

## Creation of a Kansas Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Organization

### Problem/Issue Statement

The food and agriculture enterprise is an underappreciated and overlooked critical infrastructure. Many of the disruptions in the enterprise over the recent past were caused by a lack of awareness of the interconnections across segments. The food and agriculture enterprise does not have the ability to acquire multi-channel, multi-sourced industry-segment specific information that can be analyzed for its impact across industry segments and shared with those industry segments to strengthen their resilience toward all hazards. The Department of Homeland Security oversees entities providing improved information sharing as a key component of Homeland Protection through the National Council of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISAC). The National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (NABC) believes improvements in communication, information sharing, and analysis will create a strengthened agriculture industry in the state of Kansas and support the university's role in agricultural biosecurity and biodefense by safeguarding food, water and energy supplies.

### Request Description

NABC will pilot a Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO). The ISAO will use multiple channels of information for all relevant species and crops including, but not limited to, environment, weather, economics, disease, trade, and transportation. It will provide threat and risk information, situational awareness and actionable information for stakeholders. NABC will identify and train subject matter experts, graduate students, and industry analysts from the KSU faculty who will create intelligence reports for stakeholders. We are requesting \$1,000,000 support for development of an analyst corps, development of information products, and management of the ISAO.

### Request Goals and Expected Outcomes

The ISAO analysts will create unclassified information reports for stakeholders. The reports will collate information from multiple channels that is assessed to have potential impact on segments of Kansas agriculture and provide producers with actionable information to increase infrastructure resilience. Producers and officials from multiple agricultural disciplines are intended stakeholders. Closer integration between stakeholders, producers, and subject matter experts inside of the university will improve access, timing, and quality of information within the agriculture industry. The ISAO will increase our recognition as a land grant institution that offers expertise, information and tools for the Kansas agriculture industry.

### Appropriations Subcommittee

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Homeland Security

### Request Type

Funding Request  Bill Language Request