

The Honorable Darryl Little

Director

Arkansas State Plant Board

No. 1 Natural Resources Dr.

Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

(501)225-1598 Fax (501)219-1697

Base Grant: \$500,000

Specialty Crop Grant: \$210,000*

Total Grant: \$710,000

*This report applies only to the \$210,000 administered by the Arkansas State Plant Board.



Arkansas Rural Enterprise Center Cooperative Development Assistance:

Arkansas Rural Enterprise Center, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, \$34,133.

The primary goal of this project is to increase income of minority owned and limited resource farmers in rural Arkansas. This project will relate especially to vegetable growers living in the most economically depressed Delta region of the state. We propose to accomplish this goal by exploring the cooperation and coordination of existing vegetable cooperatives as a means to improve market opportunities and access new markets for vegetable growers' crops and value-added products.

Market Development of Specialty Products - Shiitake Mushrooms:

Shirley Community Service and Development Corporation, \$10,000.

Establishment of a preparation and packaging area for shiitake mushrooms to be used in laboratory testing. Shirley Community Development Corporation will supply the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center with a research grade product for a study on the effects of compounds in shiitake mushrooms on mammary and colon cancers.

Cultural studies to enhance the development and competitiveness of the Arkansas strawberry plasticulture industry:

Arkansas Strawberry Growers Association, \$55,285.

Study I: Development of guidelines for strawberry plug plant propagation. Study II: Effect of planting date and cultivar on strawberry plasticulture system performance. Study III: Effect of drip tubing placement and plant spacing on performance of "Chandler" and "Cammarosa" strawberries.

Statewide Horticulture Industry Economic Survey:

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension, \$27,650.

A survey to gather production, marketing and sales information from businesses making up the industry including fruit and vegetable growers, specialty crop producers, greenhouses, nurseries, sod producers, as well as landscape maintenance and service firms.

Marketing and Promotion:

Arkansas Beekeepers Association, \$5,000.

To create and develop a web site to increase communication to members and local associations, to educate consumers and the public in general of the direct and indirect benefits of local apiculture, and to provide resource information for honey buyers and those hiring pollinators.

Flax and Chickpea: New Specialty Crops for Arkansas:

Delta Enterprise Network, \$5,000.

Evaluate fiber flax for its fiber and seed production potential in Arkansas farmer's fields. Determine optimum planting dates for fiber flax production. Determine optimum planting dates and yield potential for chickpea.

