

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed by an Advisory Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the submitted proposal narrative and the criteria listed below. See Application Guidelines in the previous section for requirements. Recommendations may be made to suggest adjustments to the monetary grant requests, proposed scope of work, and/or project budgets.

Criteria	Maximum Points	Points Received
Project Purpose		
How well does the applicant define the issue, problem, interest, or need? Does this project address a significant problem or important need for Mississippi's specialty crop industry? Is the approach rational and sound?	20	
Potential Impact		
Does the project provide a direct benefit to Mississippi's specialty crop producers? What is the economic value of the crop(s) benefiting from this project in proportion to the total value of Mississippi's specialty crop industry? What is the number of intended beneficiaries of the project? To what extent will the project enhance the competitiveness of Mississippi's specialty crop industry?	25	
Expected Measurable Outcomes		
Does the project have at least one distinct, quantifiable, and measurable outcome that directly supports the project purpose? Does the measurable outcome include a specific goal, target, benchmark, and performance measure? Does the applicant describe how the outcomes will be monitored? Are the goals realistic and obtainable?	15	
Work Plan		
How do the tasks and activities relate to the project objectives? Is the project feasible? Is the timeline reasonable? Does the project have a high likelihood of success?	15	
Budget		
Is the budget realistic and will the project yield a positive return on investment? Do requested budget items/activities correlate to the purpose/goals of the project? Does the budget narrative clearly identify the necessity of each expected expense? Has the proposed project been accompanied with matching funds?	15	
Project Oversight/Project Commitment		
Does the project have adequate oversight to endure proper administration? Is industry support for the project demonstrated?	10	
Total	100	