



CFSF RFP ID: 2018-04

Canadian Food Safety Fund **Request for Project Proposal**

Date Issued: Friday, November 23, 2018

The Canadian Produce Marketing Association's (CPMA) Canadian Food Safety Fund (CFSF) is a member supported fund designated to support food safety research, education and projects with a focus on the Canadian produce industry.

We are soliciting proposals for research projects designed to benefit the Canadian produce industry in the areas of fundamental or industry food safety practices..

This request for projects (RFP) is our first and as such will be limited in scope. Future RFP's will be more expansive in both scope and funding.

Fall 2018 Request for Project Proposals

Funding available: \$50,000.00 CDN
(No single project may exceed \$25,000 CDN)

Timeline: This inaugural RFP will have a term of approximately six (6) months.
~ December 2018 to May 2019

Suggested research topics:

- Air flow and transport of various fruit and vegetable related pathogens.
- Pathogen rapid test methodologies, efficacy and applications.
- Pathogen distribution and environmental testing: How do northern temperate climates compare with southern sub-tropical climates (literature review project)
- Human illness parasites associated with fresh fruit and vegetables: Their prevalence, distribution and potential climate change impacts (literature review project)
- Parasite rapid tests: overview, challenges and potential applications
- Original project (as proposed by researcher)

Research Topic Overview:

Air flow and transport of various fruit and vegetable related pathogens.

How do the various air flows which fresh fruits and vegetables (FF&V) are exposed too, through



the various gate to plate steps, present a risk to the final products? This project can either take an in-depth look at one of the stages or a more general overview of the supply chain as a whole. Do specific environments, handling, storage or processing steps add to the risk of air borne contamination and how can it be managed?

Pathogen rapid test methodologies, efficacy and applications.

Effective, efficient and accurate rapid tests allow businesses to quickly assess the risk associated with products and help with smooth transitions into the food chain. Ineffective, complicated or inherent error prone test methodologies lead to confusion, recalls and a loss of markets. This project should look at existing rapid methods and provide insight on how useful they are in a FF&V environment.

Pathogen distribution and environmental testing: How do northern temperate climates compare with southern sub-tropical climates (literature review project)

Environmental testing of growing areas is often part of the risk assessment producers go through when creating their food safety programs. Environments are never static and change year to year, season to season. This project should look at the macro differences between northern temperate growing areas and those of the sub-tropical regions of North America. Understanding the seasonal variations of pathogens endemic to these two regions provides a snapshot of the current conditions and may help with future projects related to climate change and a redistribution of specific growing areas.

Human illness parasites associated with fresh fruit and vegetables: Their prevalence, distribution and potential climate change impacts (literature review project)

The last few years have seen an increase in parasitic outbreaks related to FF&V's and they have begun to appear in unexpected environments. Has the distribution of parasites changed? Is the movement of human populations facilitating the transport of parasites? Will climate change also cause movement of parasites to accelerate?

Parasite rapid tests: overview, challenges and potential applications

As the prevalence of parasites appears to be increasing, development of rapid tests that can quickly identify high risk products or environments will become increasingly important. Given the diverse life cycles, physiology and adaptability of parasites the challenges faced by researchers is significant. If, however, progress can be made in these areas, the extent of the applications could be enormous. This project should consider these big picture issues and postulate creative solutions to move the research forward.

Original project (as proposed by researcher)

The FF&V industry is a dynamic, global and expanding sector of the food business. It is also singularly unique due to the fact that for most of the products there are currently limited intervention tools available to lower the risks. Given this restriction, research, both fundamental and applicable, is a critical factor in ensuring the food safety influencers are understood and mitigated. CPMA welcomes any original project proposals with the goal of better understanding



and mitigating these risks.

Project Proposal Process

Researchers interested in applying for funding through the Canadian Food Safety Fund must comply with the following:

1. Complete the CFSF Project Proposal document (attached).
2. Read and sign the CFSF Funding Terms document (attached).
3. Return both of the completed forms to Jeff Hall at jhall@cpma.ca by EOD: **Friday, December 14, 2018.**

CPMA will then:

1. Review the completed forms and return any with missing or incomplete information to the applicant for correction.
2. Forward the projects proposals to CPMA's Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) for assessment and recommendations.
3. Provide the projects and TSC recommendations to CPMA's Food Safety Committee for final review and accept / reject decisions per project.
4. CPMA will inform the successful and non-successful applicants.
5. Project funding, as per the Funding Terms document, will be released.

We would like to thank you for your interest in the Canadian Food Safety Fund and we look forward to supporting food safety research to the benefit of our membership.

Any questions can be directed to:

Jeff Hall

Food Safety Specialist, Canadian Produce Marketing Association

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