

## **10-year review highlights impact of funding programs and role played by AAC**

Since 1995, the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) has used its expertise in delivering government funded programs to support new ideas and innovations in agribusiness that create success and economic growth.

AAC has a unique understanding of funding program requirements, farming and agribusiness. The organization is driven by a board of directors that represents 66 Ontario agricultural, agri-food and rural organizations, which helps provide a tremendous opportunity for governments to connect with industry members.

Using its expertise in funding program delivery, AAC provides “hands on” assistance to help agribusiness access this funding -- from helping applicants put their ideas on paper to supporting them until their project is complete. AAC has a strong track record of success. For 15 years the organization has been committed to outstanding customer service and program delivery that is efficient, flexible, cost effective and accountable.

In 2010, the organization initiated a study to gain further understanding of the economic role and impact that AAC-administered programs have on Ontario and the national economy. The study also assessed program applicant satisfaction levels with the services and support provided by AAC.

Conducted by the Inshtrix Research Inc., the study focussed on CanAdapt and CanAdvance funding programs that have been administered by AAC and funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Evaluation included a total of 612 projects -- 285 CanAdapt projects and 327 CanAdvance projects, funded over a 10-year period.

Primary research for the study was generated through questionnaires sent to AAC applicants that received funding under the two programs.

### **AAC impact analysis findings**

#### **AAC funding has significant impact on the Canadian economy.**

Over the past 10 years, funding administered by AAC for the two programs -- \$42.2 million -- produced increased sales in various industries estimated at \$334.8 million.

- These sales increased Canada's GDP by \$142.9 million, including \$92.4 million in personal income.
- In Canada, every dollar spent creates total economic output of \$2.87. GDP increases by \$1.23 and labour income increases by \$0.79.
- Over the 10-year period, funding provided through AAC-administered programs generated an estimated 2,931 new jobs in Canada, which would not have been possible without AAC project funding.

- An estimated 25 jobs were created in Canada for every million dollars spent by those organizations whose projects were funded by AAC-administered programs.

#### **AAC funding has significant impact on the Ontario economy.**

In Ontario over the past 10 years, funding administered by AAC produced increased sales in various industries by an estimated \$282.1 million.

- These sales increased Ontario's GDP by \$113.7 million, including \$77.9 million in personal income.
- In Ontario, every dollar spent creates total economic output of \$2.42, GDP increases by \$0.98, and labour income increases by \$0.67.
- Over the 10-year period, funding provided through AAC-administered programs generated an estimated 2,285 new jobs in the province, which likely would not have been possible without AAC project funding.
- An estimated 19.6 jobs were created in Ontario for every million dollars spent by those organizations whose projects were funded by the two programs.

#### **AAC funding applicants are very happy with the service they receive from AAC**

- 98% of survey respondents have a positive overall impression of AAC.
- More than 96% of respondents say they are satisfied in their dealings with AAC.
- 94% of respondents are satisfied that AAC-administered programs meet the needs of the organization.
- 94% of respondents say the clarity of the AAC application process is excellent or good.
- More than 93% of respondents say AAC provides excellent or good support and guidance in completing the funding application form.

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