The Agricultural Innovation Center at Purdue University

Participant Letter of Commitment

PARTICIPANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to affirm that all parties have shared expectations around participation in the Agricultural Innovation Center. This is not a legally binding contract.

* I understand that The Agriculture Innovation Center at Purdue University (AIC) program runs from April 2024 – March 2026. I have the intention of participating in the AIC Program for duration of the program that best suits my needs. If unforeseen circumstances arise that hinder my ability to complete the phase of the program I am committed to, I will communicate with the Food Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing Institute (FEMI) AIC staff to develop an alternative plan and/or strategy to exit the program.
* I understand that the intention of the AIC program is to help my business establish novel value-added food or beverage products with scheduled processes when applicable. This will also include measuring gain of knowledge and creation of value-added products.
* I certify that I qualify as a “producer” in the eyes of the USDA. That is, I grow/raise at least 51% of the ingredients by weight used in my value-added product.
* I assert that I have read through and fulfill all of the eligibility requirements of the AIC grant (listed on the last page of this document). I understand that I may need to provide proof of requirement fulfillment at any time during the duration of the grant period.
* I agree to share information and data about my business with the Agricultural Institute Center at Purdue University staff, as it pertains to my participation in this program. I understand that all information will remain confidential and not be used in an identifiable way without direct permission.
* I understand that my signature and submission of this form to Madison Mehringer at mmehrin@purdue.edu is required for review and acceptance into the AIC program.

Signed,

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Grant Participant Signature Date

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Grant Participant Written Signature Indiana County of Residence

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Please list the Food or Beverage Product(s) You Intend to Pursue

The Agricultural Innovation Center at Purdue University

Participant Eligibility Requirements

All agricultural commodities produced by growers / producers or the entrepreneurship of growers / producers within the state of Indiana must fall within the below designated categories to be considered for grant funding use and eligibility.

1. All products must be safe and regulated for human consumption and considered edible by local, state, and country law.
2. The entrepreneur or producer of the agricultural commodity must self-produce at least 51% by weight or higher of the ingredients to be included in the final food product.
3. The entire growing and food production operation of the grower / producer must be within the boundaries of the state of Indiana.
4. Due to regulatory and production constraints, products eligible for Phase Three: Product Formulation and Development will fall into the following commodity categories: dairy, vegetables, fruits, corn, soy, and nut products. All products not within the specified commodity categories are welcome to participate in the first two phases of the grant: Phase 1: Online Course Learning and Phase 2: Food Product and Production Environmental Testing Workshop.
5. Products containing controlled substances (including but not limited to alcohol and drugs) will not be accepted for services.
6. Growers and entrepreneurial growers must fill out a form (provided on the first two pages of this document) designating and detailing eligibility of grant funding.
	1. The form must be submitted for review before services or access to resources are given.
7. Every grower / producer is eligible for work on one Phase 3: Product Formulation and Development project at a time.
8. All products not fit for human consumption and not within the product categories outlined above will not be considered for funding covered access to resources and Agricultural Innovation Center services.
	1. Any entrepreneurs, businesses, and/or proposed products that do not fit within the above guidelines may access the Phase 1: Online Course Learning courses through self-paid access and are encouraged to apply to the Food Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing Institute (FEMI) at Purdue University for services relating to fit for human consumption food grade product development, research, and business planning services for the fees outlined by the Institute.