



Texas State Support Committee

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COTTON RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

TO: Cotton Researchers & Contracts Officers
FROM: Marvin Beyer, Jr., Chairman
DATE: February 5, 2021
RE: Texas State Support Committee Request for Proposals

The Texas State Support Committee (TSSC) is requesting proposals directed at developing technology to enhance the competitive position of Texas cotton. The TSSC is comprised of cotton leaders in the state for the purpose of directing funds to support research, education and promotion at the state level. Funding for these activities comes from Cotton Incorporated's annual budget. The TSSC is comprised of producer representatives from the nine regional producer organizations, the Cotton Board and Cotton Incorporated. The TSSC sets priorities, reviews proposals, and recommends projects to Cotton Incorporated for support with its State Support funds.

Please note, the Committee is requesting proposals for the 2022 calendar year. Proposals requesting multi-year funding will be accepted, but funding is for one year only. The TSSC may, at its sole discretion, provide additional funding in subsequent years for projects deemed important to the Texas cotton industry.

Grant funds are allocated for the both regional (nine regional organizations) and multi-regional projects (state). Researchers are encouraged to communicate with their regional cotton producers or other people of knowledge to identify local research priorities for regional projects. For all projects, researchers should engage with colleagues to provide an integrated and collaborative approach to develop complimentary projects across the regions. Collaboration is a high priority for the selection committee. **Rather than having several different research projects concentrating on one area of interest, TSSC is striving for a more efficient group-oriented approach.**

Proposals are particularly requested in these areas:

- Increased production efficiencies through reduced input costs and economic optimization of tillage practices; dryland and irrigation production systems; plant population and row spacing; precision agriculture; pest (weed, insect and disease)

management systems with new technologies, optimal fertilizer use; water (rainfall and irrigation) management; decision-aid management tools.

- Cost effective weed control is a high priority for cotton producers, especially with widespread prevalence of herbicide resistant weeds in Texas. Cost effective strategies for both dryland and irrigated systems should be the priority. Additionally, preventing the further spread and management of weed resistance is important including evaluation of new herbicides, new herbicide tolerant traits and new application technologies.
- Crop termination, harvesting and processing such as: cotton harvest-aid options; harvest methods to minimize trash; sticky cotton caused by whitefly, aphids and immature cotton; improved cotton storage and ginning methods to preserve fiber quality and value.
- Utilization of the latest breeding and molecular techniques and tools to improve yield and quality in adapted varieties in both dryland and irrigated production systems; cooperative genetics/production/processing/market assessment studies to identify/develop fiber and seed traits with higher market value.
- Environmental considerations including strategies or technologies for maintaining/improving cotton production and adoption of the Cotton Trust Protocol; regionally specific Best Management Practices (BMP) to improve fertilizer efficiency; impacts and economic assessments of voluntary/mandated changes for environmental enhancement of cotton production and ginning including reducing energy and carbon footprints. All facets of soil health including reduced compaction, cover crops, increased water infiltration and other areas of soil health.
- Economic assessments and cost/benefit analysis of cotton production; marketing strategies; pricing analyses; policy analysis and other areas related to cotton economics and marketing. When possible, all applied research projects should include an economic component.
- Alternative uses and applications for cotton and cotton by-products/energy conservation.
- Cotton variety performance and BMP's to assist growers in variety and trait selection and optimizing income from both fiber and seed.
- Crop physiology in relation to water use efficiency and other areas that will increase profitability and sustainability.

Proposal lengths should not exceed four one sided pages maximum (12pt. font) and should follow the enclosed guidelines to ensure that all major points are stressed. **A maximum of a one-page proposal summary** must accompany the proposal. Again, team proposals are strongly encouraged, particularly where two or more disciplines are essential for successful results. Proposals should emphasize near-term research, with high potential to produce new technologies, improve production efficiencies, or decision-aid packages that are useful at the grower, ginning and fiber industry levels.

The proposal should include information on how the TSSC funds are being leveraged to further bolster research in cotton or how the funds are directly improving the ROI for growers, ginners and others in the supply chain.

One copy of each proposal should be submitted via email by **May 4, 2021 (same time frame as last year)**. **Just below the proposal title, clearly indicate whether the research proposal is a renewal or a new submittal. If your proposal is a renewal, clearly list your assigned Cotton Incorporated project number as well.** Only electronic submissions will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to Aaron Nelsen (aaron@tcga.org) and Gaylon Morgan (SSProposals@cottoninc.com). **Be certain the proposal is sent to both! Please send the document in PDF format only!**

It is your responsibility to confirm your proposal has been received either by calling Aaron Nelsen at 512/476-3913 or requesting an email receipt or response. Proposals will be reviewed by the TSSC in July. Recommendations from the TSSC will be forwarded to Cotton Incorporated for review of possible duplication and appropriateness. Final approval of projects should be announced in the fall.

Texas State Support Committee requires all researchers to file quarterly reports to the Cotton Incorporated Reporting System. If the funded research project is abandoned due to weather or other uncontrollable factors during the season, please notify your project manager with Cotton Incorporated to discuss unused funds. Prompt notification helps the committee in planning and is looked upon favorably by the committee.

Criteria for the proposal evaluation will include: scientific soundness and technical relevance to needs; potential to benefit Texas cotton; potential to achieve results and accomplish objectives; regional balance and benefits; leveraging of other funds and resource assessment - including both funding requested and institutional support. A criteria evaluation form used by TSSC members to prioritize projects is enclosed as a reference.

The TSSC will not pay indirect costs (overhead costs, administrative costs, etc.) on any project supported by the TSSC in 2022 or in future years.

The TSSC looks forward to reviewing all proposals that meet the criteria and follow the guidelines. Please contact Aaron Nelsen at 512/476-3913 if you have any questions about submitting your proposal.