



Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Request for Concepts

Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

Research Priorities and Call for Concepts

Markets and Value. Market oriented projects shall address one of the following: diversification of end-uses, identify and define differentiated value for sorghum, or develop high-value, specialty markets. All investments must address barriers to commercial impact including feasibility of the technology, and the production and adoption of the technology.

New utilizations and markets. Identify and develop new and novel markets for sorghum utilization. Project must include a clear path for commercialization, and integrate partnerships to leverage and commercialize outcomes of R&D.

Increase value of sorghum utilization. Increase the volume and value of sorghum utilization in traditional sorghum markets. The Commission funds projects that increase the efficiency (logistics or processing) of sorghum utilization in established markets. The Commission encourages projects that identify differentiated value achieved with sorghum utilization.

Targeted Market and Value Priorities: Feed and forages, regional and local markets, economics, emerging export markets

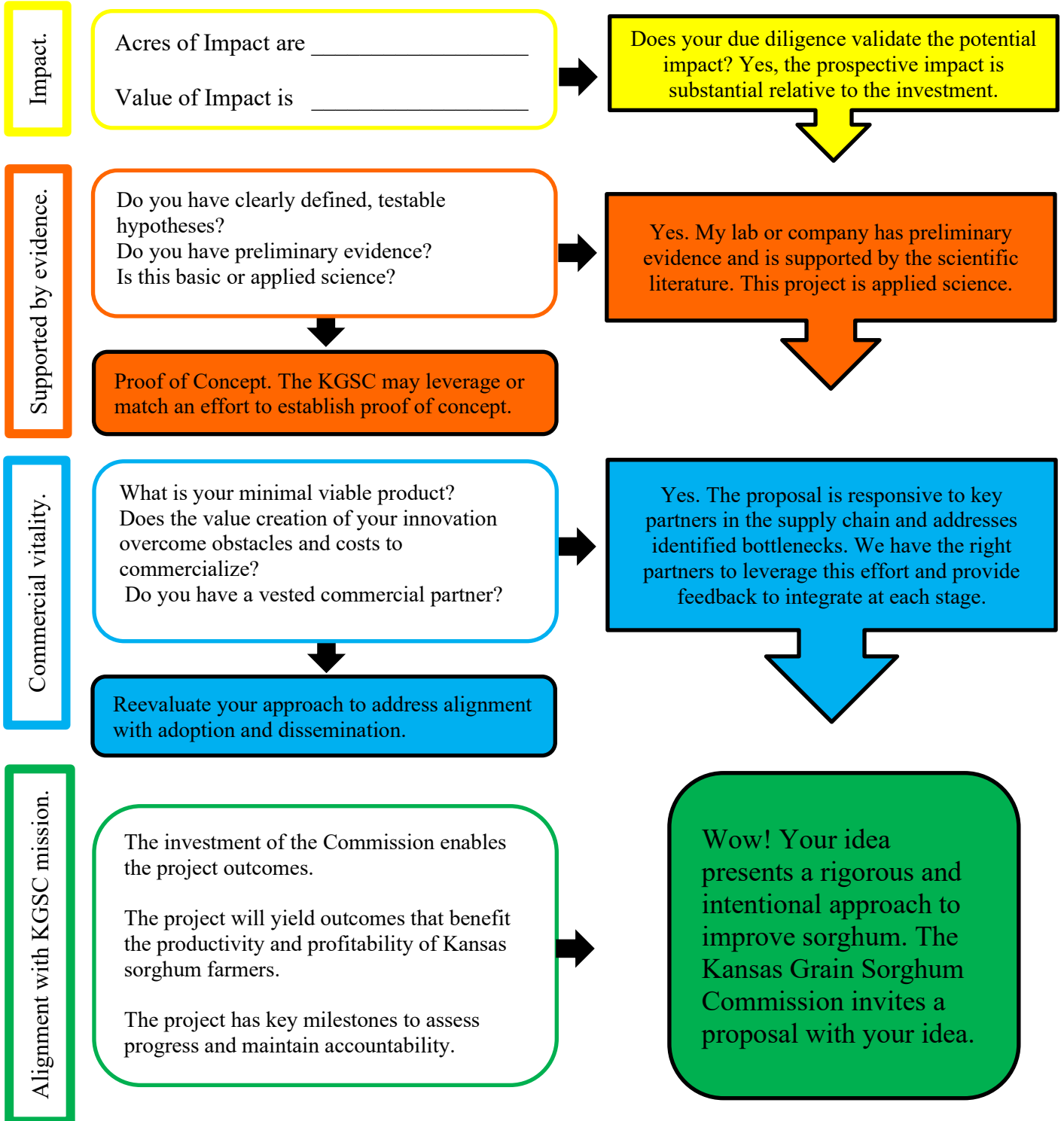
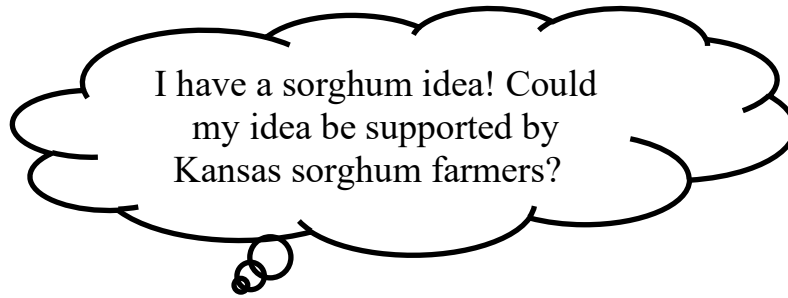
Emerging Management and Agronomy. Respond and provide management guidance regarding emerging management questions. Specialists in the fields of agronomy, physiology, soil fertility, irrigation, grain quality, entomology, weed science, and pathology are encouraged to develop proposals that address emerging management questions of priority to Kansas sorghum growers. This includes projects that test newly available technologies (ex. crop protection, seed, fertility, or plant health) or respond to emerging pests and diseases. Successful efforts will inform crop management decisions and provide in-time solutions and data. Projects should integrate extension and commercial partners.

Targeted Management and Agronomy: Weed management

Transformational Breakthroughs. Can you re-think sorghum? Innovations that transform the value or productivity of sorghum are invited. Proposals presenting breakthrough ideas shall clearly distinguish from incremental improvements of sorghum. The transformational idea must be aligned with a disciplined scientific approach, including testable hypotheses, milestones for evaluation, and reasonable timelines. Funding is also available for projects to generate a proof-of-concept scope to leverage for future grant funding requests.

Targeted Breakthrough: Advances that breakthrough to new levels of crop yield potential with a goal of a state average yield of $>100 \text{ bu ac}^{-1}$

Ideas. Questions? Contact Adam York, KGSC Administrator at (785) 707-9464 | adam@ksgrainsorghum.org
Sarah Sexton-Bowser, Center for Sorghum Improvement at (785) 477-6018 | sarahann@ksu.edu



Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission Target Request for Proposal

Instructions to apply for project continuance

Eligibility. The invite for concept submission extends to any research or market development entity with an aligned mission and capacity to execute and deliver a project that fulfills the Sorghum Idea Rubric – impact, evidence based, commercial vitality, and mission alignment.

Instructions for proposal development.

1. Time Frame for Research Investment

The Commission anticipates contracts will begin on January 1, 2026, and end on December 31, 2026. Concepts are due by April 17, 2025, and applicants will receive notice of request for full proposal by May 2, 2025. Full proposals will be due on June 27, 2025. Notice of award is anticipated to occur after October 1, 2025.

2. Technical and Research Priority Questions

The Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program facilitates the Commission's process for proposal solicitation and consideration.

For technical and research questions, contact Sarah Sexton-Bowser, (785) 477-6018, sarahann@ksu.edu

For general and priority questions, contact Adam York, (785) 707-9464, adam@ksgrainsorghum.org

3. Submission of Concept Proposal

Submit concept application in PDF format to sorghuminvest@ksgrainsorghum.org by Thursday, April 17, 2025.

4. Concept Proposal Format

Proposal Concepts shall include:

1. Cover Sheet, template provided.
2. Concept Narrative. The project concept shall not exceed two pages. Attachments with supporting figures and tables do not count toward the page limit. Concept narrative shall include.
 - a. Executive summary of the concept.
 - b. Statement of project aim and specific objectives.
 - c. Statement of the impact, evidence, commercial vitality, and alignment of proposal to improvement of sorghum for Kansas farmers.

**Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Concept Cover Page**

Project Title:	
Priority Focus:	Markets, Value ____ Mgt., Agronomy ____ Transformative ____
Proposal to:	Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
From:	
Funding Period:	
Amount Requested:	
Project Status: Present year of project in 2026	Year ____ of ____ total years* *Multiyear projects are evaluated and approved on an annual basis.
Lead Investigator Name, Unit, Email and Phone:	
Other Investigators Name, Unit, Email and Phone: List all private and public cooperators and their role and relationship to the project. Letters of support from cooperators are encouraged.	