1. Introduction

Our vision is for OSU to become the worldwide leader in developing conceptual models and practical examples of climate-resilient, secure and equitable agricultural and food systems. Improved health and functioning of agroecosystems, socio-cultural institutions and human health are our barometers; sustainability, resilience, adaptation and equity at all scales are our watchwords. Food security for all despite local constraints and global volatility is the overriding aim. A dynamic tension between local innovation and global engagement drives the initiative to balance broad interdisciplinary collaborations on campus with a wide array of national and international, public and private-sector partnerships. The approach is to position Ohio State as a model hub in the accelerating transformation of worldwide food systems, an incubator of what we are calling "new food agri/cultures" at home and an active and reliable partner in the global arena. OSU's campuses and lands will become living laboratories for the creation of new physical, social and cultural models for food systems that can balance ecological capacities and ecosystem services, technological innovation, dynamic and innovative economic development, broad participation, justice and equity. We continue to build on our strengths in agroecology (a holistic approach that balances the social, economic and environmental dimensions of agriculture), climatology and water; food systems and technologies from production to consumption; and culture, community health, justice and policy. More than 50 distinguished faculty members from across The Ohio State University collaborated on our proposal, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and the vision continues to be compelling and motivating for the participants.

Through strategic grants that maximize Linkage and Leverage we will continue to build on our strengths in the following areas: (1) climate, environment, technology and agroecosystems; (2) local to global engagements to improve food security; (3) new food economies; and (4) campus food cultures and education. Linkage means building connections among faculty, staff, and students across OSU and with partners beyond. Leverage means bringing in new resources to fuel the initiative. Following are some of the key priority areas of effort anticipated for the coming year, however, proposals on any topic or activity that accomplishes linkage and leverage will be considered.

- Communication modes and strategies for raising awareness and public discourse related to InFACT including issues such as food insecurity, either domestically or globally, and its socioeconomic, demographic, geographic and cultural dimensions; the right to food and food sovereignty; points of controversy and consensus in food
production, distribution, processing and preparation; diet, health, behavior and public policy; new opportunities for improving food culture, production, precision agriculture technologies and access.

- **Workshops, conferences, symposia, gatherings** that provide faculty, students and partners with an opportunity to collaboratively develop transdisciplinary theories and models; research, learning and outreach agendas; and proposals for extramural support.
- **Research** that combines the interests and capabilities of current faculty with new InFACT supported hires and focuses on key InFACT priority areas.
- **Database** assembly and management in support of food systems analysis and generation of related research questions.
- Methods to characterize and manage the **interdependencies** among food, energy, water, and material supply chains, with an ultimate goal of ensuring the resilience and sustainability of communities that depend upon these critical resources.
- **Curriculum assessment** and development in the area of sustainability and resilience in general and with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches that include culture and human values, modeling, assessment, engineering, and management related to food security.
- ** Foundations of sustainable and resilient food security**, including social, cultural, historical, moral and/or ethical factors that have influenced our food systems over time, and the many forms of capital (human, social, natural, built, financial, etc.) upon which they depend.

### 2. General Information

Proposal teams are required to submit a **letter of intent** as described below to assure the relevance of the team’s chosen topic, and provide an opportunity for feedback on the concept and potential partners or collaborators. An approved letter of intent will be required before a full proposal will be considered. This grant program will have a rolling deadline, beginning September 8, 2015. Proposals will be evaluated as they are received and until all funds have been committed. Please direct all communications to outreach@osu.edu.

A. **Scope of Projects**: Grants will support teams of university collaborators and community or other external partners who engage in any strategic activities that are judged to advance the linkage and leverage goals described above and address compelling food security challenges.

B. **Funding Available**: Multiple grant awards will be available for the 2015-2016 academic year. The amount of funding for a single award may vary from $1500 to a maximum of $35,000. We expect a total of at least $250,000 to be available, leveraged by matching from other sources as described below.

C. **Grant Duration**: Grants will be issued for a period of up to one year. Time extension
requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

D. **Mid-project review**: Grantees will receive 60% of the funds at the start, and the remaining 40% after providing a satisfactory mid-project progress report. The report should be written for a general audience, include graphics (e.g. photos, charts, graphs) that describe the project status, and be suitable for publicizing InFACT activity via online and print media.

E. **Eligibility**: Teams of faculty, staff, students, and community or external partners may apply. The project lead must hold an OSU appointment or be an enrolled student with a faculty or staff advisor who can assist with managing the award. Team members’ roles and responsibilities must be described in detail, and each team member must sign indicating their willingness to accept those roles and responsibilities and COI disclosure. All team members will be listed on the InFACT web page listing of partners. The size and configuration of the teams is open, but we strongly encourage diverse teams with participation from multiple departments and colleges that will build new network connections among students, faculty including new faculty hired with InFACT support, and external partners.

F. **Use of Funds**: There are no restrictions on use of funds, except that funds may not be used for capital improvements.

G. **Matching**: Matching funds or in-kind support are not required, particularly for small awards that accomplish significant linkage and leverage. However, matching will be part of the evaluation of proposals, and the expectation for matching will increase with the size of the award. Matching funds are encouraged from external or internal partners, which could include the other Discovery Theme initiative seed grant programs such as Sustainable and Resilient Economy, the Office of Energy and the Environment, new faculty startup funds, colleges and departments, and interdisciplinary programs. In-kind matching must be described thoroughly in the budget justification and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Proposal teams are encouraged to identify future extramural resources and opportunities as part of their plan to achieve continued leverage and sustain projects beyond the 2015-16 academic year.

H. **Required Letter of Intent**: Teams must submit a one-page letter of intent (LOI), typed in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. The LOI should provide a clear understanding of how funds will be used to achieve the goals of the Linkage and Leverage Grants program by explicitly and succinctly describing (1) the concept and rationale, (2) the objectives, approach, and expected outcomes, (3) team qualifications, and (4) estimated total budget. A preliminary team listing form must accompany the LOI, but signatures will not be required at this stage (see forms below, the budget form is not required at this stage). The LOI will be reviewed within 4 weeks and must be approved before a full proposal will be accepted. The LOI may be returned with suggestions for revision and resubmission.
I. **Full Proposal Format:** Proposals that have been invited on the basis of an approved LOI must be in 12-point font size with appropriate spacing and 1-inch margins to ensure readability and must be submitted as a complete PDF document. The proposal narrative may not exceed 6 pages in length, including charts, tables and graphics, and may be shorter for smaller proposed grants. The narrative must document a compelling challenge and describe how the team resources will be applied to address this challenge and create linkage and leverage toward transformational progress in food security. Narratives should include:

1. Descriptive Proposal Title.
2. Lay Summary (250 character maximum): Brief and written for a general audience.
3. Concept and Rationale: Document the significance of the compelling challenge and describe how the project will address the challenge, engage OSU people and partners, leverage new resources, and produce useful results.
4. Objectives, Approach, and Expected Results: Describe specifically the project objectives, how the team plans to accomplish those objectives, the expected deliverable outputs, and the expected short and long term benefits or results (in narrative or logic model format).
5. Team Qualifications, Linkages and Leverage: Describe the qualifications of the key team members, the capacity of the team to succeed, and how the project will achieve both linkage and leverage as defined above.
6. Budget justification: Describe how the team plans to use the grant funding as well as any matching resources to carry out the project.

In addition to the proposal narrative, teams must provide a team listing with roles, responsibilities and signatures, and a budget form (see forms on following pages). The full proposal must be submitted within 6 weeks of notification of approval of the LOI.

J. **Review Criteria:** Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. Concept and Rationale: Potential to create transformational change in food security and/or address key priorities described above.
2. Objectives, Approach, and Expected Results: Likelihood of team success in meeting the project objectives, achieving substantial benefits.
3. Linkage & Team Qualifications: Capacity to perform effectively, breadth and diversity in engagement of partners.
4. Leverage: Creative leveraging of both matching resources for the work proposed and potential future extramural resources to sustain the project.

Submission and notification: LOI’s and Proposals should be submitted to outreach@osu.edu, beginning September 8, 2015. LOI’s and Proposals will be reviewed as they are received, until the available funds have been committed. Recipients will be notified within 4 weeks of LOI or proposal receipt. For questions, contact Mark McCann at mccann.249@osu.edu.
InFACT 2015-2016 Linkage and Leverage Grant Team List

Proposal Title:

Team listing, roles and responsibilities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Members, Affiliations, email</th>
<th>Roles, Responsibilities, Signatures</th>
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<td>PI, team lead:</td>
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InFACT 2015-2016 Linkage and Leverage Grant Budget Page

Proposal Title:

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<tr>
<th>Item (and brief description)</th>
<th>Requested Funds</th>
<th>Matching Support</th>
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