

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**OVER \$2.5 MILLION FOR GENOMIC SOLUTIONS  
IN AGRICULTURE AND BIOFOOD, FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Montréal, June 9, 2022** – Génomique Québec, in partnership with the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT), is proud to announce today the nine research teams, from four Québec universities, that have received major funding in genomics. The total investment, including that of public and private partners, amounts to more than \$2.5 million as part of the first round of the *Genomics integration program – Agriculture and biofood, forestry and environment*.

According to Stéphanie Lord-Fontaine, Vice President, Scientific Affairs at Génomique Québec, “This program brings together the major players in the different sectors to promote the application and commercialization of genomics technology. Many of the funded projects will develop innovations to improve the productivity and sustainability of Québec’s biofood sector, in collaboration with start-ups and SMEs in our ecosystem. This speaks to genomics’ maturity and potential to provide real-world solutions for the government and private companies.”

"I particularly appreciate the diversity of the themes addressed in these research projects, which promise practical and innovative spin-offs for the agricultural and bio-food sectors. Most of these research projects also adopt a sustainable perspective, favouring a rational use of resources, which is in line with the concerns of consumers. FRQNT salutes the efforts of the scientific community in this direction and confirms the relevance of a genomics program in its overall programming," says Janice Bailey, Scientific Director of FRQNT.

**Congratulations to the recipients**

- Nabeel Alnahhas from Université Laval in partnership with Entosystem – [A platform for optimizing reproductive capacity and the bioconversion of food waste among black soldier flies using a genomic parentage assignment tool](#)
- Arnaud Droit and Richard Hogue from Université Laval – The Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment (IRDA) in partnership with My Forage Systems Inc. – [New integrative microbiome genomics approach for more sustainable alfalfa](#)
- France Dufresne from Université du Québec à Rimouski in partnership with Merinov – [Seaweed farming, strain selection, sweet kelp, climate change, genetic diversity](#)
- Edel Pérez Lopez from Université Laval in partnership with the The Alberta Canola Producers and Manitoba Canola Growers Association – [Using avirulence markers to predict the phenotypes of clubroot pathotypes from East Canada](#)
- Frédéric Pitre from Université de Montréal in partnership with Lufa Farms – [PERFORM: Polyculture Environmental Resilience using FOrestry and biofood Rhizosphere Microbiota](#)
- Claude Robert from Université Laval in partnership with the Société des éleveurs de moutons de race pure du Québec – [Sheep production: Genomic-assisted genetic selection program](#)
- Marc-André Sirard from Université Laval in partnership with Lactanet and University of Guelph – [Genomic selection for resilience in dairy calves](#)
- Adrian Tsang from Concordia University in partnership with Elanco – Animal Health – [Feasibility of using an advanced fungal platform to reduce the production cost of biopharma molecules for livestock](#)

Génome Québec would also like to highlight its funding for the project of Ilga Porth from Université Laval in partnership with the Laurentian Forestry Centre – [Genomics-informed forest certification and wood traceability tools and protocols](#).

**What is the *Genomics integration program – Agriculture and biofood, forestry and environment*?**

This program supports projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000 by covering half of the funding for partnerships between academic researchers and users capable of implementing and/or commercializing the research results. The funds must be used to develop a proof of concept that can be leveraged to secure subsequent funding. The funds can also be used to help the user partner integrate the proof-of-concept results at the end of the project. Projects must relate to fields such as biofood, forestry, and the environment and include an omics technology component—for example, the development of new omics technology, the use of artificial intelligence to mine omics data, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, etc.

**About *Génome Québec***

Génome Québec's mission is to catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research and promote its integration and democratization. It is a pillar of the Québec bioeconomy and contributes to Québec's influence and its social and sustainable development. The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec (MEI), the government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners. To learn more, visit [www.genomequebec.com](http://www.genomequebec.com).

**About the *Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies***

The FRQNT's mission is to support and promote excellence in research and the training of the next generation of researchers in the fields of natural sciences, mathematical sciences, and engineering, to stimulate the development of knowledge and innovation in Québec. <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/nature-and-technologies/>.

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