The Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Innovation Network

Transforming Farming Through Innovation

- The Government of Canada's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) is managed by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.
- The Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Innovation Network (CAAIN) was announced in July 2019 as one of the winners of SIF's Stream 4 "Automation and Digital Technologies in Canada's Agriculture and Agri-food Sector" competition.
- CAAIN was created by eight Network partners across five provinces, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec:
    - Alberta Innovates
    - Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
    - Olds College
    - Lakeland College
    - Linamar Corp.
    - MDA
    - DOT Technology Corp
    - TrustBIX
- CAAIN is a not-for-profit company launched in July 2019 with a $49.5-million SIF contribution and a mission to create technological solutions for the most challenging problems facing Canada's agri-food sector.
- CAAIN was quick to get up and running, and its initial operations were made possible by financial and in-kind contributions from Alberta Innovates, including staff and administrative support, as well as office space in the Alberta Innovates Edmonton Research and Development location in South Edmonton.
- To date, CAAIN has launched one open call for projects and a closed competition, available only to the eight Network partners and whose results will be announced at a later date. The open call for proposals is available to Canadian academia, research foundations, granting agencies, not-for-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and multi-national enterprises (MNEs). For the purposes of the Network's activities, SMEs are defined as businesses with 499 or fewer employees and $50 million or less in annual revenue. MNEs have at least 500 employees and annual revenue exceeding $50 million.
- Each team applying for CAAIN funding must include at least two SMEs, and all members must be Canadian entities operating in Canada. Funded projects will fit into one or more of the following Network focuses:
    - Automation and robotics
    - Data integration, analysis and decision-making, and
    - Smart farms
- The intellectual property (IP) and research data resulting from CAAIN-supported project remain with the applicants.

- CAAIN funding will take the form of reimbursement for clearly defined eligible expenditures and range from 20 per cent to 40 percent of a project's cost, depending on various factors. These include:
  - Optional inclusion in CAAIN's high-level IP catalogue, accessible by CAAIN members
  - Agreeing to have project data sets referenced in the CAAIN data catalogue, accessible by CAAIN members
  - Collaboration of companies and research institutions
  - Potential economic, social, and/or environmental benefit to Canada
- Interested parties are invited to visit the CAAIN website, caain.ca for more information or to download the Program Guide and the Project Registration Form. If you don't find what you're looking for, email your query to info@caain.ca.