

## CCSIP R&D Business Plan: Harnessing the Power of Canada-California R&D Cooperation to Develop Novel Biofuels for Green and Sustainable Energy

Around the world, the availability of natural resources such as food, fuel, and water is steadily declining.

Scientists predict that: the price of food staples such as wheat, maize and rice will continue to rise due to increased demand caused by population growth; the demand for world energy will increase by 50 percent by 2030; and climate change will begin to exhaust food supplies as rainfall decreases in many areas, prompting crop failures.

This complex global challenge requires the development of sustainable energy alternatives such as biofuels that can produce fuel, electricity, heat, and other sources of power.

With support from CCSIP and leadership from McGill University and the University of California (UC) Davis, scientists from eight Canadian universities (including the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Toronto, British Columbia, Sherbrooke and École polytechnique de Montréal) and five UC campuses (including Los Angeles, Irvine, Berkeley and San Diego) are pooling their expertise to create a bilateral 'green energy' research consortia in biofuels.

Over the coming year, the multidisciplinary team will create a business plan that defines key strategies, collaborative R&D models and funding requirements for the Canada-California network.

Once established, participants will harness their collective knowledge to develop innovative biofuels, bioproducts and biorefining practices for a growing global market that is expected to grow at a rate of more than 12 percent from 2007 to 2017<sup>1</sup>.

They will also participate in training programs and propose policy recommendations that strengthen the biofuels sector in both jurisdictions.

<sup>1</sup> Global Markets Direct; December 2008; <http://www.globalmarketsdirect.com/>