three years in one of the Programs (for example, Adapting Solutions). The applicant is eligible for no more than $250,000 in grant funds in any one fiscal year. The applicant is eligible for no more than $500,000 in grant funds during the Adapting Solutions program term ending March 2023.
Can in-kind labour be included in the application?
Yes, please see the Terms and Conditions sections 2.0, 3.5 and 6.0 and the Application Form.

Example 1.
Applicant materials and supplies (cash): $30,000
+ Applicant and team members in-kind labour to project: $20,000
= Total project value of $50,000

An applicant may be eligible for up to a $25,000 grant. This means the net cost to the applicant after the grant is awarded is $5,000 cash + $20,000 in-kind work.

Example 2.
Applicant materials and supplies (cash): $20,000
+ Applicant and team members in-kind labour to project: $30,000
= Total project value of $50,000

An applicant may be eligible for up to a $20,000 grant. This means the net cost to the applicant after the grant is awarded is $30,000 in-kind work.

The difference between example 1 and example 2 is because in example 2, as noted in the section 6.3 of the Terms and Conditions, in-kind project contributions are not payable. So the 50% grant-50% applicant cost share is reduced in this example when less than half of the applicant contribution to the project is not in cash.

Do projects need to end within a fiscal year?
No. For example, a project which runs for 15 months, i.e. ending after the government fiscal year end of March 31, can spend throughout the project until the end of the project term as noted in a Grant Agreement for the project. Projects that begin in one fiscal year and end in another fiscal year may be required to provide progress reports during the project. Applications need to indicate when project funds are needed.

What is the maximum length of a project?
It is anticipated most projects are 24 months, maximum. If there is a demonstrated need to have a project that exceeds 24 months, there must be a very strong rationale as part of the Application. Project work must not extend past January 1, 2023.

When is the final date for applications to be received?
Refer to section 5.0 of the Terms and Conditions. There is continuous intake with two Intake Due Dates for review each fiscal year. This can change depending on the number of applications received and available funding. The dates will be posted on the Program websites; and to be eligible for that review period applications must be received by or postmarked on or before the date specified on the Program website.

Can we begin spending after we have submitted the application?
The date that the email or mailed application is received will be considered the start date, unless a later date is indicated by the applicant on the Application. If applicants choose to spend dollars in advance of a decision on their project, the applicant is assuming the risk for the entire project, given that their application may not be approved for funding. There is no guarantee that
applications will be funded, even if they have met all criteria; there is limited funding in the programs and the number of applications that will be competing for funds is unknown.

**What is the process for deciding on the applications that will be approved for a grant?**
Refer to section 4.0 of the *Terms and Conditions*. There is an established process that is consistent with the intended outcomes of the Science and Research theme. External reviewers will be part of the process. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff may participate in projects and may also apply to lead projects. Staff-led projects, like other projects, will be reviewed according to the Program Assessment Criteria in section 4.0 of the *Terms and Conditions*.

**How do I apply to the Science and Research program?**
Each Partnership program page has an application form and an application process. These may differ from program to program in the Partnership. Each program page provides *Terms and Conditions, Application* form, and important information about program deadlines, the application process and eligible activities. Please review all documents and contact the Program team as needed.

**Is travel an eligible expense?**
The eligibility of travel expenses varies between Partnership programs. If travel-related expenses are eligible under the terms and conditions of a program, the Alberta Travel Expense Policy applies. Unless otherwise specified in the program terms and conditions, only those expenses stated in the policy are eligible for payment. The Alberta Travel Expense Policy was developed based on the Treasury Board Travel Meal and Hospitality Expense Policy.

**How can I find out about the Program’s status (i.e. accepting applications, changes)?**
You can go the program webpages and/or subscribe for email updates; you will receive programs information when changes occur. Also you may contact the program staff at AF.AccelAdapt@gov.ab.ca

**How will I know if my project is approved?**
Applicants will be advised of the decision on their application after the Intake Due Date and reviews have occurred.

**How are funds provided to the applicant for an approved project?**
Refer to sections 7.0 and 8.0 of the *Terms and Conditions*. Approved projects receive an upfront payment of 50% of the maximum approved grant amount stated in the *Grant Agreement*. After any and all reporting requirements are met at the end of the project, applicants receive outstanding payments up to the maximum set in the *Grant Agreement*. 

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