

CAAIN's Contribution to Canadian Ag-Tech Innovation

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AIC Summit

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CAAIN  **RCAIA**

connect
create
cultivate

connecter
créer
cultiver



CAAIN's Purpose

- Connect and invest in Canada's agri-food and technology sectors to create jobs and drive innovation and productivity
- Support the creation of technological solutions for the most challenging problems facing Canada's agri-food sector

CAAIN's Value Proposition

- Reimbursement rather than grants
- All project partners based in Canada
 - ROI to taxpayers
- Project teams must include two SME's
 - Encourage and support growth of CDN ag-tech sector
- Support competition applicants throughout submission process
 - We...must...use...this...money
- Diverse, approachable, friendly, professional team
- **All geared to yielding improved outcomes along Canada's agri-food value chain—from gate to plate**

Three Research Priorities

CAAIN Is mandated to support three ag-tech innovation pillars

- Robotics and automation
- Data-driven decision-making
- Smart Farms

*Combine and sensor photos courtesy of Olds College



Robotics and Automation

Why?

- Ag sector facing labour shortages
 - Exacerbated by pandemic
 - Much of the unskilled labour is replaceable by machines operated and maintained by skilled workers
- Provides more producer certainty
 - e.g., milking cattle, harvesting crops
- Provides more processor safety
 - e.g., slaughterhouses and meat packers



Data-Driven Decision-Making

Why?

- Need to do more with less
 - Smart/precision ag depends on good, well-analysed data
 - Good data = informed decisions
 - Informed decisions = Increased ROI
- Robotic and autonomous platforms are AI-based and require reliable data

*photo courtesy of Olds College

Smart Farms

Why?

- **Validate** new technologies in a range of real-world environments
- **Demonstrate** new technologies to producers
 - Allow them to see past “if it ain’t broke” rationale
- Often on P.S. campuses and can help **Educate** next generation of agricultural professionals
 - Enter the workforce more comfortable with technology as viable option

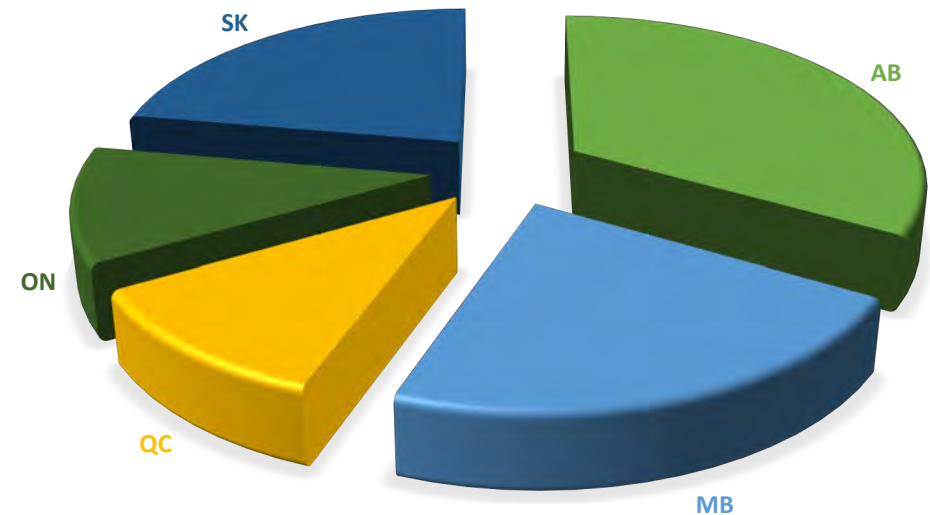
*Photo courtesy of Olds College

CAAIN's Competitions

CLOSED

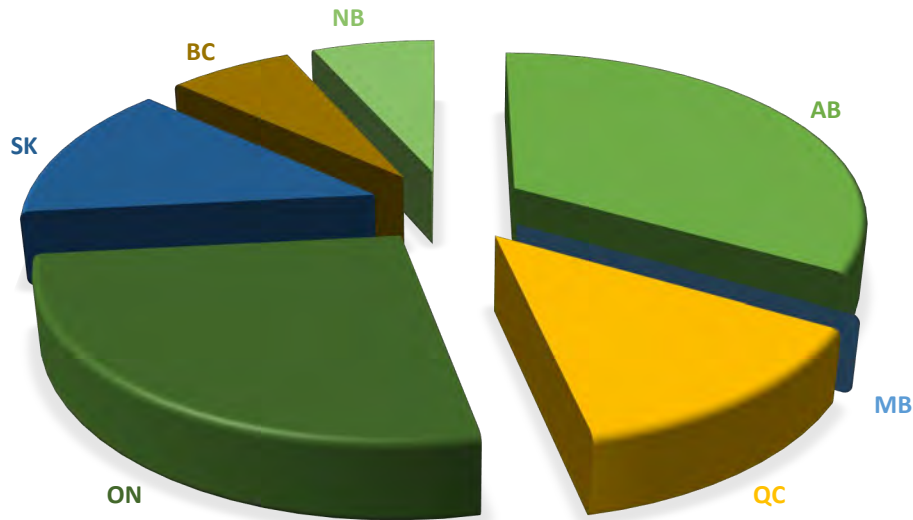
- 9 approved projects
- 40 project partners
- Total combined value of \$39.5m
- CAAIN contribution just over \$15m
- Announcements starting late May

TOTAL CC PROJECTS BY PROVINCE



CAAIN's Competitions

TOTAL OC SUBMISSIONS BY PROVINCE



OPEN

- Launched nationwide Dec. 2020
- 42 proposals received
- 15 advanced to full proposal stage
- Mid-June submission deadline
- Final approvals late summer

CAAIN's Open Competition Process

Call for Submissions

- Single-page outline or Project Registration Form (PRF)

Expression of Interest

- More detailed
- Evaluated by CAAIN and external reviewers

Full Project Proposal

- Comprehensive
- Evaluated internally and externally

CAAIN's Other Activities

- Build a network connecting
 - Ag and tech sectors
 - Researchers and SMEs/MNEs
- Host and participate in events with ag-tech and/or innovation focus to build awareness of sector needs and activities
 - Collaborating with EMILI, SAF, LRIC, PIC
 - Inventure\$

Thank You

Contact us at
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