



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PO Box 330
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DOUGLAS H. FISHER
Secretary

December 04, 2023

Dear Agricultural Organization Representative:

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) requests applications for the funding available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) to carry out collaborative, multi-state projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. For the purpose of this grant program, "specialty crops" are defined as: vegetables and fruits, including grapes for wine, nuts, horticultural products including Christmas trees, honey, herbs, potatoes, sweet corn, and other specialty crops, including algae. Agricultural commodities which are NOT eligible for these grant funds include, but are not limited to: feed crops, food grains, seafood, livestock, dairy, and poultry products, including eggs, range grasses, and oilseed crops.

The NJDA requests that all interested organizations representing New Jersey's specialty crop industry submit project proposals to deelip.mhaske@ag.nj.gov for consideration for this funding **on or before January 4, 2024**, at 5:00 PM EST. Any applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

To be eligible for a grant, Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) project must:

- (1) Address one or more regional or national (multiple-State) issues described below;
- (2) Define the geographic target area of impact of the project such as the specific states or foreign markets;
- (3) Define the specific specialty crop(s) that are the focus of the project; and
- (4) Involves at least two partners located in different states.

Organizations are encouraged to develop projects which address issues throughout the specialty crop industry through projects which: food safety, plant pests and disease, research towards plant breeding, reducing environmental impacts, and improving efficiency of the specialty crop supply chain, climate-change and sustainability-related challenges, marketing and promotional efforts to advertise and raise customer awareness for specialty crops, and/or significant crop-specific issues that affect widely dispersed geographic areas.

The NJDA encourages applications that benefit smaller farms and new beginning farmers, underserved producers, veteran producers, and/or underserved communities. For projects intending to serve these entities, applicants should engage and involve those beneficiaries when developing projects and applications.

Funds will be available to selected and approved applicants after October 1, 2024.

All proposed projects must follow a standardized format and comply with the enclosed USDA guidelines.

Please see the enclosed application information. ***Once you submit an application, you should receive a confirmation of receipt via e-mail within 24 hours. If you do not receive that confirmation, please call or e-mail me. Please feel free to forward this application to other appropriate parties as needed.***

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 913-6628 or deelip.mhaske@ag.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Deelip Mhaske
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New Jersey Department of Agriculture
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cc: Joe Atchison III, Director of Marketing & Development