

LEAP: Leveraging Ecosystems to transform Agriculture on the Prairies – A multidisciplinary approach exploring perennial cropping strategies and policy to reduce GHG emissions on-farm

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Researchers from the University of Manitoba, University of Saskatchewan and several partner organizations from across the prairies have received new funding from NSERC to explore increasing the use of perennial cropping practices.

Five multidisciplinary research teams will explore perennialized cropping systems from social and biophysical perspectives. The research will include an assessment of current and new cropping practices on a 'perennial spectrum' and investigate the potential for farms to adopt new approaches in the future. Alongside consultations with partners, who would help inform research objectives, the teams will explore farmers' experiences with perennialized cropping strategies and their willingness to adopt these strategies. Additionally, researchers will document the social barriers to adoption and how policy may be developed to address adoption challenges. A special focus will be placed on Indigenous perspectives and what specific research and policy considerations need to be made within an Indigenous context as landowners and managers. At the end of the project, the goal is to create realistic, attainable, and economically viable management and policy recommendations to elevate farming to a sustainable, region-specific system for the future.

More information and how to get involved can be found on our website:

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/leap>