

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding several stalks of golden-brown barley. The person is wearing a red, white, and black plaid shirt. The background is a blurred field of barley. A large yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text.

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



## About Us

**The Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC)** is a national not-for-profit organization with a focus on improving profitability and competitiveness for western Canadian barley through long-term research investments. The CBRC is a collaboration between the [Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission](#), [Alberta Grains](#) and the [Manitoba Crop Alliance](#). Membership is open to any organization or association interested in supporting and advancing barley research in Canada.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



As producers we recognize the importance of research and innovation to maximize yields, improve quality, and ensure long-term sustainability. Since the inception of the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) in 2020, the founding members have had a vision to improve the profitability and competitiveness of western Canadian barley through research. Over the past year I am proud to share CBRC has significantly enhanced its research portfolio and strategic partnerships to benefit the barley value chain.

CBRC has been hard at work managing and administering numerous large research initiatives valued at over \$15 million. The funds are directed to the development of new and improved varieties, best management practices to maximize the benefits of the new varieties on farm, improved pest management, and research to support healthy soils and environmental sustainability. This level of investment over time will have a real impact on the barley industry and your farm's bottom line.

This work could not be done without the commitment of the CBRC Founding Partners and other research funders with an interest in supporting barley research in Canada. CBRC Founding Partners include Alberta Grains, SaskBarley and the Manitoba Crop Alliance, and CBRC is pleased to partner with the Government of Canada, Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute, Beef Cattle Research Council, Western Grains Research Foundation, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Producteurs de Grains Quebec, Atlantic Grains Council and Secan on our research investments.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, CBRC remains dedicated to supporting barley research that directly benefits Canadian producers. On behalf of the entire Board, I want to thank producers for their ongoing commitment to research and innovation in the sector.

Cody Glenn, Chair



# GROW

# Barley

## Grant for Research Optimization for Western Canadian Barley Agronomy Program (GROW Barley)

In 2024, the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) partnered with the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute (BMBRI) to successfully launch **GROW Barley**.

GROW Barley is focused on filling the deficit in barley agronomic research in western Canada with a goal of maximizing the yield and quality potential of new barley varieties. The success of this program is built on a funder commitment of **\$1.5 million over seven years** with an expectation of additional matching funds to further enhance the program.



**\$1.5**  
**MILLION**  
over seven years

*Dr. Hiroshi Kubota, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, was selected to lead the GROW Barley program.*



# Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Program (SCAP) BARLEY CLUSTER

The Barley Cluster is a **\$9.6 million research investment (2023-28)** into barley research projects ranging from new variety development, technology to make breeding programs more efficient, crop management practices to ensure new varieties meet their potential, and end use quality projects to provide the highest quality barley to end users domestically and abroad.

Funding for the Barley Cluster is strongly leveraged with over **54%** of the funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriScience Program. The remaining **46%** was secured from producer and private organizations in the barley value chain. Thank you to our industry co-funders of the Barley Cluster.

Visit [barleyresearch.ca](http://barleyresearch.ca) for more information on the projects in the SCAP Barley Cluster.

**THANK YOU**  
*Barley Cluster Funders!*



CFCRA members with an interest in barley include:



CFCRA  
CANADIAN FIELD CROP  
RESEARCH ALLIANCE

ARCCC  
ALLIANCE DE RECHERCHE SUR LES  
CULTURES COMMERCIALES DU CANADA



# SCAP BARLEY CLUSTER PROJECTS

Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Project Budget
Nitrification inhibition on GHG emissions, soil health and barley performance	Linda Gorim, UofA	\$873,528
Improving barley sustainability through integrated genetic diversity, nitrogen and PGR management	Kui Liu, AAFC	\$774,350
Enhancing environmental sustainability metrics of finished malt production in Canada	Yueshu Li, CMBTC	\$446,625
Enhancing the adaptation of western Canadian barley to climate change	Yadeta Kabeta and Jennifer Zantinge, WCI	\$700,000
Improving the value and environmental impact of barley through breeding	Aaron Beattie, UofS Crop Development Centre	\$883,432
Development of improved western Canadian barley robust to climate change	Ana Badea, AAFC	\$1,334,353
Next-generation barley traits for economic profitability and environmental sustainability in eastern Canada	Raja Khanal, AAFC	\$675,461
Enhanced use of barley and its fractions in monogastric nutrition	Martin Nyachoti, UofM and Ruurd Zijlstra, UofA	\$562,065
Disease resistance to address environmental issues, economics, and sector resilience	Kelly Turkington and James Tucker, AAFC	\$1,907,101
Barley pathogen variations and implications for managing disease via host resistance	Xiben Wang, AAFC	\$512,500

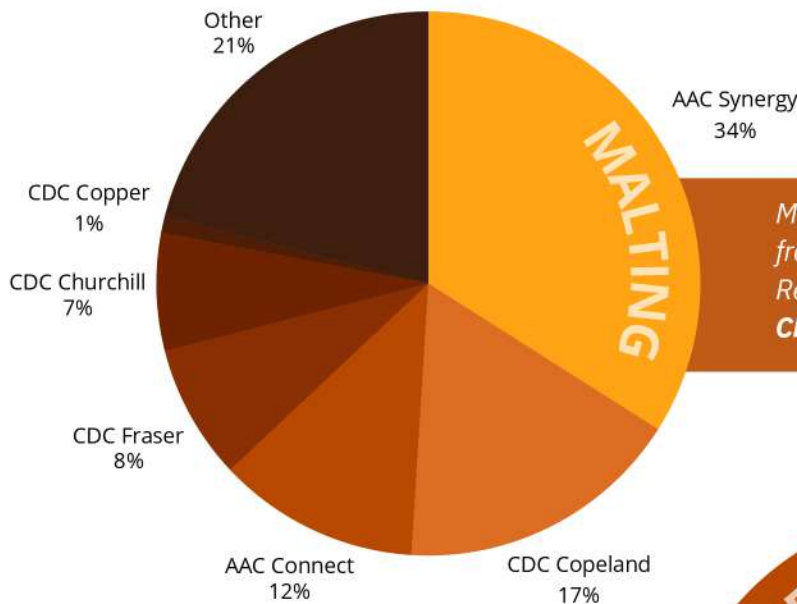


# Funding Barley Breeding in Western Canada

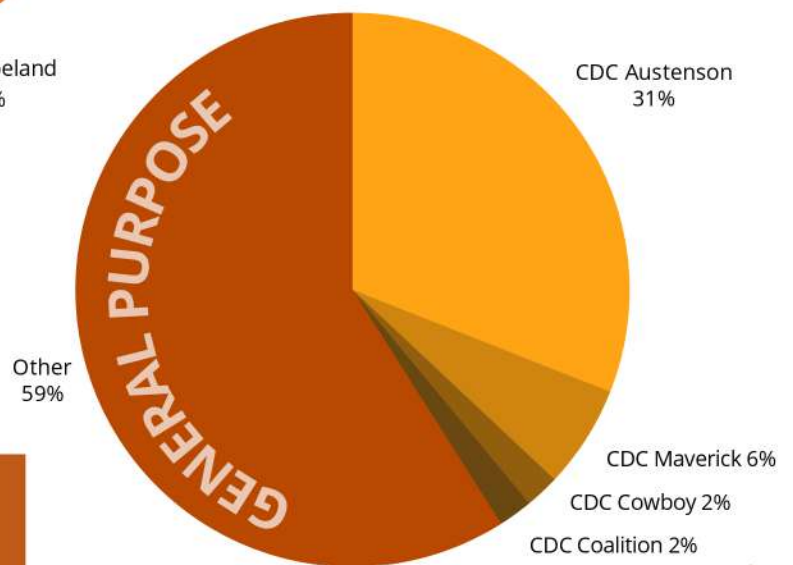
Barley variety development is the cornerstone of the barley industry. CBRC administers the producer-funded **Core Breeding Agreements (CBAs)** that provide long-term support for barley breeding in western Canada. The CBAs with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the University of Saskatchewan’s Crop Development Centre (CDC), are valued at \$1.5M and \$2.7M over five years, respectively, and deliver an excellent return on investment of **\$26 for every producer dollar invested**.

For more details check out the full report: *Barley Breeding in Canada – A path forward from 2021* by Katarzyna Bolek-Callbeck, Jillian Brown, and Richard Gray at [SaskBarley.com/Projects](http://SaskBarley.com/Projects).

The impact of the Core Breeding Agreements is evident by the varieties being grown on western Canadian farms.



Malting barley varieties developed with support from the CBAs that are on the CMBTC and AMBA Recommended Lists: **AAC Synergy, AAC Connect, CDC Fraser, CDC Churchill**



**Producers are encouraged to check their provincial seed guides for new barley varieties (malt, feed, food, etc.) that may be a good fit for their farm!**





# 2024 CANADIAN BARLEY SYMPOSIUM

In collaboration with the barley value chain, CBRC hosted the **Canadian Barley Symposium “From the Ground Up”** on February 26th-27th, 2024. The forum was an opportunity for the Canadian barley industry to share research innovations and discuss current issues, challenges and opportunities for the sector. The Symposium was well attended with presentations spanning all areas of research from agronomy, to genomics, variety development, barley disease advances, innovative technology and end use quality.



*Kevin Hursch led a producer panel discussion on “Connecting the Research Community with the Farm”.*

# Prairie Eastern Barley Disease Cooperative Trial Scholarships

The **Prairie Eastern Barley Disease Cooperative Trial (PEBDCT)** provides disease testing of nationally registered barley varieties that received support for registration in eastern Canada. The data from PEBCT ensures producers growing these new varieties in western Canada have the information they need to effectively manage the variety on their farms.

Proceeds from the PEBCT allow CBRC to fund scholarships for students to attend the Prairie Recommending Committee for Oats and Barley variety registration meetings.

**Congratulations to the next generation of barley researchers in Canada!**



Vinuri Weerasinghe, University of Manitoba



Anuradha Jaythissa, University of Manitoba



Amanjeet Singh, University of Manitoba

