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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) Advances to Phase Two of Plastics Project with Confirmation of OAFRI Funding**

Northern Ontario, 7 October 2024 – The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) is proud to announce the successful application through the Ontario Agri-food Research Initiative (OAFRI) as part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). This funding will propel the second phase of our plastics project, focusing on the collection and repurposing of agricultural plastics within Northern Ontario.

Phase two of this project will centralize plastic collection points within various regions of Northern Ontario, facilitating an efficient and coordinated approach. Additionally, we will seek out environmentally and economically viable end-uses for dual-sided plastic and bale wrap, ensuring a sustainable and cost-effective solution for our community.

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, stated, “Ontario’s agri-food sector plays a vital role in bringing innovative, top-quality food to Canadians. With support under SCAP, research projects funded through the Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative will help the sector stay on the cutting-edge, access the resources they need, and gain new market opportunities for their products.”

Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, added, “Our farmers and food processors must continue to innovate to compete. Our investment in OAFRI will supercharge their innovation efforts. The return on investment from these research projects will ensure our agri-food sector reaches its full potential through new growth, new jobs and new economic opportunities.”

With over 100 research and innovation projects funded in the latest intake, NOFIA is proud to be a recipient. Our partnership with OAFRI and continued collaboration with Northern Ontario partners, will allow us to grow the plastics project to a sustainable program to reduce the amount of agricultural plastics ending in landfills.

NOFIA remains dedicated to fostering innovation and sustainability in Northern Ontario. This funding marks a significant step forward in our mission to create a greener, more resilient agricultural sector.

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