



Fort Valley State University Foundation, Inc.

1005 State University Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030-4313

Invitation to Participate in a Request for Quote (RFQ)

Industrial Hemp Research Program at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) Request for Collaboration in Research and Education

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this Request is to solicit proposals/responses to establish contracts between FVSU and corporations, companies or businesses in the hemp industry to support the University's research and education mission related to the agriculture of industrial hemp, cannabinoids and future exploration into varieties and strains of *Cannabis*.

Period of performance: Beginning with the contract award through March 1, 2022 with four one-year renewal options agreeable to both parties.

II. Statement of Needs:

A. Overview:

The Fort Valley State University is one of the universities designated in "Georgia's Hope Act" ([HB 324](#)) to conduct research with industrial hemp. The "Georgia Hemp Farming Act" ([HB 213](#)) encourages exploration and academic research by the universities into the growth, processing, uses and development of varieties of hemp. Therefore, FVSU plans to develop its research program to provide information that can be used to support the practical needs of farmers to meet its educational, teaching and research mission.

B. Scope of Service and Specific Requirements

Fort Valley State University plans to develop the infrastructure for an industrial hemp research program consisting of, though not limited to, the following:

- Demonstration plots to determine the types of hemp that are best suited to grow in Georgia,
- Tests of growth and seed characteristics.
- Processing of hemp products, supply chain and marketing,
- Genetics and plant ultrastructure studies on the strains and varieties of hemp.

The overall goal is to establish best agricultural practices and economics of the growth of industrial hemp in Georgia, specifically middle Georgia. FVSU plans to disseminate research to farmers and other constituencies as part of its education mission.

Such a research/education program is beneficial to farmers and the state of Georgia, but FVSU recognizes the value of the support and collaboration from strategic partnerships with strong industrial partners. Specifically, an industrial collaborator should be capable of meeting the following expectations:

1. Be knowledgeable of laws and other regulations related to doing business in Georgia.
2. Be able, with expertise and training, to support and contribute to the research effort by identifying research priorities and needs of the industry.
3. Be able to support and contribute, with appropriate communication skills and technical expertise, to the educational mission by collaborating regularly in workshops and seminars as necessary to appropriately serve and educate the agricultural community.
4. Be able to be onsite at the University at least quarterly to assist in resolving technical issues or in helping to focus and help develop strategies to advance the research and teaching agenda.
5. Provide access to university personnel to the plant or laboratories of the industrial collaborator for educational purposes as well as to help inform the research agenda.

III. Financial Expectations:

The industrial collaborator must have the capacity to be able to provide financial support for FVSU's research program on hemp as described in the Scope of Service and Specific Requirements.

IV. Questions for Prospective Industrial Collaborators (to be answered in response to this RFQ):

1. What can you bring to the FVSU teaching and research mission that will add value?
2. How will you engage in helping to educate farmers in middle Georgia?
3. How will you help FVSU to define the priorities and goals of its research program with hemp?
4. What technical expertise will you bring to the research agenda on hemp?
5. By what measures would you consider your contribution to be successful to the FVSU hemp research program?
6. How will you assist, support and collaborate with FVSU in the development of new programs?

V. Intellectual Property: There must be a clear understanding of intellectual property and the desire, as an educational institution, for FVSU to be able to freely share knowledge in partnership with industrial collaborators and publish research results related to Hemp.

VI. General Instructions: Please format your responses to best represent your organization using the questions, scope of service and expectations above. Please use documentation to support your statements so that the review team can best judge the merits of your responses. For example, the expertise question (#4 above) may be evaluated with the attachment of CVs and the capacity question in III could be answered with financials. Please use the same outline in your responses as the above II-V.

Please format responses in PDF or Word documents that can be reproduced for team review and attach it to an email addressed to: proposals@fvsu.edu and include the contact person's information that is representing your organization. Please submit all applicable materials as attachments in one email by 5:00 pm EST on February 19, 2021.

If you have questions about this process you may contact [Dr. Daniel Blankenship](#), Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.