



USDA Climate Smart Grant to Benefit NW Wheat Farmers and Increase Cover Crop Seed Production

Leading cover crop seed producer, GO Seed, teams up with partners to bolster climate-smart practices and elevate sustainable agriculture

SALEM, Oregon, September 12, 2023– In a groundbreaking initiative poised to reshape the future of wheat farming, GO Seed has been granted a 5-year USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Grant. This project made possible by a partnership between GO Seed, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Northwest Grain Growers (NWGG), and Agoro Carbon, aims to transform wheat cultivation practices and significantly boost cover crop seed production.

A key element of this endeavor is the development of 'climate-smart' wheat, the result of integrating regenerative practices, including the incorporation of cover crop seed production within the crop rotation. This innovative concept is set to enhance soil health, mitigate climate change impacts, and introduce sustainable practices.

The grant's primary focus lies in partnering with wheat farmers to incorporate climate-smart strategies into their cultivation practices. This production is anticipated to yield enough cover crop seed to cover an additional 1.5 million acres of U.S. cropland, constituting a monumental 10% of the major commodity boards' target of increasing cover crop use by 15 million acres before 2030.

Jerry Hall, President of GO Seed, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We see a tremendous opportunity to meet a pressing market demand by scaling up the production and processing of cover crop seed. As the U.S. leaders in cover crop seed breeding, research, and production spanning over two decades, we're prepared to lead the charge."

The collaboration will also extend its impact to tribal farmers through CTUIR. Bill Tovey, Director of Economic and Community Development at CTUIR, highlighted the significance of the partnership, stating, "The Umatilla Tribes have always been stewards of the land we operate on, and the collaboration with GO Seed will elevate our endeavors in safeguarding and enhancing the soil and surrounding waters."

Chris Peha, CEO of NWGG, emphasized the progressive nature of this initiative, stated, "We feel strongly that a key part of our role in the stewardship of rural America is to be constantly forward-looking and planning for the future of the agriculture industry, and this program is an excellent example of doing just that."

Agoro Carbon Senior Agronomist, John Pullis added, "This presents an under-utilized opportunity to increase the capture of atmospheric carbon while boosting a much-needed cover crop seed supply. We look forward to providing measurement of carbon sequestration and verification of the adopted practices."

The Climate Smart Wheat pilot program enthusiastically invites forward-thinking wheat farmers to actively participate in this transformative journey, shaping the future of sustainable agriculture for generations to come.

For more information about this trailblazing initiative, please visit www.GOClimateSmartSeed.com.

About GO Seed:

GO Seed has been at the forefront of cover crop seed breeding, research, and production for over 22 years. As a pioneer in the field, GO Seed is dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture practices that ensure soil health, ecological balance, and resilient farming systems.

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