Sustainable AgTech Innovation Request for Proposals

Focus:
The Sustainable AgTech Innovation seed fund supports costs for early-stage development of clean and sustainable agricultural and food system innovations.

Request for Proposals:
The Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center is seeking Requests for Proposals from University of California, Davis faculty, staff, and/or students at all levels. Applicants must show a clear intention of introducing proven, cost-effective technologies into markets related to clean and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Preference is given to ventures that can positively contribute to regional economic development of the greater Central Valley area and California.

Selected applicants must report budget and project activities to the center each quarter, and use all funds by July 30, 2015.

RFP Open Period: February 1-28, 2014
RFP Deadline: February 28, 2014 11:59 PM

Award Size:
Up to $25,000

View a list of sample/previously funded ideas on the website: http://gsm.ucdavis.edu/seed-fund

Ideal applicants should demonstrate the following:
- A consistent theme of sustainable agricultural and food innovation.
- A clearly articulated value proposition and/or market opportunity.
- Evident understanding of potential obstacles, and strategies to navigate them.
- Unique qualifications to seek consultation and build relationships/networks.
- Potential long-term positive societal impact, with emphasis given to areas of greater need.
- Consideration of social, economic, environmental implications related to innovation adoption.
- The potential for realistic and successful commercialization/implementation.
- Extensive background, market, and technology research to support claims.
- Product positioning and target segment is clearly defined and meaningful.

About the Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center:
The Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center (SATIC) is funded in part by the Sacramento Region Clean AgTech Innovation Center Development Project, Award No. 07 79 06923 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Agency. The Sacramento Region Clean AgTech Innovation Center Development Project is a partnership between the Child Family Institute for Innovation (Graduate School of Management) and the Sacramento Area Regional Technology Association (SARTA).

SATIC seeks to help researchers understand the commercialization process. Through translation and dissemination of agricultural and food system innovations, the center provides a “virtual incubator” of programs and services to assist in propelling these ideas out of the lab and into the marketplace. The center’s diverse programs include:
- Commercialization workshops for early-stage entrepreneurs and researchers.
- Industry guidance and mentor connectivity, along with business strategy support.
- Entrepreneurship Academies to provide business fundamentals for researchers
- The UC Davis Big Bang! Business Plan Competition Ag & Food Innovation Prize
- Seed fund grants of up to $25,000 available to support commercialization efforts.

Eligibility:
- Must be a UC Davis faculty (Senate and Academic Federation), postdoctoral researchers, graduate researchers, or undergraduate. Undergraduate applicants must have a graduate
To apply, applicants must:

1. Complete and electronically submit the team application here: Cover Sheet Team application.
2. Submit the following documents in one email to gsm-agtech@ucdavis.edu. Please use 11 point Arial, one-inch margins on all documents.
   a. Complete Business Proposal application, max three pages.
   b. Budget with justification, max two pages. Use the Budget Template.
   c. Individual curriculum vitae of team members. Two page max.

Reminder: Applications are due **February 28, 2014 at 11:59pm**.

**Budget**

- Budget may include line items for:
  - Supplies to support prototype development of technology
  - Travel within California to support clean agricultural technology project.
  - Services that aid in the developing of clean agricultural and food technology ventures
    - Third party vendors require a competitive bid process for services.

**Fund Restrictions:**

- The following items are not eligible for funding:
  - Academic research
  - Marketing or public relations, such as flyers, advertisements, websites, billboards, and trade show materials etc.
  - Items that will be sold for profit. No final product manufacturing allowed.
  - Intellectual Property or other costs associated with legally protecting idea.
  - Salary support
  - Travel outside of California.
  - Equipment
  - Indirect (general office expenses, salary support, etc.).

Please view the [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)](#) document for more information.

**Review Process:**

A Review Committee appointed by the Principal Investigator, Sustainable AqTech Innovation Center and the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will assess the proposals. The committee is chaired by industry leaders, government employees, and investors from the Sacramento region. The Review Committee members are free of conflicts (i.e., they are not, and have not, been engaged in collaborative research with any of the researchers or invested in any of the researchers’ projects).

The Review Committee advises the executive directors of the Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center and the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on the merits of the proposals and ranks them for funding. The executive directors, in consultation with the Principal Investigator and Faculty Director of the Child Family Institute will be responsible for final decisions and implementing the Review Committee’s recommendations.

The primary criteria used to evaluate the Seed Fund proposals will be:

1. The long-term viability and potential for positive impact to society, with greater emphasis given to those that can create positive impacts in areas of greater need.
2. The potential for successful commercialization/implementation of clean agricultural and food technologies, with greater emphasis given to proposals that can demonstrate preconceived steps towards this goal.
3. Consideration of the social, economic and environmental issues related to the successful adoption of the innovation.
4. The qualifications, experience and productivity of the project leader/s and additional personnel. Only relevant expertise will be considered.
5. The group’s foreseen capability to seek consultation and build relationships with different networks across the UC Davis campus and beyond.
6. A strong, unified vision among the group toward not only the goals of the proposed project but also the necessary steps to get there, including background, market and technology research.
7. Potential economic impact on the greater Central Valley region.

The Review Committee may solicit revisions or additional information if necessary to achieve a final ranking of submissions. In addition, the committee may recommend that the proposers make an oral presentation to clarify commercialization aspects of the proposal.

The Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center will formally review proposals twice a year and fund up to 10 projects within each review cycle.

Requirements Following Approval of Funding:
Once the proposal is accepted, funds will run from date of acceptance through July 30, 2015, with initial funding coming shortly after awardees have been notified.

Accepted participants will be required to:

- Submit quarterly progress reports, including budget/expense reports.
- Present their commercialization plan at an Angels on Campus meeting.
- Participate in the Ag Innovation Entrepreneurship Academy, June 24-26, 2014
- Participate in relevant workshops affiliated with the center.
- Feature their project on our website and/or supporting marketing material.

Contact Information:
Please feel free to reach out with questions, concerns, and/or suggestions. We will be hosting workshops in January and February to help potential applicants with their proposal. Also, if interested in joining the list-serv, email here: gsm-agtech@ucdavis.edu.

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