

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), your local host, has put together three bus tours targeting Seed industry hotspots for conference attendees this year. All participants have the chance to visit all these three locations. Participants are grouped into 03 groups (roughly 30 in each group/one bus). Mention that you wish to attend these tours when registering for the conference.

\*MAX 100 PARTICIPANTS (03 groups of about 30 participants in each)

\*When: Thursday 15th June 2023, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

## TOUR 1

### CDC – Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan

(Thursday, June 15)



Photo credit : Crop Development Centre

The Crop Development Centre (CDC) was found in 1971 with a focus to improve the economic gain for farmers and the agriculture industry of western Canada. CDC is fully integrated within the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. CDC made a remarkable achievement in 50 years as they were successful to release over 500 commercial varieties with superior agronomic and end-use performances, covering over 40 different crop types including spring wheat, durum, canaryseed, barley, oat, flax, field pea, lentil, chickpea, dry bean, fababean and soybean. Scientists in the CDC deploy state of the art advances to develop plant varieties with resilient/superior

traits (yield, improved disease resistance) which have had a seven-fold economic benefit to agricultural producers in Saskatchewan and Western Canada. All these made CDC a well-known name on Saskatchewan farms. More importantly, CDC trains the next generation professionals by offering a world-class multidisciplinary and real-world experience in crop development programs. CDC Director Dr. Curtis Pozniak (Professor & Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chair in Durum and High-Yield Wheat Breeding and Genetics) (<https://cdctest.usask.ca/about/about-overview.php>)

Meet at 12.45 pm sharp in the lobby of the Delta Hotel by Marriott.

Type: A guided Bus Tour

Cost: Included in your full registration

## TOUR 2

PGRC (Plant Gene Resources of Canada) & Oilseed breeding operations – Saskatoon Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC), Government of Canada  
(Thursday, June 15)



Photo credit : Plant Gene Resources of Canada-SRDC, Agri-Food Canada AAFC

Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) has been located in Saskatoon since 1998. It is Canada's national seed gene bank resource managed and funded since 1970 by the Canadian government through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). PGRC's mandate is to acquire, preserve and provide access to genetically diverse plant material (germplasm) of cultivated plants and their wild relatives with an emphasis on germplasm relevant to Canada. This national resource aids plant

breeders and other researchers in selecting appropriate germplasm for crop improvement. Saskatoon Research & Development Centre (SRDC) is the national headquarters for the PGRC. PGRC covers all of the important functions of gene banks including acquiring, maintaining, conserving, distributing, regenerating, characterizing, evaluating and documenting germplasm of plant species of importance to food and agriculture. Since the PGRC's inception in 1970, the number of seed samples stored at PGRC has expanded enormously and currently, it holds approximately 121,000 different accessions, of which more than 70% are cereals including barley (40,000 accessions), oat (28,000 accessions) and wheat (13,000 accessions). PGRC also maintains the world's base collection of barley and oat seeds and a copy of the world's base collection of pearl millet, oilseeds and crucifer seeds (which include cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts). PGRC uses the Germplasm Resource Information Network (GRIN-Global) database to manage information and provide it to the public. Saskatoon Research & Development Centre (SRDC) is also one of Canada's National Oilseed Research Centres of Excellence. They conduct oil seed research in agronomy, crop management and

variety development to keep the oilseed sector competitive such as creating novel products and expanding markets for oilseed crops. For that purpose, researchers at SRDC developed new crops adapted to the prairies (*Brassica carinata* and *Camelina sativa*), which could create novel products and expand markets for oilseed crops. Improving quality characteristics of Brassicas and related species will introduce new crop platforms for bioproducts and biofuels in the current global bioeconomy. Yellow mustard (*Sinapis alba*), brown and oriental mustards (*brassica juncea*) are grown in western provinces of Canada. AAFC-SRDC has successfully developed hybrid varieties in brown and oriental mustard, which led to breaking the yield ceilings that had existed for 40 years in condiment mustard breeding in Canada. The AAFC canola (*Brassica napus*) breeding program focuses on pre-breeding germplasm and trait development, including unique seed quality and agronomic traits.

Meet at 12.45 pm sharp in the lobby of the Delta Hotel by Marriott.

Type: A guided Bus Tour

Cost: Included in your full registration

### TOUR 3

Seed Science & Technology Section (SSTS), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Government of Canada

(Thursday, June 15)



Photo credit : Seed Science and Technology Section, CFIA

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)'s mission is to safeguard Canada's food system, as well as the plant and animal resources on which Canadians depend. The CFIA plays a central role in ensuring that Canadian food, plants, and animals can be traded internationally. The Seed Science and Technology Laboratory (SSTS) of the CFIA is part of a network of 13 CFIA reference and

research laboratories across Canada. The SSTS lab specializes in seed testing providing research, method development, diagnostic testing, enforcement and monitoring support to CFIA's domestic, import and export programs – primarily for seeds, grains and oilseeds, and invasive alien species. We are host to Canada's National Seed Herbarium a national treasure for seed identification with over 14,000 reference specimens. The SSTS is a long term AOSA member and active participant in AOSA and SCST initiatives.

Meet at 12.45 pm sharp in the lobby of the Delta Hotel by Marriott.

Type: A guided Bus Tour

Cost: Included in your full registration