Request for Proposals
Impacts of COVID-19 on Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Systems

The **Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science (SAFES)** requests proposals from researchers in the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) to initiate discussions and stimulate research activity as a rapid response to the emerging and potential impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural, food, and environmental systems. Investigating the vulnerabilities of these complex and interconnected systems requires the coordination of teams able to integrate natural and social science disciplines with technological advancements, human behavior, economics, and policy among other factors.

SAFES is creating a novel environment to accelerate holistic inquiries and comprehensive solutions to the sweeping, interconnected challenges facing supply chains, food security, labor, and the environment posed by a global pandemic by connecting our researchers into the diverse landscape of resources provided at Penn State. Proposals for data-driven projects that can be largely performed in a remote working environment are strongly encouraged.

The CAS Office for Research and Graduate Education will administer these **short-term grants** of **up to $25,000** to support the formation of research initiatives addressing these impacts and to competitively position the teams to pursue large-scale extramural grant submissions. Proposals will be accepted and administratively reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks until allocated funds are obligated. The first round to be reviewed must be submitted by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8**, with subsequent due dates every other Wednesday thereafter. Submit proposals via the online portal: https://agsci.psu.edu/research/resources/funding/covid-19

Proposal Requirements:
- **Project narrative** (2-page maximum)
    - Describe the critical research need and the significance of the problem being addressed;
    - Outline research goals, proposed activities to pursue them, and timeline of activities;
    - Summarize the expected outcomes of the project, including potential for the team to pursue external funding to continue the research.
- **Project Team** (2-page maximum, individuals can participate in multiple proposals)
    - List all team members with their departmental affiliations and describe the role and responsibilities of each project team member, including how the expertise of each is required to address the proposed research problem.
- **Budget and Justification** (constructed for up to **one year maximum**)
    - Include a detailed budget justification, providing a brief description and explanation of need for costs associated with project activities, including personnel (must include fringe), direct costs, data storage and computational capacity, etc.
    - Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries, travel to professional meetings, or the support of personnel NOT in CAS.

For questions regarding this program, please contact Gretta Tritch Roman, Research Initiatives Associate, at
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