



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAF Releases 20 Year Impact Assessment on BC Agriculture and Agrifood

VICTORIA, September 14, 2016 – Celebrating the impacts of working with B.C.'s agriculture and agrifood industries for 20 years, the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) released *Impact Assessment of Government Funding Delivered by the B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation* today.

To mark its 20th anniversary, IAF commissioned an assessment to demonstrate the impact of government funding delivered by the foundation since its inception in 1996. IAF has been entrusted with delivering Government of Canada and British Columbia funding, in support of innovation, market development and adaptability in B.C. agriculture.

Key findings in the report, *Impact Assessment of Government Funding Delivered by the B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation*, include:

- **ECONOMIC IMPACT**
 - Impact of government funding delivered by IAF on B.C.'s total economy was estimated to be \$354.9 million from \$145.2 million dollars invested by IAF over 18 years. This indicated that every dollar invested by IAF results in an economic impact of \$1.85.
- **TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACTS**
 - *Growing Forward 2: Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation* program stakeholders reported significant advances in promotion of agricultural technologies and tools.
 - *B.C. Government's Buy Local* program and *Growing Forward 2: B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Export* program stakeholders reported that as a result of government funding delivered by IAF, they were able to adapt and utilize new technologies in their production systems which ultimately had significant impacts on environment as well as the market.
- **MARKET IMPACTS**
 - Government funding delivered by IAF enabled *B.C. Government's Buy Local* program and *Growing Forward 2: B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Export* program stakeholders to have a more powerful and confident presence in domestic and international markets and also enabled them to offer better prices to consumers.

- **SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

- Each IAF stakeholder reported at least one new hire as a result of government funding delivered by IAF. The reported growth rate of new job opportunities was as high as 10% for one of the stakeholders.
- As a result of deploying the most recent techniques and technology devices, a significant improvement was observed in adoption and awareness of environmentally-friendly practices as well as expansion in greenhouse growing.

In its first 20 years, IAF has delivered government funding to more than 1,700 projects across British Columbia.

Quotes:

Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food –

“The Government of Canada is proud to collaborate with local and provincial efforts to support innovation in B.C.’s agriculture sector. This report highlights the positive impacts of our partnership with IAF and agriculture industries, leading to a thriving and prosperous agri-food industry.”

Norm Letnick, B.C. Minister of Agriculture –

“B.C. farmers and producers are well known for the great products that we enjoy with our families every day, but this report quantifies the additional roles that B.C. agrifood producers play in our communities. The government funding accessed through IAF programs supports new jobs and business growth, the development of new technology, and responsible farming practices, and this report helps document those lesser-known benefits that B.C.’s \$13-billion-a-year agrifood sector generates for British Columbians.”

Ken Bates, Chair of Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. –

“This report demonstrates the impact that collaboration between senior levels of government and the agriculture industries can have. By working together B.C.’s agriculture is competitive locally and internationally, advancing with the latest technologies and tools, and creating jobs in our province.”

The full report, prepared by R.A. Malatest & Associates, is available at: www.iafbc.ca/impact

Learn more about *Growing Forward 2*:

For more information on *Growing Forward 2* programs in British Columbia, visit:
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=EB8322DE53664C7289317829FA25360E>

For more information on *Growing Forward 2*, visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/key-departmental-initiatives/growing-forward-2/?id=1294780620963>

IAF is an industry-led, not-for-profit organization representing the agriculture, food processing, farm supply and post farm gate sectors across British Columbia. Celebrating our 20th Anniversary, IAF works with our industry partners and funders to invest in projects that enhance the competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of BC's agriculture and agri-food industry. IAF helps transform ideas into solutions. www.iafbc.ca

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Funding provided by:

