USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative:
Opportunities for truffle research

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Purpose

"The purpose of the SCRI program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support *research and extension* that address key challenges in sustaining all components of food and agriculture … production systems."

"Meeting the challenges faced by these industries can best be handled by considering the full breadth of system components [Figure 1], rather than treating each component in isolation and ignoring important interactions and conflicts among components that may reduce the viability of component-specific solutions in the long term.

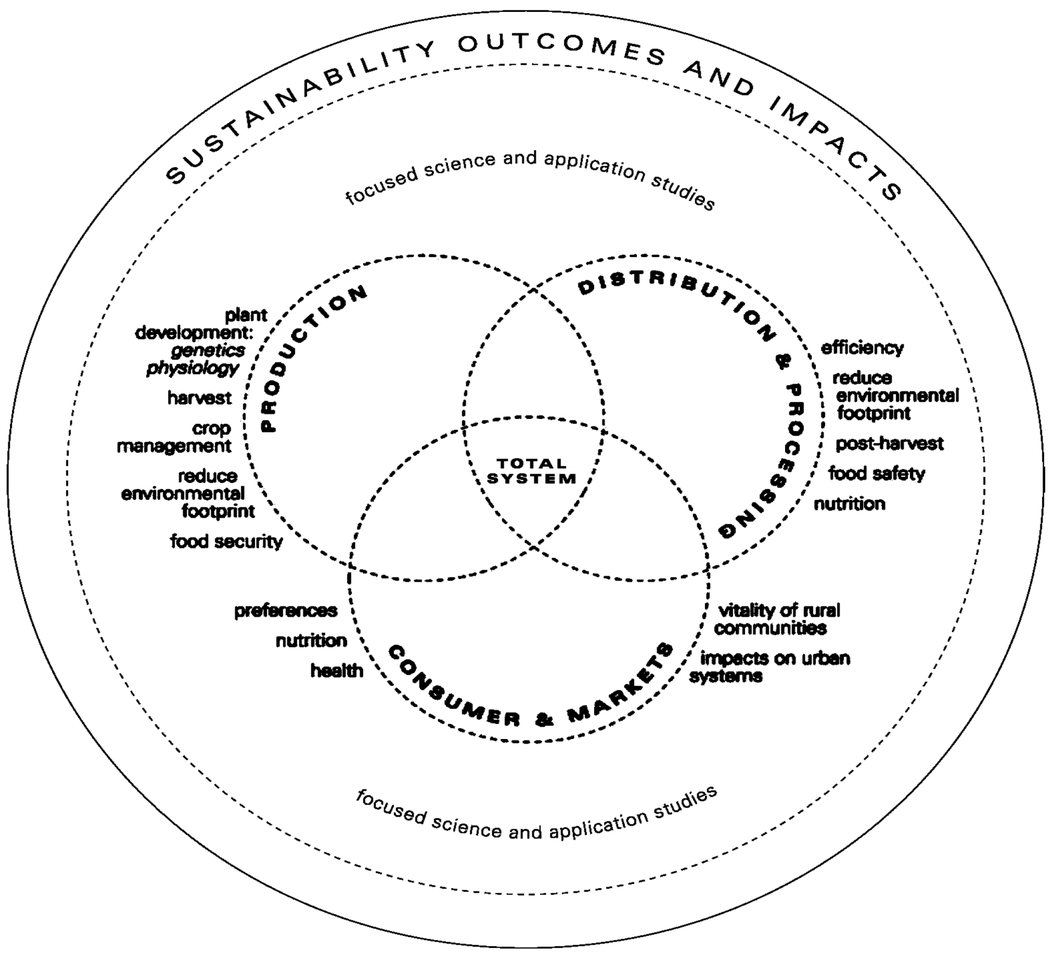

Figure 1. *Three Main Sectors/Primary Systems of the Specialty Crop Industry*

Figure 2. QR code to SCRI solicitation for 2023, which is the source of information included in this poster

Project Types

Table 1. Three project types offered by SCRI.

	SREPs Standard Research and Extension Projects	CAPs Coordinated Agricultural Projects	Planning (TRAPI) Research and Extension Planning Projects
Project Period	up to 4 yrs	up to 4 yrs	1 yr
Budget	Not to exceed $1M/yr	Not to exceed $2M/yr	up to $50k
Purpose	Targeted problem-solving efforts	To address a) multiple components of a primary system; b) multiple components of areas where primary systems overlap (see Figure 1)	Assistance in developing a) quality future SREP or CAP proposals (grant planning); b) strategic research and extension plans (strategic planning)
Previous awards (08-22)	Mean: $2,461,152	$5,815,695	$49,900
	Median: $2,032,727	$5,778,830	
	Minimum: $226,905	$1,912,178	
	Maximum: $6,242,957	$10,898,772	$50,000

Focus Areas

1. Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics
2. Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;
3. Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing);
4. New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and
5. Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce.

Application Evaluation Criteria

1. Stakeholder support letters demonstrate that project arose from challenges identified by stakeholders with significant input from industry. (25%)
2. Stake holders will be able to implement project outcomes to achieve new and/or improved practices. (20%)
3. Likelihood of successful project completion. (20%)
4. Engagement of stakeholders throughout the project. (15%)
5. Stakeholder involvement in forming evaluation criteria andproviding feedback on project success. (10%)
6. Likelihood that stakeholder involvement will last beyond the length of the project. (5%)
7. Project team has members who have worked stakeholders and with experience using described research and extension approach. (5%)