April 20, 2020

RE: CAPI Fellowship Program – *Sustainability and Resilience in Canadian Agricultural Soils*

Dear Ph.D. candidates,

Building on a very successful inaugural Fellowship Program, the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) is pleased to announce it will be conducting its second Fellowship Program. CAPI is an independent and non-partisan think-tank, based in Ottawa, Ontario, that is a driving force for dialogue and innovative research to inform future agriculture and agri-food policy decisions in Canada. CAPI has for 15 years provided insight, evidence and balance on emerging issues in the field of agriculture and agri-food.

CAPI proposes that our next Doctoral Fellows Program develop expertise, original tools and strategies to grasp the complexity of sustainability and resilience in agriculture as related to soil. CAPI aims to create a small dynamic, innovative and transdisciplinary research network specializing in this field. The program will run over two years (2020-2022). CAPI will fund up to four Ph.D. candidates whose research focuses on either the economic, social, legal or environmental aspect of sustainable and resilient agriculture and soil. Each selected researcher will receive up to $12,500 via direct grants and travel subsidies over the two years of the program. This project-based funding requires no physical presence in Ottawa. The outcome of selected projects will contribute to the production of a series of reports by CAPI, which will be published and disseminated broadly to policy makers and various stakeholders.

Applications from any discipline will be considered, if the applicant is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at a Canadian university and the Ph.D. research of the applicant is related to sustainability, resilience, and soil in Canadian agriculture. Areas of study of the applicants could include, but are not limited to policy, economics, environmental studies, agricultural and biological sciences, geography, law, etc. If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit:

- ☐ An up-to-date *curriculum vitae;*
- ☐ A cover letter demonstrating your interest and qualification in the field of sustainability, resilience and soil in agriculture (no more than one page);
- ☐ A signed letter from your supervisor stating they will provide support and review your research before submitting to CAPI; and
- ☐ Your proposed research project, including objectives, short background information, methodology and expected outcomes (no more than two pages).

Your application should be sent to Elise Bigley (bigleyE@capi-icpa.ca), no later than Friday, May 29, 2020. Selected candidates will be notified before late June 2020.

Please refer to the following page for the broader context of CAPI's project. For further information, or if you any have any questions, please write to: bigleyE@capi-icpa.ca.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Dr. Donald E. Buckingham, CAPI, President and CEO

Call for Proposals – *Sustainability and Resilience in Canadian Agricultural Soils*

Synopsis of Opportunity
The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) is looking forward to partially funding up to four Ph.D. candidates whose research focus on either the economic, social, legal, or environmental aspect of sustainable and resilient agriculture as related to soil. There is a need for further research and transdisciplinary studies in the field of sustainability and resilience and agriculture through multiple lenses and disciplinary perspectives.

Context
Climate change is one of the key issues facing the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. At the same time, global population growth and increased demand for more and higher quality food products, including meat, dairy and protein alternatives imply that Canadian agriculture has an opportunity to produce and export more agriculture and agri-food products. The challenge remains, how does Canada do this sustainably?

Canadian agriculture is very efficient in terms of producing food with a modest environmental footprint. For example, Canada is in the top 10 per cent of the most GHG-efficient livestock producers in the world. This effort has seen emissions from Canadian livestock production drop by 11 per cent since 2000, and soil organic carbon sequestered in Canadian soils increase by 40 per cent.

These improvements have been achieved through basic changes like zero-tillage, crop rotations, cover crops and 4R fertilizer application. Canadian farmers have adopted more advanced innovations too, like new livestock genetics, increased feed efficiencies for beef and dairy cattle, precision agriculture allowing variable rate applications of fertilizers and crop protection products, and improved plant genetics that producer higher yields with similar or lower levels of input.

Given the progress in Canadian agriculture in terms of sustainable production, there is reason to be optimistic that Canada can be a leader in this area, and that the agriculture sector will continue to be a climate change solutions provider. As a result, there is a great need for more research to better understand how Canadian agriculture can position itself as a solutions-provider, and a leader in sustainable production, particularly related to soil.

A Trans-Disciplinary Network of Researchers
As a policy research institute, CAPI is looking forward to facilitating dialogue and ultimately to coordinating the production and dissemination of reports dedicated to this topic. A transdisciplinary approach, which will include expertise of a multidisciplinary team merged with practitioners, to sustainability related research is critical to not only the future of agricultural production but also to enhancing the quality of life in Canada.

In order to encourage innovative and multi-disciplinary learnings, CAPI is seeking a set of Ph.D. candidates from both natural and social sciences, with diverse specialties related to agriculture, such as policy, economics, law, environmental studies etc. CAPI, as a partner to this project, will (1) provide the necessary venue for transdisciplinary research and interactions, and (2) take research results to policy makers and stakeholders towards integration of knowledge into policy and strategy development.