

FY 20-21 CLEAN WATER POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Kernza®; Photo credit: The Land Institute

The crops listed above, and others in the FGI portfolio, are now ready for a focused effort to accelerate their commercialization and wide adoption, through a concerted and strategic public-private effort. However, there are critical gaps in capacities and resources needed to support this effort, which the Steering Council and its Network will address. For example, at present, there is a major unmet need for coordination between end-users of new crops and growers of these crops. Without coordination, a major “chicken and egg” problem occurs, as farmers will not grow these crops without a market, and end-users will not invest in new products made from these crops without assurance of supply. Through linkage and coordination, producers and end-users can solve this problem by managing and sharing risks, and by efficient use of financial incentives and technical resources.



Pennycress Seed; Photo credit: Jim Ecklund

Creation and support of the **Minnesota Agricultural Diversification Steering Council and Network** will provide such linkage and coordination. Specifically, the Steering Council and Network will create and support new working relationships between public, private and non-profit sectors that are critical to timely development of new production systems that feature continuous productive vegetative cover. The Steering Council will also coordinate public and private investments necessary to operate the Network, advocate for supportive public policy, and link Minnesota’s efforts to developments at regional and national scales. The Diversification Network in turn will support and coordinate research activities, pilot-scale implementation projects, and experimentation with new programs and policies that will accelerate development of this market-driven strategy for clean water.



Pennycress Flower; Photo credit: Jim Ecklund

The expected outcome of this coordination is greater support for new markets and supply chains and extensive production of these crops in targeted areas where they will have the largest water quality benefit.