

# **General Guidelines for 2013/14 Sustainability Call for Proposals**

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## 1.0 Guidelines

### 1.1 Purpose

The Sustainability targeted call is designed to contribute to the competitiveness and profitability of the livestock and meat sector by driving positive change in short term decision making and long term capacity to increase the sustainability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry. The areas of focus will strengthen industry's social license to operate by advancing capacity and knowledge in research through to full chain coordination and sustainable agricultural practices.

The Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) will invest up to \$2.0 million to support research and innovation in the area of "Sustainability". Sustainability within this scope is inclusive of environmental health, economic health and ethical production.

- Sustainable farms protect the biodiversity of the lands but also fosters healthy ecosystems owner by Alberta's land owners.
- Healthy food systems are the source of healthy foods and establish the solid foundation for food and agriculture production into the future.

### 1.2 ALMA's Investment Priority

**ALMA** is a catalyst for stimulating new thinking, new ideas and new approaches to enhance the reputation, competitiveness and profitability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry, and to build relationships among the various stakeholders in the industry. Proposals in the Sustainability call for proposals should target production efficiency and enhanced value in meat products to increase competitiveness (increased food safety, animal welfare, and animal production systems to improve market access). Funding will be directed to develop and deliver technologies, solutions and knowledge to improve the competitive position of Alberta's livestock and meat industry. ([www.almaltd.ca](http://www.almaltd.ca))

### 1.3 Background

There is an opportunity to increase global demand for livestock and meat products that are economically viable, socially acceptable, energy efficient and ecologically sustainable. Agriculture is a major contributor to Alberta's economy and has been challenged to balance productivity with long term stewardship of natural resources and with the most effective use of new technologies.

A number of reference documents were consulted to provide direction to the Sustainability call and to ensure alignment with the needs of Alberta's livestock and meat industry. These include:

- Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (2010)
- Canada's Agri-Food Destination (2011)
- The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability (2011)
- Making an Impact: Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in Canada's Food, Beverage and Consumer Products Industry (2012)
- Shaping Alberta's Future: Report of the Premier's Council for Economic Alberta Competitiveness Council: Moving Alberta Forward (2011)
- Alberta Research and Innovation Plan (2011)
- Other Government of Alberta ministry research strategies and plans

## 1.4 Objectives

The objective of the 2013/14 Sustainability targeted call is to support the development and application of production practices, technology, tools, conceptual research (including proof of concept), applied research and pilot studies in the area of sustainability, within a company facility, a public institution, and/or a combination of the two. Projects should take a holistic and systems approach to advancing industry sustainability.

This research and innovation Call for Proposals is designed to:

- Accelerate research that will lead to the introduction of new, innovative and competitive traits and attributes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity, conserve water and create sustainable advantage.
- Support innovation that enhances sustainability of system management practices in agriculture and its livestock and meat sector.

Key long-term outcomes for this program are improved competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry.

For more information, please view the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency's business plan found on the ALMA website (<http://www.almaltd.ca>) or contact the ALMA Program Manager.

## 1.5 In-Scope

The targeted call for proposals gives priority to projects that deliver:

1. Advancement of production and management practices
  - i) Best management and utilization of grasslands, protection of water and grasslands
  - ii) Food safety, traceability and animal welfare
2. Sustainability Strategies and Tools

- i) Optimize continuous improvement in business and sustainability performance
- ii) Measurement of performance metrics and identification of areas for improvement
- iii) Development of smart tools that deliver production efficiency and improved management
- iv) Leverages or enables full chain coordination of improvements and reporting
- v) Evaluation of economics in pursuit of sustainability goals

### 3. GHG Reduction and Biodiversity Enhancement

- i) Best management practices reducing the carbon footprint and enhancing the life cycle assessment of livestock and meat products
- ii) Demonstrable benefit to ecosystem health

### 4. Improvement of Animal Welfare

- i) Support the efficient adoption and delivery of animal husbandry practices in the Canadian Codes of Practices

## 1.6 Out of Scope

- Scale up of new technologies beyond pilot studies
- Marketing activities
- Commercialization activities
- Research into consumer demands and preferences

## 1.7 Requirements

1. The Sustainability proposals must demonstrate a step forward for the industry as it responds to the growing global request for measured sustainable production of healthy food. Again, ALMA defines sustainability as a three-legged stool of environmental health, economic and ethical production.
2. Demonstration of collaboration
  - a. Preference will be given to projects demonstrating collaboration across departments and/or institutions at a provincial, national and international level (if appropriate).
  - b. Preference will be given to projects that have secured industry support (cash and/or in-kind).
3. Determination of economic impact. Projects must include a determination of the economic impact of the research results, such as:
  - a. Cost of production,
  - b. Return on investment,
  - c. Risk analysis, and

- d. Life cycle analysis.
4. Elaboration of a well-developed, effective technology transfer plan through scientific communication and appropriate extension/industry activities.
5. Projects should be transformative, not incremental, in nature. Creative and innovative solutions to Sustainability Issues facing the industry are encouraged.

## 1.8 Process and Timelines

1. Grants can be up to 3 years in duration for approved eligible expenses, and should commence (start date) by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.
2. Letters of Intent (LOI) are invited from applicants wishing to participate in the program. Information can be found on the ALMA website at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>. Each LOI must be submitted through the on-line system, which can be found at [www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/ALMA](http://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/ALMA). Applicants who submit LOI's that are of interest to the funders will then be invited to submit a full proposal.
3. Applicants may request funding for one of two tiers or types of projects. **Tier I** will be for the smaller, proof-of-concept ideas that are innovative however novel. The funding request for Tier I proposals will be capped at \$150,000 for a maximum of 2 years. **Tier II** funding requests will be capped at \$500,000 for larger, multidisciplinary projects over a maximum of 3 years. Increases in the Full Proposal budget from the LOI budget will not be considered unless accompanied by adequate justification or requested by ALMA.
4. The following steps and deadlines are planned:
  - a. July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Call for Proposals announced.
  - b. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 2:00 pm – Deadline for LOI submission. Late submissions will not be accepted.
  - c. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013- Notification for successful LOIs and start of submission of full proposals.
  - d. October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 2:00 pm – Deadline for submissions of full proposals. Late submissions will not be accepted.
  - e. January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014- All applicants notified on or before of funding decisions.

## 2.0 Guidelines for Submission

### 2.1 Format and Forms

The guidelines and instructions for using an on-line application system and offline LOI templates can be found on ALMA website at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>; the templates are to be used in preparation of creating an LOI. Once an LOI is ready to be submitted, it is done so through the automated on-line forms. The on-line system can be found

at <https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/ALMA/Account>. Once the LOI portion of the process is complete, the full proposal form will be made available to those who have been approved to submit a full proposal.

## 2.2 Eligibility

Eligibility will fall under Eligibility Requirements for ALMA's Research and Development Program or ALMA's Industry and Market Development Program. Please consult our website for specific program eligibility requirements at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>.

## 2.3 Funding Sources

Applicants are encourage to obtain other sources of financial support for the project from groups, organizations or companies that are likely to benefit from the results of the proposed research and innovation. Information should be provided in the application form on other sources of support, including those applied to or otherwise contacted for assistance.

For LOIs, ALMA will share the submitted LOIs with other Alberta-based funding agencies if permission is granted to do so by the applicant. Upon submission of the LOI, an email will be automatically generated back to the applicant, requesting this consent.

The Funders will require written confirmation of contributors and their investment, whether cash or in-kind contributions, to the research outlined in the full proposal. This confirmation will be required with the submission of the full proposal.

## 2.4 Evaluation Criteria

Applications received through the Sustainability Call for Proposals will be reviewed for innovative ideas that can transform the livestock and meat sector, collaboration, impact to the industry and excellence; and in full accordance to the ALMA Research and Development Program or Industry and Market Development Program. The proposals will be confidentially reviewed by external scientific and industrial reviewers, and further reviewed through ALMA's technical review committees for recommendation of funding. Depending on the size of the funding requested, ALMA's Board Committees may also review for approval of funding.

All approved proposals will enter into a grant agreement with ALMA according to the Terms and Conditions governing the specific program area in which the proposal was approved. Please consult the ALMA website for the specific program Terms and Conditions.

## **2.5 Intellectual Property**

Intellectual property developed and owned by the applicant must be managed by the applicant.

## **2.6 Notice of Collection**

The personal information provided through this application process will be used to process the applications through the ALMA Sustainability Call. This may require sharing your information confidentially with external reviewers to assist with the evaluation process. This information is collected under the authority of section 33 (c) and 34 (1)(a)(i) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, contact the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, Suite 101, 1003 Ellwood Road SW, Edmonton AB, T6X 0B3; by telephone 780-638-1699; by fax 780-638-6495.



For further information, please contact:

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For questions regarding the Research and Development Program, please contact:

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