

Appendix G: Response to review

We thank the reviewers for their feedback and time. We have addressed each reviewer's comments below and has made significant changes to the proposal as per reviewers' suggestions. We have narrowed down our list of objectives and also added sub-objectives to provide clarity on the scope of work that we anticipate to accomplish through this multi-state collaborative effort. We also improved the methods section with more detail. Please see our responses to individual reviewers' comments in italicized text under each comment.

Appendix G: Peer Review (Submitted)

Status: Complete

Project ID/Title: NE_TEMP2105: Motivations for Growing Industrial Hemp: Farmers, Producers, Processors, Manufacturers, Retailers, Consumers, Citizens, and Policymakers.

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Good

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Good

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Good

5. Overall technical merit:

Good

Comments

This is a productive multistate group with focus on an emerging sector in US agriculture. A multi-discipline, multi-state approach is highly appropriate. This specific proposal draws on a very limited amount of relatively dated information for an industry which is changing and developing rapidly. The researcher and this project will benefit from being nested in the larger multistate group and adding an additional state to the larger team can also be beneficial.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project

Thank you for your positive feedback. We updated the proposal with latest references and literature in the field. The focus of this project is on developing and improving the efficiency of the Industrial Hemp supply chain from the farm-gate to the consumer. However, S1084 is focusing heavily on the production not about lower costs at the farm level. We also plan to study and develop innovative consumer products using IH to generate new economy and uses for IH, which isn't the focus of S1084. Therefore, we propose to formulate a separate multisate project that could support the efforts of our team.

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Status: Complete

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Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project with revision

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Good

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Fair

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Good

5. Overall technical merit:

Good

Comments

Overall the project has academic merits and would assist in moving industrial hemp research and Extension programming forward. My main concern is that the project seems overly broad. Hemp has numerous production methods, supply chains, and end products. Perhaps targeting objectives for one use or system would provide clarity for the project, rather than looking across all uses and production methods. Additionally, this would allow formulation of policies specific to the subset of IH end products. Unless substantial financial resources are being requested and approved a less ambitious more targeted approach is likely warranted.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project with revision

Thank you for your insightful feedback. We added more specificity to our objectives and methods to help narrow down some of these overly broad sections of the proposal. We also updated the title of the proposal that is more precise and fits with the scope of work we are proposing.

Appendix G: Peer Review (Submitted)

Status: Complete

Project ID/Title: NE_TEMP2105: Motivations for Growing Industrial Hemp: Farmers, Producers, Processors, Manufacturers, Retailers, Consumers, Citizens, and Policymakers.

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project with revision

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Good

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Fair

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Good

5. Overall technical merit:

Fair

Comments

Overall, there is little detail in how the objectives will be met, i.e., how what methods will be used to accomplish the objectives?

From a justification standpoint, is the goal to ID new markets, lower costs, or ID new markets?

There needs to be discussion about how the hemp market supply side has experienced oversupply and decreasing prices.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project with revision

We appreciate the suggestion and we agree that the floral hemp industry overproduced in 2019 and 2020. However, for this industry to succeed the production of grain and fiber will be the drivers. Therefore, we proposed to develop new uses and products from fiber specifically and also cannabidiol. The crash of 2019 gives the industry an opportunity to reset and properly develop an achievable growth plan for the industry that allows both infrastructure and production to grow at a sustainable pace. The output of this research group will help to shape the policymaking and the supply chains necessary for the industry to succeed. Additionally, we updated our objectives and elaborated our methods section in the proposal.