Newsletter

Diversification Centres

October 2022

Upcoming Events

October 03

CMCDC is hosting 4-H members ages 15-17 to come tour the site and learn about careers in Agriculture. About 40 students are participating.

October

CMCDC is organizing a producers' centric post-harvest gathering in the 3rd week of October at CMCDC that would include a seasonal summary and storage management guidelines.

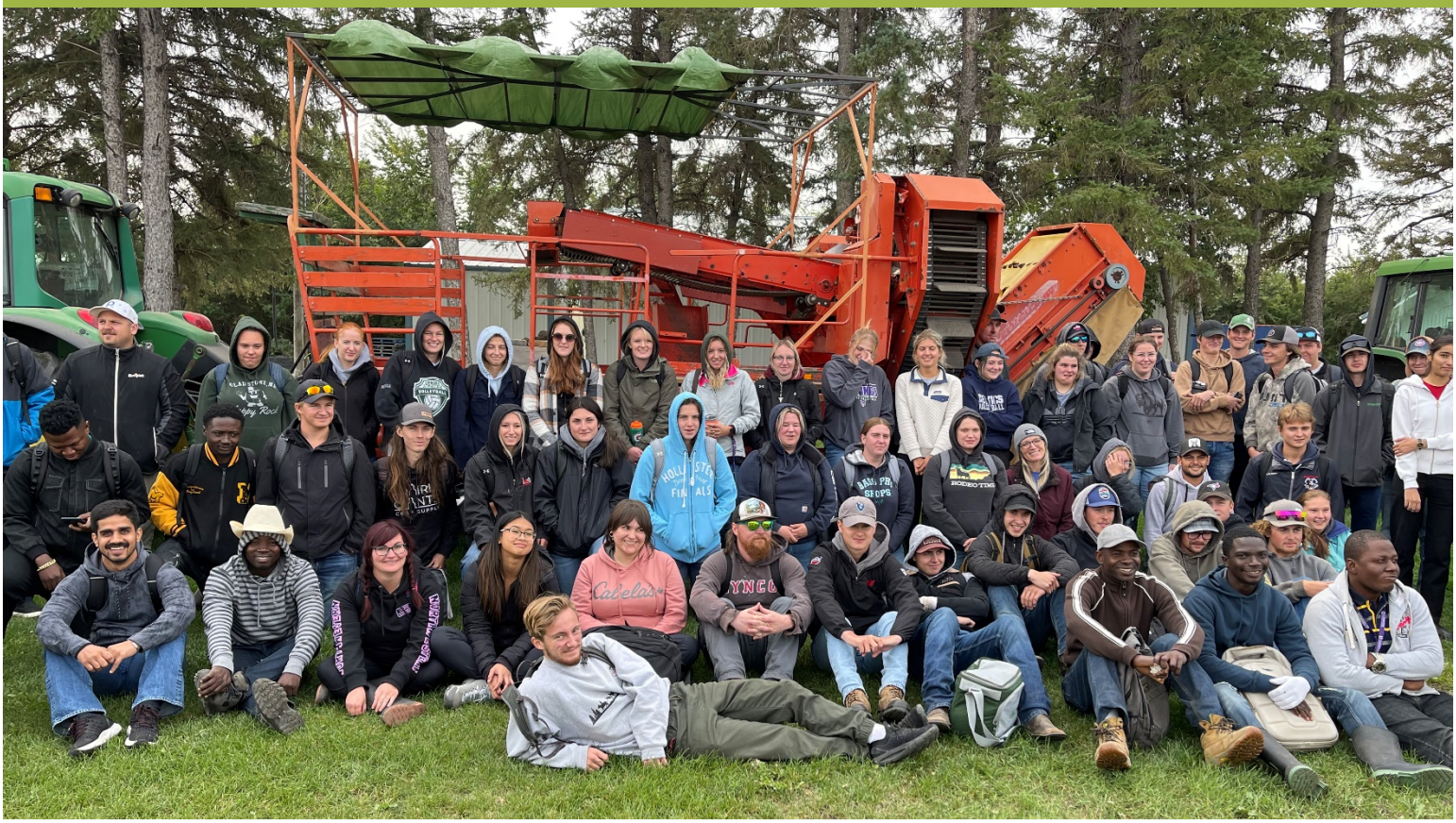
Harvest Continues and so does Winter Cereals' Planting at Diversification Centres

Diversification Centres across the province experienced extreme moisture conditions for about two weeks in September as a result of frequent rains, drizzle, and high humidity. These conditions stalled harvest progress. Currently, harvest progress sits at about 50 per cent completed at Diversification Centres.

Diversification Centres report the completion of annual forages, winter cereals (winter wheat and fall rye), spring cereals (wheat, barley, oats), field peas, industrial hemp, potatoes and flax harvest. The harvest for canola and dry beans is more than halfway done, and the harvest for quinoa and sunflowers is behind the schedule this year. These crops appear to be slow to mature this year because of the rain.

Although Diversification Centres are reporting a considerable delay in harvesting, there's optimism that the rest of the harvest will go smoothly now that the danger of frost has lessened. Despite the frost that settled over much of Manitoba on Sept. 21 & 26, it's unlikely that frost will cause any damage to the crops before harvest is complete.

As the calendar rolls to September each year, Diversification Centres experience harvesting and winter cereals seeding simultaneously. In collaboration with Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Trials (MCVET) and Ducks Unlimited Canada, all Diversification Centres are conducting research to evaluate nutrient management yield potential of promising cereals' varities.



Assiniboine Community College Experiences a Glimpse of Research and Innovation Activities of Canada-Manitoba Crop Diversification

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) converged on the Canada-Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre (CMCDC) on Wednesday, Sept. 14, where they learnt about the research and innovation activities of the centre.

About 70 students participated from Agribusiness, Land and Water Management, and International Ag programs of the college. Haider Abbas, Applied Research Specialist for Manitoba Agriculture, provided an overview of research projects and shed some light on pre-seeding, within growing season, and post-harvest activities of the research centre. “The Centre’s mission is to facilitate the development and adoption of science-based solutions for agricultural crop production,” Abbas said. “The strategic areas of CMCDC include sustainable irrigation, sustainable potato production, improving the environmental sustainability of intensive crop production, and crop diversification,” he added.

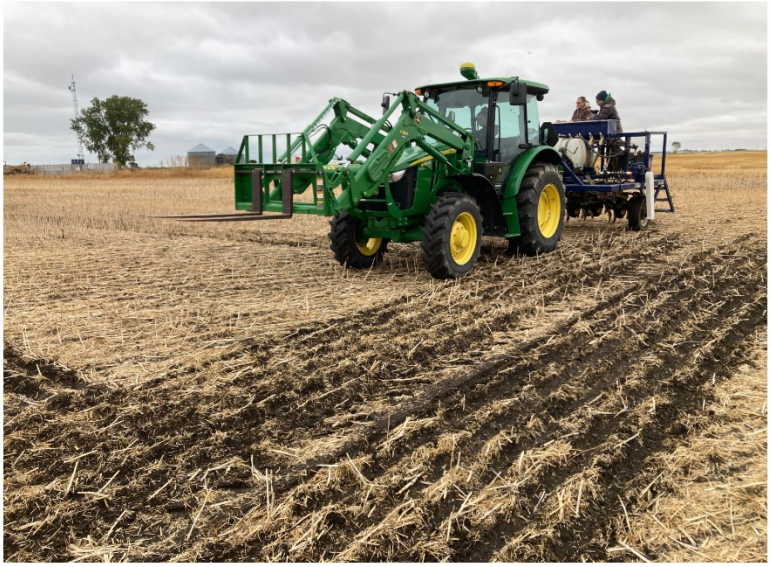
Abbas highlighted the role of Manitoba Agriculture in the research continuum to accelerate sustainable growth in the agriculture and agriprocessing sector through innovation such as evaluating novel crops, beneficial management practices, new products and new knowledge. For college students, it was an excellent opportunity to get exposed to field level research experiments and expole career opportunities in the vibrant agriculture sector of Manitoba. “It’s a good ag awareness activity and it just opens up ag-students to really see what they are learning in classrooms,” Abbas said. Abbas also highlighted potential seasonal and volunteer opportunities to work with Diversification Centres to gain valuable work experience. Students also enjoyed delicious lunch onsite alongside freshly prepared local French-fries.

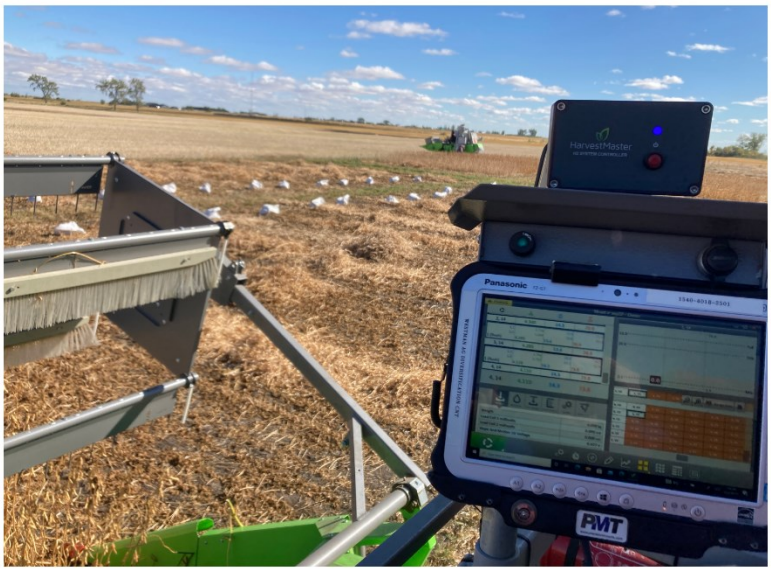
Soybean Workshop Held at Beausejour Site

Soybean Variety Workshop was held at Prairies East Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (PESAI) plots in Beausejour on Sep 13. The local producer group Agassiz Soil and Crop Improvement Association (ASCIA) organised this workshop and a total of 25 producers, industry people and Manitoba Ag staff personnel attended the workshop.

Terry Buss, Crop Production Extension Specialist out of Beausejour welcomed all the participants and talked about the soybean plots at the site. These plots were seeded on May 27 and were maintained by PESAI afterwards. Dennis Lange, Provincial Pulse Specialist talked about different soybeans varieties in the trials. He also discussed about conventional soybeans and elaborated why there is an increased interest in conventional beans. Dennis emphasized on the selection of soybean IDC tolerant variety in the production and informed participants that SEED MANITOBA guide is a good source to identify soybean IDC tolerant varieties. Both Terry and Dennis also talked about soybean aphid infestations during 2022. Replying to a question on seed treatments, Dennis clarified that seed treatments are good only for 60 days after seeding and soybean aphids usually attack after that period. Towards the end of workshop, participants visited various plots and industry partners described about their potential varieties seeded at the site.

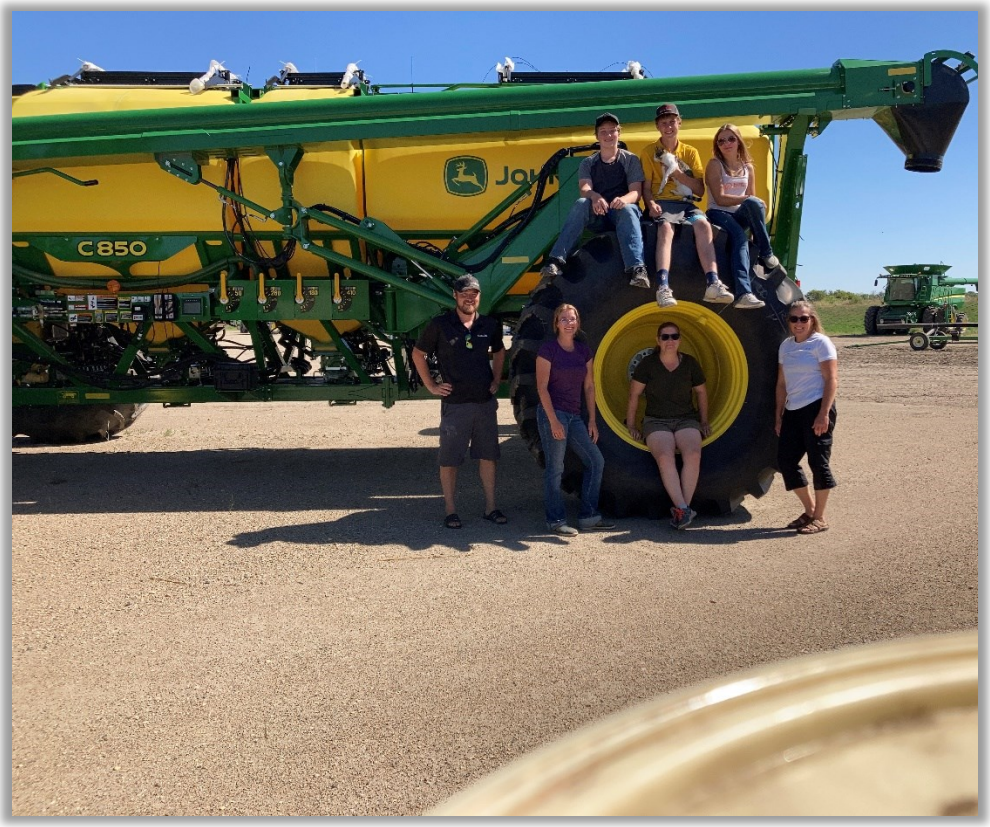
Featured Updates





Harvesting and Planting – Hand in Hand at WADO

Westman Agricultural Diversification Organization (WADO), located in Melita, seeded winter crops experiments including a winter wheat variety coop from the University of Manitoba, MCVET winter wheat & fall rye trials, Ducks Unlimited winter wheat fertility project, and some winter crops including winter oats, barley, pea, lentil, and camelina in cooperation with Western Ag & Professional Agronomy. WADO crew harvested their largest number of entries ever in the MCVET soybean trials averaging 47 bushel per acre.



Meet the WADO Crew

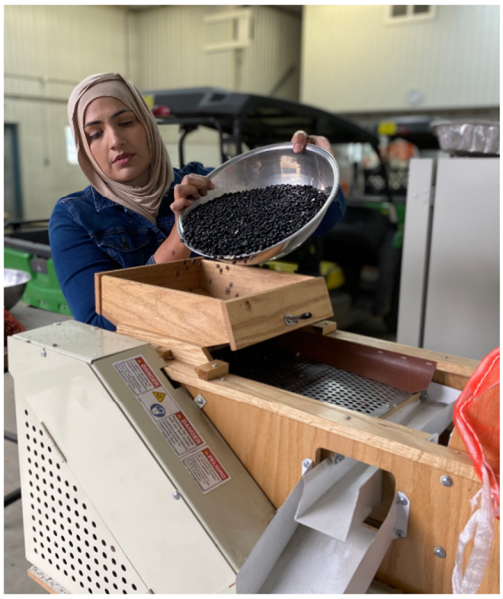
Front Row: Scott Chalmers (Applied Research Specialist with Manitoba Agriculture), McKenzie Rowe (Applied Research Technician), Chantal Elliott (Research Associate), Leanne Mayes (Research Associate).

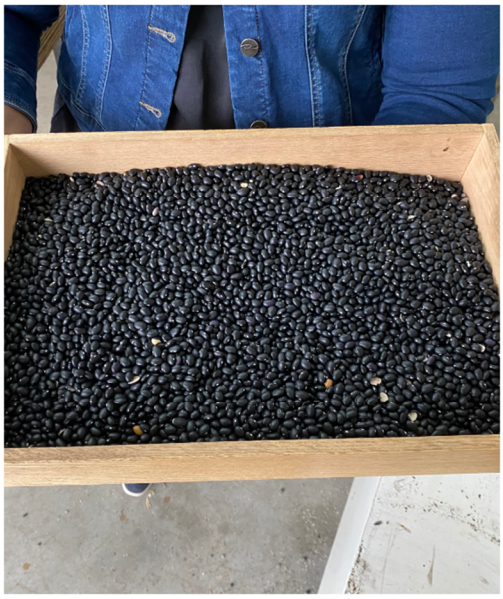
Back Row: Summer Students - Tylan Chalmers, Tommy Burnette, and Joy Mayes.

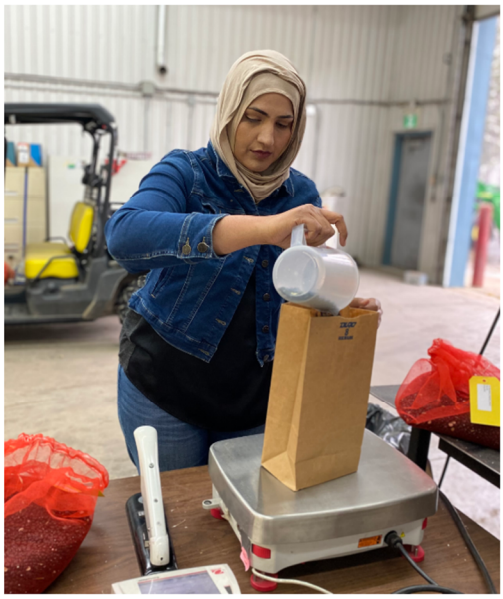
Thanks to all the crew members for making it all happen at WADO!

CMCDC and WADO Exploring Nutrients Management in Dry Beans

Rain stalled the harvest operations at CMCDC in mid-September. It provided the opportunity to catch up on the post-harvest operations at the centre. After harvesting the crop at a Diversification Centre, a specific amount of sub-sample is sent to the project collaborator for further quality analysis.







Faryal Yousaf, Applied Research Technician at CMCDC, is cleaning the harvested black beans sample by passing it through the grain cleaning system installed at the centre and packaging 1 Kg sample of each variety to send it to the project partner. In a joint collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers (MPSG), CMCDC and WADO are conducting research experiments to study the effect of fertilizer management on dry beans (including pinto and black beans) agronomic and economic performance in Manitoba's climatic conditions. Treatments include fertilizer nitrogen rate and inoculant, and fertilizer phosphorous rate and placement.

In Manitoba, dry bean acreage has grown from 90,000 acres in 2015 to 168,300 acres in 2019, with total production ranging from 80,000 to 110,000 metric tonnes over this period. Increasing interest in dry bean in southwestern Manitoba, which has not traditionally been a major bean-producing area, has generated questions as to optimum management practices for the growing conditions in this region. However, as a smaller acreage crop, comparatively little research has been done on dry bean production in Manitoba, particularly for the southwest region.

While dry bean is a pulse crop, one of the key inputs in dry bean production systems is nitrogen (N) fertilizer. Unlike crops like pea and soybean which derive their N through symbiotic N fixation, dry bean is generally considered to be a poor N-fixer. As such, N fertilizer application remains the most common N management practice on-farm even though commercial inoculants are available.

While adequate P nutrition is important to optimize dry bean yield, little research has been conducted in Manitoba to assess crop P response under field conditions. For results of this project, please visit: https://mbdiversificationcentres.ca/.

Ag-Innovation Long Service Awards Honourees

The Manager of Agriculture Innovation section, Babatunde Nuga, handed over Long Service Awards to three recipients on September 28 and 29, 2022 in recognition of their long term service to the Government of Manitoba.

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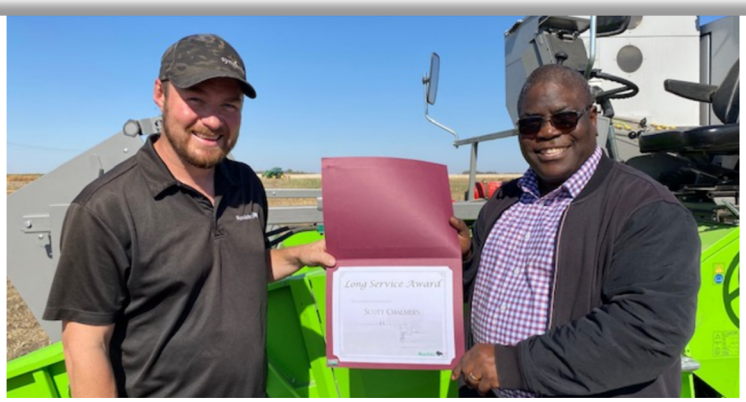
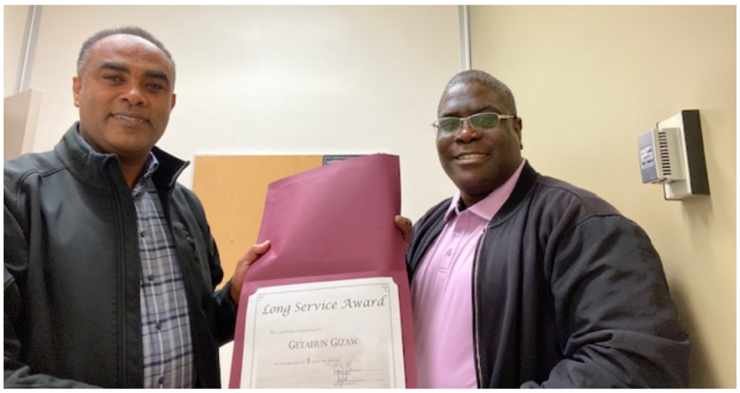
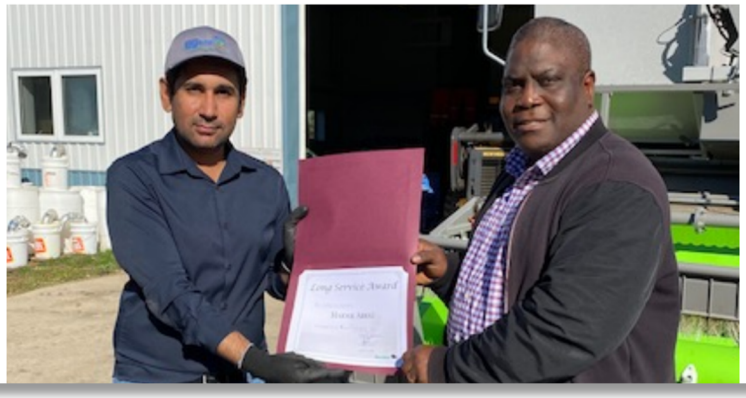






01

Scott Chalmers

Applied Research Specialist

Melita, MB

Years of Service: 15

02

Getahun Gizaw

Innovation Specialist – Livestock

Winnipeg, MB

Years of Service: 5

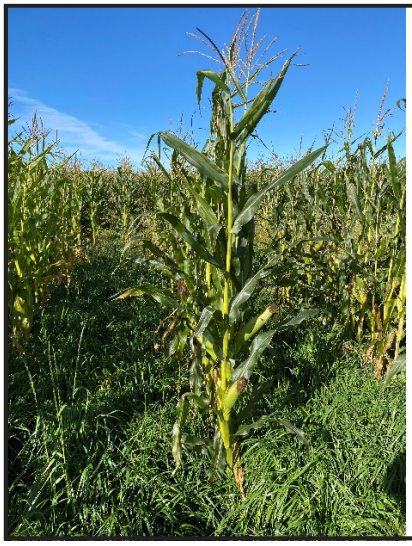
03

Haider Abbas

Applied Research Specialist

Carberry, MB

Years of Service: 5



PCDF Examines Corn Intercrop Benefits in Parkland

In collaboration with professors Emma McGeough and Yvonne Lawley at the University of Manitoba, Parkland Crop Diversification Foundation (PCDF) examines the benefits of including a cover crop with corn seeded at 60-inch spacing. The cover crops include Italian ryegrass (shown in the photo), forage radish, crimson clover, and hairy vetch. In the Parkland region, where corn is typically harvested for silage, the inclusion of a cover crop has the potential to increase the quantity and quality of late-season grazing by livestock, as well as provide protection against erosion. The trial will continue in 2023. Please feel free to contact PCDF for more information or to visit the site.