



## SEEDS: The OARDC Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program

Food, agriculture, and the green industry comprise the largest industry in Ohio, each year generating more than \$80 billion for the Ohio economy and employing one in every six Ohioans. The people who work in and gain from this industry — producers, processors, and consumers — face many and varied challenges.

For producers, the challenges may relate, for example, to how a crop is grown or how a type of livestock is raised — production and environmental issues — or to what consumers want and the changing nature of those desires. For consumers, the challenges may relate to concerns about cost, nutrition, the environment, production methods, and more.

It is safe to say that all these challenges are closely connected — and so are the people who face them.

SEEDS: The Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program fosters excellence in Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) research, promoting research consistent with the mission and the vision of OARDC and encouraging connections across disciplines and with industry and other external partners. Citizens in Ohio and around the world — producers, processors, and consumers — benefit.

SEEDS: The Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program, established in 1996 and supported by an appropriation from the Ohio General Assembly to OARDC, is unique among U.S. state-assisted universities. The goal is to promote research excellence among OARDC- and College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES)-supported scientists. SEEDS enables scientists to collect the preliminary data needed to give them a competitive edge in national programs and provides them with leverage to attract industry support.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of SEEDS are to:

- Increase the competitiveness of scientists in extramural grant programs.
- Encourage partnerships with private industry and other stakeholders.
- Encourage the development of interdisciplinary teams.
- Encourage international collaborations.
- Support the exploration of enterprises that are potentially new to Ohio.
- Provide undergraduate students with research experience.
- Provide graduate students with the opportunity to take part in the grant-writing/review process.

SEEDS continues to prove its value by supporting researchers in gathering the preliminary data needed to gain a competitive edge over researchers at other institutions.

Since the program's inception, faculty have submitted 696 applications for funding. Of those applications, 268 were funded, totaling \$8,042,365. A total of 180 projects are now complete.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

### **Return on Investment**

For every OARDC dollar invested in completed SEEDS projects, \$5.52 has been returned as a result of industry matches and extramural funding.

### **Creating Intellectual Property**

Eight U.S. patent applications have been filed as a result of initial findings of SEEDS. Two patent applications have been granted. Three licensing agreements have been obtained.

### **Sharing Knowledge**

For projects completed during calendar year 2004, scientists reported the publication of 45 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Scientists also made 157 poster and podium presentations in a variety of locations around the world. In all, since the inception of SEEDS, more than 211 manuscripts have been published, and 495 presentations have been made.

### **Educating Graduate Students**

Projects completed and submitting a final report during calendar year 2004 reported three doctoral dissertations and 12 master's theses being completed as part of these SEEDS-funded projects. Since the program's inception, SEEDS-supported graduate students have produced 23 dissertations and 46 theses.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on SEEDS: The OARDC Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program, please visit our web site at: [www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/recgp/](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/recgp/) or contact 614-292-2950.



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