# Annual REPORT

2025

CBRC
Canadian Barley Research Coalition

# About the CANADIAN BARLEY RESEARCH COALITION

## Growing Barley's Profitability

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.

# Message from THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC), I am proud to share our annual report, highlighting the progress and impact of barley research across Canada.

Barley continues to be a critically important crop, particularly in Western Canada, and ensuring it remains profitable and competitive is our top priority. CBRC's investments in breeding, agronomy, and end-use quality reflect this commitment, supporting both producers and end users nationwide.

Variety development is the foundation of our industry. Through our Core Breeding Agreements with the Crop Development Centre (CDC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), CBRC supports the creation of new barley varieties for beer, spirits, feed, and food. This year, we are pleased to announce renewed agreements with both CDC and AAFC, representing an investment of almost $3 million.

These agreements deliver tangible benefits to farmers through improved yield potential, stronger standability, enhanced disease resistance, and increased market opportunities—ensuring barley remains a competitive and profitable crop.

Our agronomy initiatives, including the GROW Barley program, continue to provide producers with the tools and knowledge needed to optimize performance in the field. In 2025, the GROW Barley program was launched with established field sites, strong network of collaborators, and its first project focused on understanding and mitigating lodging.

Now in its third year, the Barley Cluster is accelerating progress across breeding, agronomy, pathology, and quality research. The current five-year, $9.6 million investment has been a cornerstone of barley innovation, bringing a national perspective to research investment, leveraging government support, and engaging the full value chain.

Collaboration across the barley value chain remains essential to our success. CBRC is committed to working with industry partners to advance research, strengthen market opportunities, and support a resilient future for Canadian barley.

**Cody Glenn, Chair**

# Our BOARD

**Cody Glenn**

Chair
SaskBarley

**Dick Wymenga**

Vice-Chair
Alberta Grains

**Chad Ferguson**

SaskBarley

**Scott Jesperson**

Alberta Grains

**Sally Parsonage**

Manitoba Crop Alliance

## Our Staff

**Jillian McDonald**

President

**Pam de Rocquigny**

Treasurer

**Gina Feist**

Manager

The collaboration between Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute (BMBRI) and CBRC is strengthened through the CBRC Manager role, held by Gina Feist, who also serves as BMBRI's Executive Director.

# Core Breeding AGREEMENTS

In 2025, the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) reaffirmed its commitment to Canadian barley breeding by signing Core Breeding Agreements (CBAs) with the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre (CDC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Over three years, **CBRC will invest $1.8 million with CDC and $1.15 million with AAFC, totaling nearly $3 million.**

Funded by producers since 1995, the CBAs support the development of improved barley varieties for malt, feed, forage, and food. These new varieties offer higher yields, enhanced disease resistance, improved lodging tolerance, and quality traits tailored to end-use applications.

**81% of malting barley acres** are seeded with varieties developed with CBA funding; AAC Synergy accounts for 35% of malting barley seeded area.

**39% of the feed barley seeded area** are varieties developed with CBA funding; CDC Austenson represents 26% of feed barley seed area in 2025.

**New varieties** deliver improved on-farm yields and profitability.

**Commercialization generates royalties** that return to CBRC for reinvestment in research.


*Photo credit: Shelley Lagassé, CBRC*

## Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP)

# Barley CLUSTER

The SCAP Barley Cluster is a five-year (2023–2028), $9.6 million research initiative led by the Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC), supporting ten research activities. Its aim is to fund coordinated research across barley genetics, agronomy, quality, and sustainability so that Canadian barley remains resilient, productive, and competitive amid ever challenging biotic and abiotic stresses and evolving market demands. By supporting improved barley varieties, environmental stewardship, and industry-wide innovation, the Cluster seeks to benefit farmers, end-users, and the broader barley value-chain across Canada.

**Visit barleyresearch.ca for more information on the projects in the SCAP Barley Cluster.**

## THANK YOU
## Barley Cluster Funders!

CBRC

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Canada

Alberta Grains

MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE

SaskBarley

BCRC

BREWING AND MALTING BARLEY Research Institute

Bio Platforms

WGRF
Advancing Agriculture through Research

CFCRA members with an interest in barley include:

CFCRA | ARCCC

Atlantic Grains Council

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Producteurs de grains du Québec

SeCan

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND VALUE-CHAIN STABILITY

The Cluster's coordinated investment helps increase yields, reduces input costs, and strengthens overall farm profitability. A more reliable supply of high-quality barley supports processors, livestock producers, and the broader agri-food economy.

### IMPROVED CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Cluster funds help towards developing barley varieties better adapted to heat, drought, moisture extremes, and shifting growing conditions. This ensures farmers maintain stable yields despite increasing climate variability.

### ACCELERATED VARIETY DEVELOPMENT USING MODERN BREEDING TOOLS

Genomic selection, high-throughput phenotyping, and advanced analytics speed up the release of improved barley varieties. Farmers gain access to better genetics sooner, increasing their competitiveness.

### STRONGER DISEASE RESISTANCE

Research focuses on improving resistance to major barley diseases such as FHB, rusts, smuts, and leaf diseases. Healthier crops reduce yield loss and down-grading and lower the need for costly pesticide applications.

### ENHANCED END-USE QUALITY FOR MALT, FEED, AND FOOD

Breeding work targets traits demanded by maltsters, brewers, feed suppliers, and food processors, improving consistency and quality. This ensures end users have access to a stable supply of high-quality barley that suits their needs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND REDUCED GHG FOOTPRINT

Projects aim to improve nutrient-use efficiency, reduce fertilizer needs, and lower emissions within both farming and malting processes. These advances help barley remain a sustainable, low-impact crop choice.

# Delivering VALUE

# GROW Barley

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

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

The **Grant for Research Optimization of Western Barley Agronomy** (GROW Barley) is a seven-year initiative that brings together diverse funding partners to maximize the potential of modern barley varieties through targeted agronomic research.

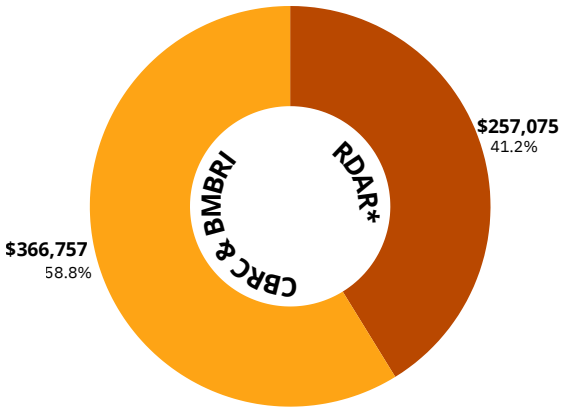
Under Dr. Hiroshi Kubota, the program has launched its first project addressing lodging—a major challenge affecting yield, quality, and profitability. The project focuses on:

- How agronomic decisions (variety choice, seeding rate, nitrogen use) influence lodging.
- Using technology to predict lodging earlier.
- Understanding environmental factors driving lodging in Western Canada.
- Exploring interactions between management practices, variety traits, and the environment.

This research will help growers optimize practices, support breeders in developing resilient varieties, and reduce economic losses from lodging.

### PROJECT FUNDING

*(over 4 years)*




These investments ensure improved agronomic strategies keep pace with new variety development.

**matching contribution*

## Supporting the next generation

# of Barley SCIENTISTS

Canada's rigorous barley variety registration system ensures that new varieties meet or exceed the performance of established checks. For researchers, understanding this process is essential. The Canadian Barley Research Coalition (CBRC) supports this learning by funding student participation at the **Prairie Recommending Committee for Oats and Barley (PRCOB)**.

### IN 2025,

two students attended PRCOB, gaining hands-on experience with variety registration and insights into how new barley varieties move from research to commercialization.

### SCHOLARSHIP

funding was provided through the **Prairie Eastern Barley Disease Cooperative Trial (PEBDCT)**, which tests disease resistance for nationally registered varieties intended for Western Canadian production. These trials provide producers with reliable information to manage new varieties confidently and effectively.

### RECIPIENTS

participation highlights CBRC's commitment to developing the next generation of barley scientists and supporting the leaders of Canada's barley industry.

**Kieran Robert Taylor**
Graduate Student,
Brandon University

**Shashika Yapas** – Graduate Student, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba

# CANADIAN BARLEY

## *Sustainably Growing*

SaskBarley

Alberta Grains

MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE