

Beans growers to benefit from federal investment in pulse research and innovation

December 14, 2009 (Centralia, ON) – A federal government investment in pulse research and innovation will give bean growers new products and techniques to protect crop quality and make harvesting more efficient.

The Government of Canada today announced that it is contributing to \$772,000 to Pulse Canada to develop a new technique that will help farmers manage dry bean harvest. This investment will fund research across the bean growing regions in Canada to develop new safe, trade-friendly products for harvest dry down of dry beans. Due to restrictions for herbicide residues, there are currently limited crop protection products available to farmers.

"On behalf of Canadian pulse farmers, processors and exporters, I want to thank the federal government for their continued support and investment in our industry," said Mike Donnelly-Vanderloo, a Pulse Canada board member and Ontario bean grower. "This will help fund research to develop new products and provide farmers with more options to improve harvest and enhance crop quality."

The Pulse Canada project will reduce or mitigate risk for both the grower and processors. It will enhance harvest management so that farmers can manage harvest timing with less risk of maximum residue limits being exceeded in key markets. The new techniques will also help protect crop quality. With specialty bean markets opening up in countries such as Japan, markets are growing for Canadian beans.

"As we sell our beans around the world, we need to make sure that the harvest management techniques we use do not create a trade risks in these markets," adds Donnelly-Vanderloo. "This will help us continue to provide quality beans to customers at home and around the world."

Canada is the world's largest exporter of pulses - beans, peas, lentils and chickpeas - and one of the world's largest pulse producers. Canada is the fourth largest exporter of beans in the world, with an annual exports valued at \$136 million. Pulse Canada is the national association representing growers, traders and processors of pulse crops. Canada is the world's largest exporter of pulses and one of the largest pulse producers.

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For more information, visit www.pulsecanada.com or contact:

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