

The Seed Industry – WE'RE IN FARMING TOO

Rain, frost, pests, soil conditions – the seed business faces everything you do because we are farmers too. Not only that, we're your neighbours. Canada's seed industry is comprised of many players, including 1,300 small and large businesses and more than 4,000 farms engaged in seed production. We bring jobs and infrastructure to the rural economy.

Pedigreed Seed Crops

The challenges of producing high quality varieties involve roguing every field to remove off-types, meeting rotation and distance criteria, and passing inspection. On top of that, extra care is taken at seeding, harvest, and storage. Hybrid crops are even harder to produce, requiring management of two different parent crops in the same field; some species even require manual cross-pollination.

- 1.2 million acres of pedigreed seed crops are produced annually in Canada.
- 2,300 varieties of 50 different crop kinds are pedigreed in Canada every year.
- Canadian seed is exported to approximately 70 countries, generating \$271 million in 2004-05.

Research and Development

Both public and private sector efforts are essential to producing varieties for Canadian farms.

- The private sector invests \$100 million a year into plant research and development in Canada.
- Canada is the beneficiary of about 10% of global private plant breeding investment, bringing important jobs and high-value labs to our country.
- Companies have chosen to invest in Canada in a globally competitive environment.

Jobs & Rural Development

Most seed in Canada is produced here. In fact, most of it is bred here. That makes seed a powerful economic engine that drives job creation and fosters rural development. Right in your own community there are likely seed growers, field inspectors, registered seed establishments, seed trial plots, and seed retailers. All of these have a powerful multiplying effect on rural economies.

- There are approximately 20,000 Canadians employed in the Canadian seed industry.
- 4,000 experienced, trained seed growers and 1,200 registered seed establishments are spread throughout rural communities across the country.
- Manitoba's seed industry contributes \$110 million in value added to that province's economy, creating 1,300 job opportunities.
- Saskatchewan's pedigreed seed industry creates as many as 9,000 agricultural jobs for the province and is worth an estimated \$389 million to the provincial economy.
- Ontario's seed industry has sales approaching \$60 million in raw form at the farm gate. The multiplying effect of that seed generates \$647 million for the GDP.

