



NOTE: Project as outlined below has been completed and the results can be viewed at www.pvttrials.com

To	Barry Willis	Date	November 18, 2008
Company	BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council	Pages	4
From	Amanda Soulodre, Western Grains Research Foundation		
Funds Requested	Total of \$3,000 with \$1,500 from Producer Levy Funds and \$1,500 from Peace River Agriculture Development Fund.		
Project Length	Start: As soon as possible	End: June 2009	
Project Title	British Columbia-specific modifications to the PVT interactive website (as run by a back-end database) for Western Canada		

Background Information on WGRF

Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) is a non-profit organization that is farmer funded and directed. Set-up to fund research that directly benefits prairie farmers, the WGRF administers an Endowment Fund and the Wheat and Barley Check-off Funds, with annual research funding in the range of \$4 to \$5 million.

WGRF was started by farmers in 1981 to manage the Endowment Fund. The Wheat and Barley Check-off Funds, which are supported directly by producers, were added in the 1993-94 crop year and today contribute to the majority of the organization's funding. WGRF is one of Canada's major examples of a worldwide trend - farmers funding research.

WGRF supports many research programs and projects from across Western Canada, with both long-term and short-term agreements. To date, the Endowment Fund has supported a wealth of innovation across Western Canada and provided over \$19 million in funding for over 200 projects across a number of different crop types. The check-off funds have supported, in part, more than 55 new varieties of wheat and 25 varieties of barley, with new and improved varieties in the pipe-line.

The organization is over-seen by a 16 member Board that is diverse and well rounded. The Board is comprised of farmers, each representing a different agricultural organization, from across all the



western Canadian provinces. Our office comprises three full-time employees (Executive Director, Communications Manager and Administrative Clerk) and one casual employee for book keeping.

Project Description

This project is designed to make British Columbia-specific modifications to the interactive web based database site (www.pvttrials.com), which government and industry can access for variety selection based on the best geographical area for varieties grown across W. Canada. This work is in addition to other ACAAf grants that have been in place to develop the website and load data from the western provinces.

Project Objective

By having an interactive, web-based system, producers will have access to view tables in different formats and create reports using the varieties and test sites they want to see data pulled from. This will aid in promoting varieties and in selecting them for their best areas of adaptation.

Existing databases for variety descriptions of hard red spring wheat in the four Western provinces are maintained separately and are incompatible with one another. Establishment of a single standardized database will allow for better access to and use of all data, past and future, for all W. provinces. In addition, new features will be incorporated to suit the province's needs in a collective manner, such as a new zone map to allow users to view varieties across Western Canada.

With the scope of this project, stakeholders will benefit by having a user-friendly web based program to select the best varieties for their area. BC producers will have easy access to other provincial data which will provide additional (and possibly better) information.

Creating a website that allows farmers to see standardized data that does not stop at the border would be very beneficial in making better use of the data that we being collected on the research level. A producer who farms in BC may find better research data sites in Saskatchewan to base his/her variety selection decisions. These are efficiencies that are being overlooked right now, and it is a misuse of data and waste for those farmers who could find this information very useful.

Context/ Background

The RVT system has to become more economical, practical and provide better data for producers. With a prairie wide system, all the criteria will be met. At present, a post registration system is needed to compare new and existing varieties. RVT is the only unbiased system for providing this



service.

Stakeholders in the western Canadian Post-registration Variety Testing (PVT) database will be able to have their data modified in order to see, in real time, how their data will work within a new PVT database. This is a necessary step to promote the potential for a coordinated western Canadian Post-registration Variety Testing system.

With the scope of this project, stakeholders will benefit by having a user-friendly web based program to select the best varieties for their area. The information will consist of new and historical data from the Western Provinces to be viewed on a micro level (i.e. individual site). This will benefit the groups as listed below:

- (1) Producers - better variety selection results in fewer production problems, reduced input costs, and higher productivity;
- (2) Industry – coordinating data that is already being collected within each of the provinces increases its value exponentially. This project will help to break down borders and find cost efficiencies amongst the collaborators. As well, promotion of new and existing varieties will be achieved more economically;
- (3) Plant Breeders and Research Institutes - breeding objective for adaptation; more exposure to environmental conditions at a larger number of sites results in breeding for better agronomics and pest resistance. Also, central coordination will standardize the tests and allow more exposure to varieties across all the provinces;
- (4) Consumers – may lower cost of production resulting in lower prices. Also, increased availability of different products with enhanced health benefits;
- (5) The Environment – more pest resistant, competitive varieties means fewer chemical inputs.

Computer Programmer Selected

John Kirtz from Snowy Owl has been selected as the programmer for this project. He has worked with the AB/BC database system for the last six years with funding from the Alberta government to provide data mining for the two provinces. With Mr. Kirtz experience with the project, and vast experience in this type of work, we think he will be a great asset and contribute to the success of this project.

Budget

The breakdown for the \$3,000 requested is broken out as follows:

- **Computer Programming = \$3,000**
 - The computer programmer's rate is \$100 per hour X 30 hours
 - Activities:
 - Integrate production zone map over a Google satellite map to show clustered BC trial sites (3 hours)



- Add an element to the existing system to list a choice of check varieties and give the user a choice in selecting what variety they would like the data compared against (5 hours)
- Create a chart that shows the breakdown of BC site locations and a chart that shows the average by location based on selected check and comparison varieties, taking into consideration programming protocols that remove data with high degrees of variance or other unreliable data (5 hours)
- Add a print function onto each page that has the capability to print in colour and black and white based on the selection the user makes on their printer. Also incorporating conversion to a PDF or Excel spreadsheet for further data comparison. (4 hours)
- Create parameters around the database information that can create Iso-zones (high, medium and low yield categories) for grown varieties (5 hours)
- Develop a system where user can save their 'favorites' (ex. site locations, comparative varieties, variety characteristics) to come back and use in future report analysis (5 hours)
- Site testing (3 hours)

The main contact on this project is Lanette Kuchenski, WGRF's Executive Director. She can be contacted by calling 306-975-0060. If you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact her and she would be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Amanda Soulodre
Communications Manager