

Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre

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Annual Review April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

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***This report and other CSIDC publications are available at our internet address:
<http://www.agr.ca/pfra/sidcgene.htm>***

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Manager's Report

It is my pleasure to present the annual progress report of the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC). This report summarizes the wide range of activities conducted, funded or facilitated by the Centre in 2000. CSIDC is a federal, provincial, and industry partnership. Industry is represented by the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association (SIPA) and the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC), the Federal Government by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, PFRA and the Provincial Government by Sask Water. Representatives from each group are members of the CSIDC Executive Management Committee (EMC). I would like to extend special thanks to the members of this committee for their input, direction and support of the Centre.

Executive Management Committee (EMC)

Don Fox, SIPA
John Linsley, ICDC
Gerry Luciuk, PFRA
Carl Siemens/John Konst, ICDC
Wayne Dybvig, Sask Water
Laurie Tollefson, CSIDC

The year 2000 was a busy year of activity and planning at the Centre. Major accomplishments included the finalization of the CSIDC Strategic Framework (see insert). This framework clearly outlines the future vision for the Centre and the outputs and activities needed to achieve it. It is the final product of consultations and discussions with our partners and clients. Using this framework a detailed workplan was developed. Major emphasis has been placed on aligning the Centre with the vision and business lines of the federal and provincial governments and to meet the needs of our industry partners and clients. In addition to the strategic framework and workplan a detailed business plan was developed for the Centre.

Securing adequate funding to conduct the work outlined in the workplan is a priority at CSIDC. Traditionally the Centre has relied on federal and provincial A-base dollars along with agreement funding to facilitate its program. With the conclusion of the Partnership Agreement on Water Based Economic Development (PAWBED) and the final year of the Agri-Food Innovation Fund (AFIF) being 2001, additional funding will be required to meet the goals outlined in our framework.

Many activities occurred at the Centre in 2000. Crop diversification and value added continue to be key to the work at the Centre. Depressed commodity prices have accentuated the search for new alternatives. A highlight of this work was Herbfest 2000 held at CSIDC July 22-23, 2000. This event was hosted by the Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association, CSIDC and the University of Saskatchewan. It was the *grande finale* to a week that started with a scientific conference on medicinal herbs held at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and which moved to CSIDC at Outlook for the Herbfest portion. Both events were a huge success and were firsts for Western Canada.

The scientific conference profiled many facets of the medicinal herb industry from research and production of herbs and spices to processing and marketing. Featured speakers from around the world were present. Herbfest at CSIDC showcased agronomic production, post harvest handling and processed products. In excess of 1000 visitors attended the two-day event with people coming from across Canada, USA and Europe to view production on the prairies.

In addition to Herbfest, the annual CSIDC field day and commodity group tours (potato, vegetable, etc.) were popular and well attended events. Visitor attendance at CSIDC was at an all time high in 2000 reflecting the desire for information by producers and consumers.

International interest in the Centre continues to increase. Numerous groups from around the world visit the Centre each year and are interested in the work being conducted. A world class facility and staff make this type of interaction possible. CSIDC staff are involved nationally and internationally through membership and participation on National and International Committees. In addition they provide technical and management expertise to projects in China (Sustainable Agriculture Development Project in Inner Mongolia), the National Water Quality and Availability Management Project (NAWQAM) in Egypt, and the Hebei Dryland Project in China. This interaction keeps staff current and allows networking and new ideas to be continually brought forward to our Centre.

Objectives

1. Identify higher value cropping opportunities through market research to help target research and demonstration programs.
2. Conduct, fund and provide support for irrigated research and demonstration to meet the needs of irrigation producers and industry in the province.
3. Develop, refine, and test methods of diversifying and intensifying irrigated crop production in co-operation with outside research agencies.
4. Demonstrate sustainable irrigated crop production practices at CSIDC.
5. Promote and extend sustainable irrigated crop production methods.
6. Evaluate the environmental sustainability of irrigation, and evaluate the impact of irrigation on natural and physical resources.
7. Promote a Western Canadian approach to irrigation sustainability by interacting with staff from similar institutions and industry across Western Canada, and by transferring this technology to the industry. This will increase levels of co-operation in marketing, research and demonstration in support of diversification and value added processing.

Staff

Manager:	L. Tollefson	ICDC Agrologists:	J. Linsley
Administration:	M. Martinson		L. Bohrson
Secretarial:	J. Clark		I. Bristow
Clerical:	D. Greig		K. Olfert
Market Analyst:	H. Clark	Field Operations:	B. Vestre
Irrigation Sustainability:	T. Hogg	Irrigation:	D. David
Specialty Crops Agronomist:	J. Wahab	Maintenance:	A. MacDonald
Technician	G. Larson	Technology Transfer:	J. Harrington
Technician	S. Avis		

