**Impact Statement**
(No more than two pages no less than 10pt.)

**ProjectTitle:\_\_The NC State Plant Sciences Initiative\_\_**

**Issue:**

NC State is a leader in plant sciences and plant breeding. Two-thirds of the faculty in CALS work on some aspect of plant sciences. NC State resides within the research triangle park which is home to 100s or bioscience based companies and also the world’s research headquarters for 3 of the 5 global plant biotechnology/seed companies. NC is the third most diverse agricultural state with over 90 commodities. Currently the Ag sector of the NC economy is over $80B annually and could grow to over $100B in the next 10 years, creating over 40,000 new Ag sector jobs. NC State proposes a interdisciplinary plant sciences initiative to leverage these unique assets and propel the Ag sector of the NC economy.

**What has been done:**

Currently CALS has rallied stakeholders to support the concept of the plant sciences initiative. One component of the Initiative is to build a plant sciences building on the NC State Centennial Campus. This will be a building designed exclusively for the plant sciences and will drive interdisciplinary interactions between NC State, State and Federal Government, the plant sciences industry and stakeholders as well as entrepreneurial and start-up activities. Currently working on a governance model for the institute to achieve the above goal and have generated and initial design for the building. We have obtained lead funding from the State of North Carolina which is the prelude to partial state funding for the building. Fundraising for the initiative is full swing,

**Impacts/New Partnerships:**

The initiatives prime directive is to leverage the plant sciences assets in NC in a new partnership model. The goal is to take a systems approach to the large issues in plant sciences like yield, stress drought etc and solve this issues for NC, the US and the World. Not only will the interdisciplinary model coalesce all of the existing local plant sciences assets but it will also partner with other disciplines ranging from engineering, computer sciences, aeronautics, economics and sociology to achieve these goals. Again, the immediate impact is to grow the Ag economy in the State and the long term impact is to improve sustainable food production globally.

**Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life)**

A fully operational plant sciences initiative with a wide array of partners

A plant sciences building

Grow the Ag economy of NC beyond $100B annually adding 40,000 new jobs

Increasing food production that is sustainable and nutritious.

**How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?**

The skills learned and my increased self-awareness obtained from FSLI have been essential to the success of this endeavor, so far. I have learned how to work with people with different agenda’s personalities and ways of looking at the world and have been able to share and cooperate with the same vision for the plant sciences initiative.

**Contact information:**

*\*If you have already written a report for your project and it is available on- line please include the link to the paper. If you have a pdf you can send it to us and we will include a link to that from your summary page.*