Letter of Intent – 2025 Call for Research Proposals

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 4:30 pm**

**To be considered for funding, all project ideas must be submitted at the Letter of Intent (LOI) stage. If new issues or opportunities arise after LOIs are due and warrant a rapid research response, please contact us and we will consider these on a case-by-case basis.**

**Instructions:**

General:

* Applicants must electronically submit the provided template for their LOI. Please send completed LOIs to pbarnard@gfo.ca.
* Maximum project length is 5 years and projects cannot start prior to April 1, 2025.
* First-time applicants should contact staff well before submission to discuss project ideas.
* To be eligible to apply for funding an applicant must be in good standing with GFO. If you are currently receiving GFO funding and have outstanding GFO project reporting requirements at the submission deadline, your LOI will not be accepted (new December 2022).
* Applicants are principal researchers. If co-investigators are involved, you may add their information into the applicant information area.
	+ Do not include collaborators in the LOI; they will be identified later if the Applicant is invited to submit a full proposal.
* Do not provide additional information (e.g., Letters of Support) at this LOI stage.
* GFO will not typically support projects that it views as the responsibility of private industry (e.g., well-resourced private product development or testing).
* If a project has the potential to encounter regulatory constraints (e.g., gene editing, new pest control products, etc.) please outline how these will be addressed.
* For any Breeding and Genetics projects please clearly identify how it builds on a base breeding program and how genomics tools will be directly applicable to a breeding program.
* For all Crop Utilization projects we require the following:
	+ Involvement of a company capable of commercializing the new use pathway and interested in utilizing grains produced in Ontario.
	+ An estimate of the amount of Ontario-produced grain that would be used to meet market demand.

Budget:

* Include appropriate overhead in your budget totals (GFO will not pay >25% overhead and no overhead is eligible on research project equipment expenses over $10,000 (new Dec 2021)).
* Budget requests to GFO should be reasonable for the proposed work and proportional to the estimated benefit to Ontario’s grain farmers. Budget requests to GFO typically range between $10,000 to $90,000 per year with a median budget of around $30,000.
* Identification and pursuit of matching funding sources is *strongly* encouraged. Please indicate the name(s) of the funding source(s). Ideally a project would include funding from all relevant parties which have a stake in the outcome of the project.
	+ Where relevant please consult with potential industry partners before applying.

Review Criteria:

* Please note that LOIs are reviewed and graded by the research committee using the following criteria: 1) fit to the GFO Research Priorities 2) benefit to Ontario grain farmers 3) quality of the science. Please keep these in mind as you prepare your LOI.
* When funding is available, GFO is open to funding ‘upstream research’ that clearly identifies how the research outcome could eventually provide value on the farm. However, GFO also considers which funders are most appropriate for a given type of research.

Formatting Requirements:

* Applications must be submitted in Microsoft Word format with 1” margins.
* Please use at least a size 10 font.
* The completed application form must be no longer than 2 pages (not including the optional appendix). If you include figures/tables to explain methodology, please limit to a 1-page appendix.
* You may remove instructions underneath sections to allow for more room.
* The space given underneath each section is a suggestion on how much to write. How much you write in each section is up to you, so long as the total LOI is no longer than 2 pages with 1” margins, plus a 1-page optional appendix with 1” margins.

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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** |  |
| Applicant’s Name |  | Job Title |  |
| Email |  | Organization |  |
| Project Start Date |  | Project End Date |  |
| What is the primary crop being studied: barley, corn, oats, soybean or wheat? |  |
| Choose one of the 4 GFO research categories this project best falls into (see the *Research Priority* document – *i.e.*, Agronomy & Production *etc*.) |  |

**GFO Letter of Intent – 2025**

* **Objectives:**

– List in point form

* **Explain the problem / opportunity this project will address:**
* **Benefits to producers and alignment with Grain Farmers of Ontario research priorities:**

– Clearly describe/quantify how grain farmers in Ontario will benefit from the outcomes of this project (e.g., estimated financial benefit) and identify where there is value to other industry / government users as well.

– Where the research is upstream / early stage, clearly identify the post-project steps needed for it to eventually benefit Ontario’s grain farmers.

* **Proposed solution:**

– List experimental approaches to meet objectives: proposed treatment list, experimental design(s), location(s) of field experiments (if applicable). A 1-page appendix of figures and tables is permitted.

– List anticipated research deliverables.

* **Target audience(s) for knowledge transfer (KT):**

– List the top 3 target audiences that would be most interested in your anticipated research deliverables.

* **Budget:** Fill in the table below showing the amount of funding you are requesting from GFO as well as amounts and names of potential partner funding sources (pending or confirmed)**.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding source** | **Apr 2025****Mar 2026** | **Apr 2026****Mar 2027** | **Apr 2027****Mar 2028** | **Apr 2028****Mar 2029** | **Apr 2029 Mar 2030** | **Total** |
| GFO |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partners (list them) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***Note: Maximum project length is 5 years; projects cannot start prior to April 1, 2025***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget allocation by objective\* (% of total):** | Obj. 1 | % | Obj. 2 | % | Obj. 3 | % | Obj. # | % |

\*Indicate *estimated* budget spend by objective in cases where objectives are not fully integrated with each other.