Mission: NMSU’s Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems (CESFAS) will be the leader in building a vibrant agricultural economy by conducting innovative, trans-disciplinary, collaborative research that facilitates and develops strong food and value-added agricultural businesses. The center will also provide interdisciplinary training and education to students to give value-added industries highly-skilled, workforce-ready employees. In partnership with industry, the CESFAS will help meet the complex challenge of feeding a growing global population using fewer natural resources.

CESFAS GOALS
- Increase the state's value-added processing industry.
- Develop sustainable food supply chains and reduce/eliminate food deserts currently occurring in the state.
- Sustain New Mexico's vibrant food and agricultural systems long into the future.

The accomplishment of these goals will help make CESFAS a vital asset in New Mexico's recovery from catastrophe's such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.
Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created 2 new faculty positions
  - Dr. Martinez-Monteagudo
  - Dr. Sabillon Galeas
  - Food Bioprocessing
  - Microbial Food Safety

- Developed 4 transdisciplinary, inter-college research teams
- Established contributing faculty partners website
- Submitted $20 million grant proposal for Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture
- Developing CESFAS Advisory Committee

Awarded $70,000 seed grant for "Investigating Robotic Technology for Sustainable Chile Production and Harvest in New Mexico"

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

SUSTAIN HUMAN COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH THEY LIVE

DEVELOP AND EXPAND VALUE-ADDED AGribusiness

CREATE JOBS

DEVELOP WORKFORCE READY GRADUATES

New Mexico's agricultural industry provides nearly $3 billion to the state’s economy, second only to the gas and oil industries. Most of New Mexico’s agricultural products, however, are shipped out of state for processing before returning to New Mexico as consumer-available products. Processors in other states are profiting from New Mexico's agricultural producers and the lack of extensive value-added industries in New Mexico agriculture. In order to build a vibrant and sustainable food and agricultural industry in New Mexico, state-of-the-art value-added industries must be developed. CESFAS, established at NMSU in 2019, is a critical component in New Mexico’s ability to build and sustain a viable food and agricultural system to feed the population and to grow the state’s economy.

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