ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Planning and Priorities Committee, University Council
Date: June 11, 2026
Presented by: Angela Lieverse, Vice-Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee

Subject: Provisional Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence

SUMMARY

The Canada–India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence, led by the University of Saskatchewan, will serve as a collaborative research and development hub to advance the conversion of pulse crops into high-protein foods and ingredients, accelerating innovation, commercialization, and trade through partnerships between academia, industry, and government in both countries. The initiative responds to growing global protein demand and food security challenges, leveraging Canada's leadership in pulse production and India's rising need for affordable, nutrient-dense protein sources, while strengthening agri-food sectors and economic growth. Established under a joint Canada–India agreement, the Centre aims to enhance food-processing expertise, support public health through fortified food products, and deepen bilateral collaboration, with USask positioned as a national lead given its strong research capacity and infrastructure in pulse science, processing, and innovation.

CONSULTATION

Proponents presented their proposal to the Centres Subcommittee of the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) on May 20, 2026, where it was reviewed and recommended for approval pending minor revisions. Subsequently, on June 10, 2026, PPC considered the revised proposal, engaged in a thorough discussion, and approved the Provisional Centre effective June 10, 2026. Note that PPC has the authority to approve provisional centres. Provisional status is granted for a two-year term, during which time proponents must develop and submit a full centre proposal for approval by University Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Proposal for the Provisional Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence**

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Provisional Centre Establishment Form

CENTRE BASICS

Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence	**Centre proponents:** • Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources • Dean, College of Engineering **Executive sponsor:** • Vice-President Research This research centre will report to the Vice-President Research
Name of proposed interim director: Michael Nickerson, FABS/AgBio	**Anticipated date of submission of full centre proposal:** Within two years following the approval of the provisional centre

Centre overview

The Canada-India *Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence*, led by the University of Saskatchewan, will function as a research and development hub focused on converting pulse crops into commercially viable high-protein foods and food ingredients. The Centre will accelerate the translation of pulse-protein research into processing innovations, ingredient development, value-added food production and trade policies through strong collaboration among academic, industry, and ecosystem partners in Canada and India. By advancing applied research, enabling knowledge exchange, and supporting commercialization, the Centre will facilitate the strengthening of agri-food partnerships to drive economic impact in pulse-protein processing and the development of nutrient-dense protein-rich foods for populations facing food-insecurity challenges.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROVISIONAL CENTRE

The global demand for protein is rapidly increasing as countries face food-security challenges to feed 10-11 billion people by 2050. Countries such as India are experiencing rapid population growth and industrialization, driving increased demand for pulses as an alternative low-cost, sustainable protein source and the need for innovative pulse protein-related biofortified products to address both macro- and micronutrient needs. Canada is a global leader in the production and export of pulses, with more than 80% of our raw materials being exported to India. Over the last decade, Canada has built significant infrastructure and has research investments to advance the protein and co-product processing (e.g., starch and fibre ingredients), and product innovation to enhance economic development and build a stronger agri-food sector. The future sustainability, resilience and economic growth of Canada's and India's protein-ingredient and plant-based food sectors rely heavily on the strength of established research programs, partnerships and collaborations between academia, government and industry stakeholders along the supply chain.

Building on the shared vision outlined by the **New Roadmap for India-Canada Relations**, the Governments of India and Canada have agreed to develop a joint India-Canada Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence in India to accelerate protein-processing research and to develop fortified nutritious products, to benefit producers, processors, population health and to grow the agri-value sectors in both countries. To better facilitate this agreement, a Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at USask will be developed to work in parallel and collaboratively, aligned with the same research goals as the Centre in India to advance the pulse sectors in both Canada and India.

The signed Declaration between both countries aims to deepen cooperation in:

- **Growing expertise** – strengthening food-processing capabilities, including advanced protein extraction and nutrition-sensitive food systems through applied innovation, knowledge exchange and advanced training to produce future generations of people to address these complex plant-protein challenges;
- **Public health** – supporting the development of nutrient-dense fortified pulse products to address micronutrient deficiencies via government-administered nutrition programs for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers; and
- **Mutual evolution** – addressing other strategic priorities as may be mutually agreed to by the participants.

Within this Declaration, a national lead was identified from each of Canada (USask) and India (the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management in Kundli (NIFTEM-K) for implementation of this roadmap. Thus, a USask parallel Centre is needed to facilitate the goals of the joint Declaration.

USask is recognized nationally and internationally for its work on pulses, spanning from variety development through to processing, ingredient development, product design, nutrition and policies. As such, USask is well positioned to lead this work to accelerate the training of the next generation of scientists in Canada and India in this area and spur on innovation and growth within this partnership and the economy. Currently, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) has already built a solid foundation of the research ecosystem in pulse processing and product innovation on campus and with external partners. USask's College of Engineering has a cadre of excellent scholars and well-established research infrastructure related to food processing and bioprocessing, and a commitment to engineering for agriculture and agricultural-products processing is a key part of the College Strategic Plan.

NEED FOR A PROVISIONAL CENTRE

To firmly cement the leading role of USask in delivering on the Government's declaration and responding to emergent opportunities, we are proposing to establish the Canada–India Centre of Excellence for Pulse Proteins (the Centre) at USask. This initiative responds to growing opportunities to expand the use of pulses in large-scale food applications while reinforcing their role in advancing nutritional security. It has the potential to strengthen markets for Saskatchewan producers, drive processing investment in the province, and deliver meaningful nutritional benefits to the Indian population. The Centre is proposed on a provisional basis to allow for continued refinement of its structure, scope, and partnerships.

The Centre will facilitate research collaborations and alignment within the pulse-protein processing and foods sector among leading researchers, partners, and resources on campus, within the Saskatchewan ecosystem and at the national level; acting as a research hub for collaborations and partnerships with its counterpart Centre and ecosystem in India. The Centre will facilitate deeper collaboration, more integrated approaches, and greater impact. A Centre model also provides the scale and visibility needed to:

- attract major funding and strategic partnerships,
- coordinate large, multi-disciplinary research initiatives,
- support shared infrastructure and specialized expertise, and
- strengthen the university's position as a leader in addressing complex, real-world challenges.

Without a Pulse Protein Centre on campus, efforts risk remaining fragmented among colleges and external partners, limiting both their reach and effectiveness. Advances in the pulse protein sector span many fields from crop breeding to food science, process engineering, development of new separative technqiues, human and animal nutrition, medicine, marketing and policy. As such, a cross-university centre ensures alignment, cohesion, and momentum, allowing for ideal conditions to accelerate research and information, training and industry adoption of technologies and products (i.e., nutrient-dense foods). Without the Centre, research will be less impactful, more expensive and take much longer for development. Establishment of a Provisional Centre will also enable time to address complexities of aligning priorities between USask/Canada and NIFTEM-K/India stakeholders to support the already established pulse-protein research ecosystem in Saskatchewan and Canada.

The proposed Centre will advance research activities and priorities (within the context of both Canada's and India's pulse sectors) within USask by partnering with:

College of Agriculture and Bioresources:

- to evaluate and develop new crop varieties with better processing traits,
- to develop disruptive technologies for sustainable pulse-protein processing,
- to evaluate protein-ingredient development strategies for enhanced nutrition, flavours and functionality,
- to develop fortified nutrient-dense pulse foods for the Canadian and Indian markets,
- to examine protein co-product valorization and
- to assess protein-ingredient/product safety.

The College of Engineering – to evaluate and co-develop protein and co-product processing technologies and scalability thereof. This includes development of new technology for dry separation processes for protein, starch, and fibre constituents.

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, School of Public Health, the College of Medicine, and the College of Kinesiology – for assessing health impacts and ensuring nutrient targets are met in products designed for Indian and Canadian markets and nutritionally vulnerable groups (e.g., children, women and mothers).

The School of Public Policy and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics – to assess policies associated with market access and consumer trends.

The Centre will also partner with the Nutrien Digital Agriculture Centre – to address any sustainability-based research associated with breeding that impacts the development of crop varieties with traits important to the protein-processing sector. The Nutrien Centre deals with sustainability issues surrounding our crops, not within the processing sector. This work will therefore be synergistic in nature.

The Crop Development Centre – to develop new crop varieties with improved processing traits and higher protein concentrations to support efficient protein extraction and product development.

The provisional Centre for Bioproduct Development and Commercialization – to aid in co-product valorization (i.e., starch and fibres). This centre will primarily examine industrial uses of starches/fibres arising from the protein-processing sector, which is outside of the scope of the proposed Centre (food related). Work will be synergistic in nature.

The Global Institute for Food Security – joint research collaborations with their biomanufacturing (e.g., fermented or enzyme-modified pulse proteins) and automation of manufacturing processes for ingredients. Work at GIFS does not focus on pulse-protein processing or foods. Work will be synergistic in nature.

The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) including Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships, Opus, and the Edwards Schools of Business – to promote entrepreneurship and industry adaptation.

The Centre fits within the University's Agriculture Signature Area of Research by examining low-cost sustainable and disruptive technologies to advance the protein-processing sector; reduce environmental impacts of processes through water/energy reductions and the creation of nutrient-dense value-added products that will address food-insecurity issues in Canada and India, while having broad market appeal. Objectives of the Centre also align with AgBio's strategic plan, working on enhanced sustainability practices for the value-added bioprocessing sector (focused on pulse proteins), allowing the College to better '*adapt to changing environments'* and inspiring '*boundless collaborations'*. In addition, the Centre objectives are consistent with the College of Engineering's commitment to engineering for agricultural products and agricultural product processing, as stated in the College Strategic Plan. We envision the work within the Centre to be integrated within USask and the surrounding ecosystem in Canada and in India.

The Centre will coordinate collaborative pulse-protein research and engagement in the following areas:

- low-cost disruptive technologies for sustainable pulse processing;
- protein-ingredient processing for enhanced nutrition, flavors and functionality;
- AI-driven solutions to protein processing and product development;
- development of fortified nutrient-dense pulse-based foods for the Canadian and Indian markets;
- co-product utilization (e.g., starch/fibre) to support the growth/sustainability of protein sector;
- commercialization (e.g., industry adaptation and entrepreneurship);
- public policy (e.g., supply chain, global trade, etc.) and
- knowledge transfer to the wider sector (i.e., farmers, industry, stakeholders, etc.) (pending further stakeholder engagement with external members).

The Centre will also play an important role in researcher/student exchanges with the potential for the development of innovative undergraduate/graduate academic programming partnerships between USask and academic partners in India.

GOALS FOR THE PROVISIONAL CENTRE

The short-term deliverables for the Canada–India partnership focus on establishing foundational collaborations and early activities. These are summarized in **Appendix A.**

Over the longer term, this Canada–India partnership aims to strengthen graduate training, research collaboration, and industry impact through increased student mobility, joint supervision, collaborative grants and publications, regular industry engagement, and the development and adoption of new technologies and intellectual property.

MEMBERSHIP

It is proposed that **Dr. Michael Nickerson, Ph.D., PAg, FCIFST** serve as the provisional centre lead. Dr. Nickerson is a Ministry of Agriculture Research Chair and Professor in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, with over 20 years of experience developing sustainable, economically viable, and industry-adoptable technologies for plant proteins, protein-rich co-products, and ingredients for food, feed, and bioproduct applications. In this role, Dr. Nickerson will work closely with a management team to provide strategic and operational leadership for the Centre, including setting research priorities in collaboration with members and stakeholders, strengthening the research ecosystem, building partnerships with NIFTEM-K, and reporting within the centre's governance structure.

Under this leadership, the Provisional Centre will bring together a multidisciplinary group of USask researchers whose expertise aligns with the proposed mandate, complemented by external partners from industry, government, and collaborating organizations **(Appendix B**). Faculty members will actively contribute to advancing the Centre's objectives through collaborative grant applications, joint supervision and student exchanges with India, participation in workshops and Centre activities, and promotion of the Centre internally and externally. External partners will engage in integrated research collaborations, support commercialization and technology transfer in both Canada and India, and may be prioritized for subcontracting opportunities where appropriate.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Provisional Centre will be owned and operated by USask and will be housed virtually within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

This will be a university-controlled Centre that engages with external partners. This engagement will involve consultations with industry, grower organizations, NGOs, and government to ensure the Centre activities are meeting the needs of the Declaration between both countries for the betterment of the Canadian pulse sector.

The proposed governance model includes a management team led by a Director, Dr. Nickerson, with representation from Chemical and Biological Engineering, and the Crop Development Centre. The management team will oversee centre operations and delivery of objectives, and will coordinate activities with USask researchers, external research partners, industry, and other stakeholders.

The management team will report to an executive group comprising the Deans of the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources and Engineering. The executive group will report to the Vice-President research to ensure alignment with college and university strategic priorities.

An external advisory group will be established, including key Canadian stakeholders such as Pulse Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade and Export, and two industry representatives.

An overview of the provisional centre's organizational chart and governance structure is provided in **Appendix C.**

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATION

Strategic funding from the OVPR will support startup and early operations ($400,000 in Year 1, $250,000 in Year 2, and $100,000 in Year 3), complemented by an initial $200,000 from the College of AgBio and $25,000 from the College of Engineering, while ongoing efforts will focus on actively pursuing and coordinating external funding opportunities to ensure long-term sustainability and growth. A three-year preliminary budget is outlined in Appendix D.

CONSULTATION

Between March 9 and April 17, USask undertook a series of meetings with provincial (Sask Ag, TED), federal (CFIA and PrairiesCan), industry (Pulse Canada and Sask Pulses) and NGO (Nutrition International). These meetings set the foundation for a workshop that was held at USask on April 23. The workshop, which was attended by nearly 60 participants, included opening remarks from Minister Warren Kaeding, Scott Mathies and Dr. Harinder Oberoi, Director of NIFTEM-K and expert presentations and focused discussions on scientific priorities, funding and partnerships, and capacity building. Together, these supported a shared vision for the Centre and helped define a strong path forward.

ENDORSEMENT

Letters of endorsement from the Vice-President Research **(Appendix E),** the acting Dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources **(Appendix F)**, and the Dean of Engineering (**Appendix G**) are attached.

APPENDIX A.
Table of goals and deliverables of the Provisional Centre.

Centre Goals	Centre Deliverables
• Align research priorities on campus among researchers with the needs of Canadian stakeholders (i.e., grower organizations, government, pulse/plant-based food companies, NGOs); and the needs of the NIFTEM-K joint Centre.	• Increased online and in person interactions with NIFTEM-K researchers to identify research priorities, strengths and gaps. • Have stakeholder meetings with industry, government, NGOs, etc.
• Develop a model for transfer and sharing of intellectual property under the umbrella of the parallel Centres	• A framework strategy to handle joint IP related research projects.
• Establish a clear understanding for all researchers and partners involved outlining commitments and expectations of the Centre.	• Active engagement of members in Centre's activities. • Establish an expectations document for all types of members, including researchers, government, industry and NGOs.
• Facilitate research-planning meetings for joint collaborative research projects.	• Increased amounts of research occurring at USask in pulse-protein processing, ingredient development and product development, and with ecosystem partners. • Increased number of joint research activities (e.g., grants, student supervision) between Canadian and Indian researchers.
• Develop inventories of infrastructure and equipment for protein researchers on campus, and ecosystem capacities within Saskatchewan and Canada.	• Infrastructure and equipment inventory database, and management agreements at USask • Database of the Canadian Centre's partners and collaborators (i.e., expertise, major equipment, pilot plant capacity and services) • Database of the Joint Centre's capacity at NIFTEM-K (i.e., expertise, major equipment, pilot plant capacity and services) • Mapping the ecosystem in Canada and with NIFTEM-K – identifying gaps
• Organize a joint Canada-India Pulse Protein Summit at USask and at the partnering institutions in India, alternating annually to show case research and knowledge exchange.	• Annual research meetings to engage industry stakeholders – alternating between Canada and India. • Evidence of researcher mobility

• Facilitate exchange of researchers and students.	• Increased mobility of researchers and/or students between USask and NIFTEM-K (and Indian Universities)
• Develop an internal and external communication strategy.	• A website, branding and a communications strategy • Host a joint webinar series for knowledge exchange.
• Strengthen the research ecosystem within Canada in pulse proteins and identify partnering research entities in India.	• Increased number of grants and co-authored publications involving Centre members.
• Attract initial membership from industries in Canada and India, including research institutions, non-profit organizations, ingredient processors, food companies, grower organizations, farmers, and government.	• Increased number of USask researcher members • Increased number of external researcher collaborations. • Increased industry stakeholder engagement with the Centre
• Strong governance	• Secure longer-term funding for the centre and closer, more deliberate collaborations with colleagues on campus. • Monthly management meetings between Canadian-India-Centres

APPENDIX B.
Table of the proposed internal members and proposed external partners

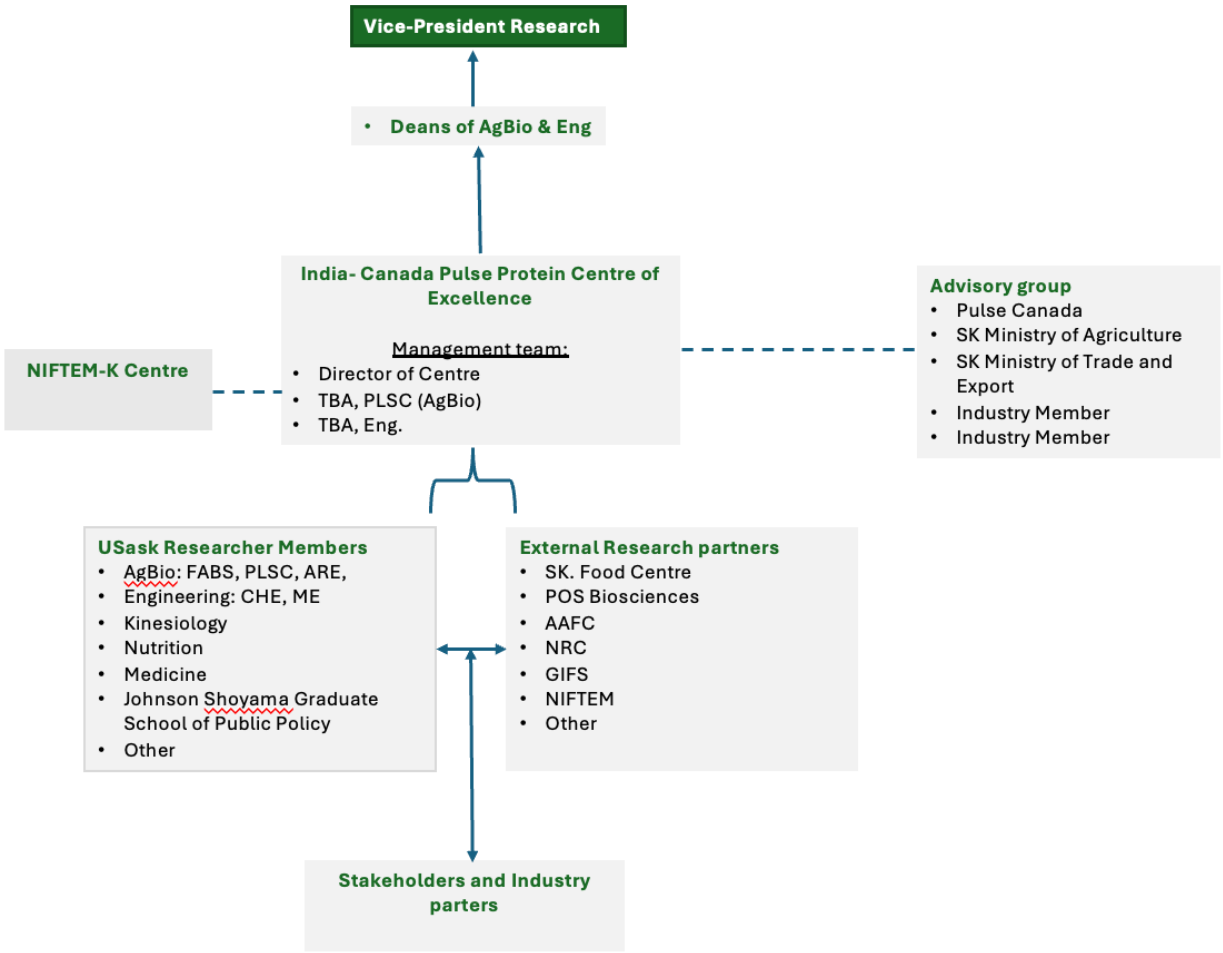
a) Proposed Internal members

College of Agriculture and Bioresources	College of Engineering	Other Colleges & Units at USask
Food and Bioproduct Sciences • M. Nickerson – pulse protein processing & utilization • D. Korber – fermentation of proteins • S. Ghosh – protein emulsifiers • Y. Ai – co-product valorization (starch) • M. Reaney – co-product valorization (lipid) • H. Zhang – analytical chemistry • Y. Fang/K. Wang – safety • S. Lui – food product development • T. Tanaka – enzymes – protein modification **Crop Development Centre/Plant Sciences** • T. Warkentin – Pea breeding • B. Tar'an – Chickpea breeding • A. Vargas – Lentil & Faba breeding **Agricultural and Resource Economics** • J. Hobbs – Consumer behavior, food policy, supply chains	**Chemical and Biological Engineering** • L. Zhang – cold plasma • V. Meda – dry fractionation/international development • J. Soltan – ultrasound/ozone • O. Baik – radio frequency • B. Acharya – co-product valorization (fibre) **Mechanical engineering** • D. Chen – 3D printing	**Nutrition** • C. Henry – food security/nutrition **Kinesiology** • P. Chilibeck - nutritional assessment **Medicine** • R. Engler-Sringer – School programs, community health **Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy** • Y. Yang – Consumer behavior, food policy **Edwards School of Business** **Opus** **Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships**

b) Proposed external partners and stakeholders

Research partners	Stakeholders	Industry
• Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre - Scale up product development for mini-product launches, scale up fermentation, protein extraction or other processes (e.g., extrusion). • POS Biosciences - Scale up protein and co-product extractions. • AAFC – Joint research collaborations • NRC – Joint research collaborations with scientists – analytics, pilot scale processing and AI driven platforms. • GIFS – Joint research collaborations with their biomanufacturing and automation platform • NIFTEM-K – Joint research collaborations • University of Alberta - Joint research collaborations - • University of Manitoba - Joint research collaborations • Alberta Food Centre – Scale up • Manitoba Food Centre – Scale up	• Government of Canada • Government of India • Pulse Canada • Saskatchewan Pulse Growers • Prairies Economic Development Canada • Mitacs • Innovation Saskatchewan • Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade and Export Development • Ministry of Advanced Education • Ministry of Agriculture • Saskatchewan Research Council • SERDA • Nutrition International • Food Banks Canada • AgWest Bio • Protein Industries Canada	• Alliance Grain Traders • C-Merak • Lovingly Made • Parrheim Foods • Avena Foods • Three Farmers • DG Global West • InfraReady Products Ltds. • PhytoKana • Louis Dreyfus Company • Roquette • Nutri-Pea • Others

APPENDIX C.
Flow diagram of the proposed governance model of the Provisional Centre



APPENDIX D.
Preliminary three-year budget

Pulse Protein Center Three Year Budget			
	2026/27	**2027/28**	**2028/29**
RESOURCES			
University Strategic Funding (confirmed)	400,000	250,000	100,000
College of Agriculture (confirmed)	200,000		
College of Engineering (confirmed)	25,000		
Research overhead support (pending)		25,000	35,000
Center Membership/Sponshorship (pending)		10,000	15,000
User fees (pending)		25,000	50,000
Industry contracts (pending)		15,000	30,000
Prairies Can (pending)		1,300,000	300,000
Innovation Science Fund (pending)		1,000,000	-
Agriculture Development Fund (pending)		200,000	
Pulse Growers Associations (pending)		265,000	130,000
Donar funding (pending)		100,000	
Total Funding	**625,000**	**3,190,000**	**660,000**
EXPENSES			
Business development		125,000	150,000
3 PHD students	90,000	90,000	93,600
Post Doc Fellow	35,000	65,000	67,600
AgBio research officer (.5)	40,000	60,000	62,400
AgBio research officer (.5)	40,000	60,000	62,400
Travel	25,000	50,000	30,000
Administrative support	30,000	30,900	32,136
Executive director stipend	15,000	15,000	15,000
Stakeholder meetings (4)	12,000	12,000	12,480
Researcher exchange support	10,000	10,000	10,400
Meals and entertainment	5,000	5,000	5,200
IP web services	5,000	5,000	5,200
Communication and branding	10,000	2,000	2,080
Graduate student awards	20,000	30,000	30,000
USask conference	25,000	-	-
Equipment costs	-	2,500,000	-
Total expenses	**362,000**	**3,059,900**	**578,496**
Surplus/Deficit	**263,000**	**130,100**	**81,504**
Reserve	263,000	393,100	474,604

APPENDIX E.
Endorsement letter from the Vice-President Research

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Vice-President Research

107 Administration Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2 Canada
Telephone: (306) 966-8514
Facsimile: (306) 966-8736
http://www.usask.ca/vpresearch

May 8, 2026

Dear Centres Subcommittee,

The provisional *Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence* represents a timely and strategic opportunity to advance research excellence and innovation in the pulse protein sector. The Centre will serve as an integrated research and development hub focused on converting pulse crops into commercially viable, high-protein foods and ingredients. Through strong collaboration among academic, industry, and government partners in Canada and India, it will accelerate the translation of research into processing innovations, value-added products, and informed policy.

The proposal aligns closely with the *New Roadmap for India-Canada Relations*, which underscores the importance of strengthening bilateral collaboration in research, public health, and agri-food development. The Centre is an outcome of the agreement signed between federal governments of Canada and India during Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent visit to India. The establishment of complementary Centres in India and at USask will enable coordinated efforts to advance shared priorities in protein processing, nutrition, and food innovation.

The University of Saskatchewan is uniquely positioned to lead this initiative, with internationally recognized expertise in pulse research and strong connections across the agricultural value chain. The Centre will bring together multidisciplinary strengths spanning plant science, food science, engineering, nutrition, and policy, ensuring an integrated, end-to-end approach. This alignment will be critical to addressing sectoral and industry needs, securing trade advantage for Saskatchewan's agrifood especially the pulses, advancing commercialization pathways, and supporting the adoption of innovative technologies and products.

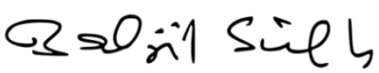
The Centre model provides the scale and visibility required to attract major external funding, foster strategic partnerships, and support large, collaborative research initiatives. A coordinated, multi-sector partnership approach linking academia, industry, and government will be essential to securing investment, scaling innovation, and delivering meaningful economic and societal impact.

In addition, the Centre will strengthen research training and capacity building through student and researcher mobility, joint supervision, and collaborative programming with partners in India. These efforts will enhance the development of highly qualified personnel and further reinforce international research collaboration.

Seed funding from the OVPR Strategic Fund will provide a strong foundation for start-up activities and partnership development, positioning the Centre to secure long-term external funding and sustainability. As a university-led initiative engaging key stakeholders, the Centre will remain closely aligned with national priorities and sector needs.

This initiative presents a significant opportunity to position Canada and India as global leaders in pulse-based innovation, food security, and nutrition. I strongly support this proposal and its potential to deliver impactful outcomes through research excellence and partnership.

Sincerely,



Baljit Singh, FCAHS, BVSc&AH, PhD
Vice-President Research

APPENDIX F.
Endorsement letter from the Acting Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Agriculture and Bioresources
AGBIO.USASK.CA

2D30, 51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-4056
Fax: 306-966-8894

May 29, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The University of Saskatchewan has a strong complement of faculty members doing research that involves bioprocessing. This cohort of faculty members spans multiple colleges, with active research programs in the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and collaboration with colleagues in other colleges like Pharmacy and Nutrition and Kinesiology. The bioprocessing ecosystem extends beyond the university with many active collaborations with colleagues at the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, POS Biosciences, the National Research Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, as examples. The concentration of bioprocessing activity and expertise in this vicinity provide a strong and logic argument that the Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence (Centre) should be established here. Among other intended outcomes, the establishment of a Centre will formally consolidate those interdisciplinary relationships and collaborators, drawing attention to significant scholarly strength.

While this is intended to be a Centre with activities focused on plant-based protein, it's important to acknowledge that pulse seeds are comprised of starch, fibre and oil, in addition to protein. Faculty in the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences include dedicated research Chairs with expertise in protein (Nickerson), starch (Ai) and lipids (Reaney), and expertise in these other co-products (lipids and starch) allows us to contribute to enhanced utilization of all portions of the seed constituent parts. This will be important as the plant-protein industry grows. The Provincial Growth Plan has ambitious targets for added-value processing, with a specific target, "Process 50 percent of the pulse crops Saskatchewan producers in Saskatchewan". Bioprocessing, with a concentration in the area of plant-based proteins, has been and will continue to be an area of teaching and research focus within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and a provisional Centre with a focus on pulse protein is directly inline with priorities in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Discussions with other faculty members and department leaders in AgBio, regarding the provisional Centre have all been very positive. Colleagues have commented that this makes a lot of sense, given our expertise and the signing of the MOU in India. The only concern was related to the available funding for the Centre. Seed funding committed by the OVPR will allow the Centre to be

launched and give the proponents (including deans) time to work on external funding to support ongoing activities. This Centre has a bright future, and I look forward to celebrating its many successes.

I am pleased to confirm financial support from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources through a $200,000 contribution to purchase equipment in support of the Centre's establishment and to strengthen Saskatchewan's leadership in pulse-protein innovation.

Thank you for considering the proposal. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are questions.

Best regards,

Trever Crowe, PhD, P.Eng., PAg
Acting Dean and Professor

APPENDIX G.
Endorsement letter from the Dean, College of Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Engineering
ENGINEERING.USASK.CA

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May 31, 2026

The Centres Subcommittee of the Priorities and Planning Committee
University of Saskatchewan

Re: Letter of Support for Proposed Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence

Dear Centres Subcommittee,

I am writing this letter in support of the establishment of the proposed new Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). This Centre will play a key role in developing pulse protein products for markets in India and abroad, leveraging USask's considerable reputational strengths in this important area of applied agricultural science and engineering. This Centre will be directly aligned with major Saskatchewan-based agricultural and value-added industries and is in the national interest. In partnership with the College of Agriculture, and other participating units, the College of Engineering will play a major role in this Centre, especially in the context of evaluating and developing new protein and co-product processing technologies, and assessing the scalability thereof. The College of Engineering has a number of active researchers in bioprocessing and related areas, who are expected to make major contributions to the Centre's activities. I expect significant research results and intellectual property to emerge from this Centre, and look forward to supporting its growth and development.

To support the establishment of the Centre, the College of Engineering will contribute $25,000 to accelerate technology development and industry-focused innovation in the pulse sector.

Best regards,

Michael Bradley

Michael Bradley
Dean, College of Engineering
& Professor, Physics & Engineering Physics
College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan