

Land Use

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Strategy 1.3 Reporting

1.3 Assist the agriculture and agri-food industry to maximize opportunities for value-added agricultural products.

Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 (GF2, 2013-2018) was a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Policy Framework that allowed Alberta to implement various agricultural programs on a cost-shared basis with the federal government. Under this framework, each province or territory designed its own programs within the priorities agreed upon in the multilateral framework and the bilateral agreement with the federal government. GF2 ended in March 2018 and is replaced by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP, 2018-2022).

Under GF2, \$406 million was invested in Alberta's agriculture sector for cost-shared strategic initiatives over five years (2013-2018). Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) delivered 25 programs in the areas of biosecurity, livestock welfare, water management, environmental stewardship, and product and market development. The GF2 programs were mainly grant programs that provided incentives to producers and processors by reimbursing a certain percentage of their costs for approved activities or investments that met specific criteria.

In 2016-2017, AF delivered two GF2 Agri-Processing Grant Programs focused on assisting Alberta-based agri-processors (including food processors, bio-industrial processors and agri-based product processors) to expand their businesses. Funding support was provided to a total of 161 processors (all programs combined), with investment targeted on capitalizing on opportunities in the value-added agricultural product processing sector. The distribution of these agri-processing companies across Alberta's Land Use Framework (LUF) regions can be found in Table 1.

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Table 1: Number of Agri-Processing companies that received GF2 Agri-Processing Grants – Crops and Livestock during 2016-2017

Region	Number
South Saskatchewan	78
North Saskatchewan	57
Red Deer	18
Upper Peace	4
Upper Athabasca	2
Lower Peace	2
Lower Athabasca	0
Total	161

The GF2 Agri-Processing Product and Market Development (APMD) program assisted agri-processors to develop new products, access new markets, and/or expand their businesses. A total of 88 different agri-processors benefited from this grant program resulting in 370 new value-added agriculture-based products coming to the market. This included a combination of food products, bio-industrial products, and agri-product-based products. The distribution of APMD recipients across Alberta's LUF regions can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of Agri-Processing companies that received GF2 Agri-Processing Product and Market Development Grants (2016-2017)

Region	Number
South Saskatchewan	42
North Saskatchewan	38
Red Deer	7
Upper Peace	0
Upper Athabasca	0

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Lower Peace	1
Lower Athabasca	0
Total	88

The GF2 Agri-Processing Automation and Efficiency (AAE) program assisted existing agri-processors in improving their productivity, efficiency and energy efficiency through the adoption of best practices, new technologies and state-of-the art processes that increase value and market access. A total of 100 agri-processors benefited from this grant program which resulted in company expansion through increased automation, increased efficiency, and/or increased processing capacity. This was largely achieved through the acquisition of new processing equipment. The distribution of AAE recipients across Alberta's LUF regions can be found in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Number of Agri-Processing companies that received GF2 Agri-Processing Automation and Efficiency Grants (2016-2017).

Region	Number
South Saskatchewan	46
North Saskatchewan	32
Red Deer	14
Upper Peace	4
Upper Athabasca	3
Lower Peace	1
Lower Athabasca	0
Total	100

Note: Some applicants received multiple grants within the GF2 Agri-processing Grant Program. The number of agri-processing companies that received assistance through each program does not necessary always reflect the total number of grants awarded.