

December 15, 2020

Prof. Amar K. Mohanty  
Professor & OAC Distinguished Research Chair in Sustainable Biomaterials  
Department of Plant Agriculture & School of Engineering  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario  
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Dear Prof. Mohanty,

**RE: Letter of support for the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance – Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Mobilization Program 2020/2021 “A study of plastic waste generation and conversion in Ontario: Environmental aspects”**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest voluntary, general farm organization in Canada, representing over 38,000 farm families across Ontario. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, Ontario, OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate and voice for Ontario farmers.

OFA is pleased to provide its support for the “A study of plastic waste generation and conversion in Ontario: Environmental aspects” project as submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Mobilization Program.

Plastic waste on farms is a concern for farmers and OFA members want solutions developed to address this concern. In OFA’s April 19, 2019 submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, in response to ERO # 013-4689 (Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities Discussion Paper), OFA highlighted the need for research focused on producing compostable baling twine, netting, and films designed to withstand prolonged outside exposure, but able to decompose or be edible when shredded into livestock feed. In Ontario, over 3,500 tonnes of plastic agricultural waste is generated each year including six million pounds coming from plastic bale wraps and silage<sup>1</sup>.

Options for farmers to send agricultural plastic wastes for recycling are currently very limited. The cost of disposing of plastic bale wraps and other plastic products has increased causing an additional burden to farmers. There is significant need to develop an inventory of farm plastic waste by region, which would help inform waste management policy.

1. Ontario Agricultural Film Plastic Waste Characterization Study (Blacksheep Strategy).

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OFA would also be pleased to provide support and input into the development of an infographic and fact sheet and assist in developing and supporting a dissemination plan for the information to our membership.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld  
President

CC: OFA Board of Directors