

NEW BIOFUELS PROGRAM INVESTS IN THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

(Saskatoon, SK – September 21, 2006) – The Saskatchewan Council for Community Development is now accepting applications for the new *Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI)*.

BOPI is a \$10 million program, funded nationally through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and delivered regionally through the industry councils. SCCD, located in Saskatoon, will administer Saskatchewan's share of the Initiative - \$591,180.

BOPI is designed to fund projects that improve the agricultural producers' ability to participate in and take advantage of opportunities created by biofuels production. Individual project funding will be capped at \$300,000 and at least 25% of the project cost must be provided by the industry.

“The main goal of this Initiative is to produce a viable business case for making transportation fuels that include agricultural inputs,” says Garth Patterson, SCCD Chair. “Farmers and rural communities will benefit from a real biofuels strategy that encourages producers to participate in equity ownership of biofuels production facilities.”

BOPI will help provide new opportunities to farmers, and will also help lay the foundation to meet Canada's biofuels commitment of 5% average renewable fuel content in transport fuel by 2010. Greater involvement in biofuels production facilities will allow agricultural producers to become participants in the value chain and increase their share of the benefits from renewable fuels production beyond delivering feedstock.

Funding is to be provided to develop sound, viable business proposals to undertake feasibility studies to create and expand biofuels production capacity involving significant (greater than one third) ownership by agricultural producers.

“Our producers and industry stakeholders have the savvy, they have the knowledge of what it takes, either to make something better or to bring something new to the farm,” says Patterson. “This program simply recognizes that foundation and makes it possible to look beyond the conventional and compete with new ventures and opportunities.”

The complete application form can be accessed at www.sccd.sk.ca by e-mailing info@sccd.sk.ca. Completed applications are to be submitted no later than Friday, October 13, 2006.

The BOPI program is administered under the existing Terms and Conditions of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Dallas Carpenter, Communications Officer
Phone: (306) 975-6856
E-mail: carpenterd@sccd.sk.ca
www.sccd.sk.ca

