Frequently Asked Questions Sustainable AgTech Seed Fund

- What are the funding requirements?
  - Upon approval, you agree to the following:
    - Sign commitment form and provide financial contact in your department. Funds are distributed inter-departmentally.
    - Attend mentoring sessions with staff of the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
    - Present quarterly written updates on progress and financials expenses, with pictures for marketing purposes, if applicable.
    - Present commercialization plan at an Angels on Campus meeting

- I am a UC Davis alumnus. Am I eligible to apply?
  - Although alumni are not eligible to apply as the project leader, they are allowed to be on a team which whose project leader is a UC Davis affiliated student, faculty, or staff.

- I am graduating before the deadline to use the funds, July 2015. Can I still apply?
  - Funds must be spent by July 30, 2015.
  - There must be a current affiliate of UC Davis on the team, which solely includes current students, faculty, staff, or researcher.
  - Funds are distributed internally between the center and your department.

- I am an undergraduate. How can I compete with graduate, researcher, and faculty proposals?
  - We hold a certain number of spots for undergraduate submissions which meet the criteria of the RFP.

- If awarded a grant, will I be required to attend the Ag Innovation Entrepreneurship Academy in June 2014?
  - Yes, you will need to submit at least one team member to the academy, free of charge. We believe it will be very beneficial to your team and project.

- How will money be distributed to me if awarded a grant?
  - Funds are distributed through UC Davis general accounting procedures.
  - The center will work with the identified financial contact in your department to setup an account to receive funds.
  - Once an account is established in your department, the funds will be transferred for use through July 30, 2015.
  - Money is distributed in this manner to provide accurate grant reporting to the host grantee (Economic Development Agency).
  - Funds are not distributed to individuals or via checks.

- Who should I contact if I have questions about Intellectual Property?
  - Seed funding is subject to UC obligations to the Federal granting agency (EDA) and to University intellectual property policy. If you have specific questions, please contact anyone at Innovation Access. http://www.research.ucdavis.edu/u/s/ia

- How can I meet with center staff for questions and/or advising?
  - Yes, email Edward Silva at ejsilva@ucdavis.edu, to schedule meetings and mentorship consultations throughout the term of your grant.
• Are there any opportunities to network with other teams?
  • We will host small events that bring together awarded teams for seminars on business development and other skills relevant for project commercialization. These events will also offer networking opportunities.

• What resources are available if I am not awarded funding?
  • If you would like to discuss ways to improve your proposal for the next round of funding, we will gladly meet with you to re-review and discuss ways to improve your proposal and project idea. Email ejsilva@ucdavis.edu to make an appointment.
  • Additional opportunities for commercialization activities include the Big Bang Business Competition and the Blum Center Grants for Developing Economies. SARTA also has funding allotted for commercialization of age related projects.

• The following is a quick summary of funding limitations:
  • We will not fund administrative support, salary, patenting costs or tuition.
  • All services must go through a competitive bid process.
  • F&A (indirect costs) cannot be charged against the grant.
  • Construction costs are unallowable.
  • Marketing and public relation costs are unallowable (fliers, website, etc).

• Can I purchase computers or computing devices?
  • In order to use funds for such devices, they must function as a scientific instrument or are attached to such an instrument for data capture or experimental visualization; or, 2. When it can be clearly demonstrated that the computing device is necessary to accomplish the technical scope of the commercialization activity.

• Am I allowed to use my funds to subcontract needed tasks for my project?
  • Teams cannot subcontract, although they can purchase a "service" i.e. pay for programmer, third party vendor for services related to their clean ag technology project.
  • Purchasing and service arrangements must be processed through your department.
  • If non-UC Davis or SARTA personnel engage in a buyer and seller relationship with UC Davis to perform project work and will be compensated from the proceeds of the project budget, then their services must be procured via a competitive selection process.

• How much of the funds will I receive?
  • Participants will receive the funds approved for the final budget (not all budget items may be approved). Funds will be distributed through your internal department. The Sustainable AgTech Innovation Center does not impose any overhead costs on the funds.
  • Budgets must meet approval of all EDA requirements. Budgets may be returned for further justification and clarification. Projects may be funded partially or in full, depending on the allowability of the proposed budget.

• When will I receive the funds?
  • The review process can take 4-8 weeks. All budgets must be reviewed by our sponsor for final approval. Final approval will be sent once the budgets fully approved and reviewed.