

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

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October 25, 2023

Peggy Brekveld  
President  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
c/o Wendy.Beaton@ofa.on.ca

Dear Ms. Brekveld:

Thank you for sharing your letter regarding the Fertilizer Accelerating Solutions & Technology Challenge (the Challenge). I am pleased to respond.

The Ontario government is committed to supporting our farmers and agri-food industry when they face challenges beyond their control, such as supply chain challenges affecting fertilizer.

The Fertilizer Challenge encouraged innovative, made-in-Ontario solutions to help meet the province's fertilizer needs by making it possible for applicants to commercialize technologies and alternative fertilizers solutions for farmers and the agri-food sector.

The program focused on funding projects, like biofertilizers, that can reduce dependency on imported and traditional fertilizers. By supporting high-potential concepts that are already under development, we are ensuring these solutions get into the hands of our producers more quickly.

As next steps, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), the governments of Canada and Ontario are committing up to \$16.5 million, over five years, to provide new and enhanced funding to support the Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative (OAFRI).

This suite of funding opportunities will support varied streams of research and innovation activities leading to new cutting-edge technologies, practices and solutions that will strengthen the sector, which may include new innovations in fertilizer. These funding streams include applied research initiatives, pilot projects and demonstrations, knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) efforts and actions to facilitate commercialization of products and processes to bring new solutions to market.



Good things grow in Ontario  
À bonne terre, bons produits

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The [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#) will deliver the applied research, pilot and demonstration, and KTT funding streams while the Bioenterprise Corporation will deliver the commercialization stream and a Grow Ontario Accelerator Hub. The first application intakes will open on November 2, 2023. More information is available at the [Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative website](#).

Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

**Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?**

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.