The Crop Development Centre (CDC) at the University of Saskatchewan develops new crop varieties that bring value to the agriculture sector, through the development and application of scientific knowledge and technologies, in partnership with stakeholders across the agriculture value chain. It generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups – producers, industry and government.

The CDC is a world-class crop improvement centre that delivers crop genetics for the benefit of society. A combination of crop improvement expertise, state-of-the-art technologies, facilities and land—all in one place.

A 2024 economic footprint assessment of the CDC by EY Canada has revealed substantial economic returns from research, and significant local, regional and international impact through research, innovation, and market share of CDC varieties in western Canada.

The connection of the CDC to the College of Agriculture and Bioresources supports strong undergraduate and graduate training programs in crop improvement. In addition to training undergraduate students, CDC faculty have trained over 380 graduate students, many of whom have worked or continue to work as leaders in the agriculture industry. Training the next generation of plant breeders is essential to meet the demands of a hungry and growing world.
The CDC’s research and crop development programs are supported by many stakeholders across the value chain, including Government, Producer Groups, and the Private Sector. This investment has resulted in significant returns to growers and the economy.

- **$1.2 BILLION** in GDP contributed to Western Canada’s economy (as of 2022)
- **$11 RETURN ON INVESTMENT** for each $1 invested in plant breeding
- **14.9% INTERNAL RATE OF RETURN** from 1971 to 2022

**INVESTMENT ANALYSIS**

**COMMERCIALIZATION**

The CDC partners with seed companies to commercialize new varieties. In return, the Centre receives royalties that are invested directly back into its research and breeding activities.

**RE-INVESTMENT OF ROYALTIES**

**Plant Pathology**
Resistance breeding at the CDC reduced ascochyta blight from a major to minor disease in lentil

**SK Leads the World in Exporting Pea, Lentil, and Chickpea**
Staple foods in fast-growing countries such as India, China, Bangladesh, and northern Africa

**Grains Innovation Laboratory**
A state-of-the-art facility that supports testing of end-uses, quality and nutritional content

**Global Durum Wheat Exports**
Canada is the world’s largest single producer and export of durum wheat

**Be What the World Needs**