



Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grants Program

No-Tillage Sweet Sorghum Cropping System to Reduce Green House Gases for Biofuel Production

Recipient: Highlands EnviroFuels, LLC
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Location: Highlands County

Grant Funds Request: \$305,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$305,000
Cost Share Amount: \$778,750

Project Objectives: The recipient will own and operate a 20 million gallon per year, sugar-to-ethanol plant, based upon a conventional Brazilian-style sugar cane-to-ethanol plant but optimized to use both sweet sorghum and sugar cane as the primary feedstocks. The plant will require up to 20,000 acres of local sweet sorghum production.

The project will utilize a no-tillage practice for sweet sorghum crop production, demonstrating the commercial feasibility as well as the economic and environmental benefits. Through a life-cycle analysis, the recipient will verify and quantify the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as well as potential carbon emissions offsets or carbon credits for local farmers.

In addition, the project will engage Florida agriculture in the State's climate change initiatives; preserve water and land quality by reducing soil erosion and fertilizer and pesticide runoff; increase profitability to growers by increasing crop yields and reducing tractor fuel consumption; and long-term sustainable sugar-to-ethanol production with minimal environmental impact.

Energy Potential: The project's no-tillage practice will reduce the amount of tractor fuel consumed by farmers, and will also provide 100 percent of the power and steam required for the entire ethanol production process.

Economic Development: The project will stimulate Florida's economy by generating local tax revenues during construction of the facility as well as creating 30-35 jobs throughout the 30-40 year plant operation.

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