



Why Should Researchers work with YCEDA?

YCEDA is a public-private partnership between the University of Arizona and the desert agriculture industry with a mission to find solutions to the pressing on-the-ground needs of the industry. Our organizational structure provides us with the agility to rapidly respond to urgent research priorities of the industry. YCEDA staff do not conduct research, our involvement includes identifying industry-relevant research priorities; identifying appropriate funding sources to address those priorities; forming collaborations between researchers and industry to address priorities; assisting in research proposal development; providing close oversight and support for grant requirements such as financial tracking, reporting, meeting organization, planning for field days and other events and internal and external communication. We spend the time needed to move projects forward and provide useable results.

What exactly does YCEDA bring to the table?

Greater access to the production agriculture industry as a resource for:

- Direct knowledge of industry priorities through interaction with industry stakeholders and the YCEDA Advisory Council;
- Communication of research goals for industry support of grant applications;
- Access to industry resources including collaboration with growers for commercial field trials; and
- Close relationships with industry groups such as Western Growers Association, Farm Bureau, and the Center for Produce Safety.

Funding opportunities

- The YCEDA Seed Funding Program provides rapid funding for “proof-of-concept” projects.
 - Visit DesertAgSolutions.org/Funding for details
- Collaborative research projects with YCEDA
 - YCEDA helps identify funding programs that best fit project ideas;
 - YCEDA has a track record of obtaining funding for industry-desired research;
 - Trusted relationships have been established with granting agencies, organizations and researchers; and
 - Backstop funding can be provided to allow immediate initiation of YCEDA projects.
- YCEDA will alert researchers to funding opportunities that fit in their program areas for desert ag related projects.



Management of grant-funded projects

- YCEDA staff can facilitate research projects in the following ways:
 - Assistance developing cross-discipline, multi-institutional research teams;
 - Compiling application documents, including letters of support from the agriculture industry;
 - Assembling of advisory committees;
 - Convene planning workshops and team meetings;
 - Managing project communication and outreach;
 - Navigating federal, state, university and private industry bureaucracies; and
 - Providing focused grant account management including tracking budgets and deliverables.

Assistance in data generation and collection

- YCEDA has staff resources for data collection including field staff and a drone operator.
- The YCEDA equipment inventory is expanding to meet research needs. Current equipment includes drones and sensors such as LiDAR and thermal, eddy covariance systems and a large aperture scintillometer. We can facilitate access to equipment as needed for research projects resulting in reduced equipment and time investments.

YCEDA provides exposure, outreach and utilization of research results

- Be involved with high-profile projects that the industry and research communities pay attention to and put to use.
 - YCEDA develops workshops, field days and seminars providing presentation opportunities with key industry representatives;
 - YCEDA's media specialist provides communication support including video production, social media posts and livestream presentations;
 - YCEDA produces professional-quality printed outreach materials; and
 - The YCEDA website, DesertAgSolutions.org, provides a go-to clearinghouse for research results, presentations, informative videos and other resources.

The mission of YCEDA is to solve the pressing problems of the desert agriculture industry. This does not require researchers to have direct involvement with YCEDA as a research partner or funding source. YCEDA staff are available to discuss ideas and needs of the research community to help advance any projects that meet the needs of the desert agriculture industry.