The Food and Agriculture Strategic Growth Initiative is an outcome of the Governor’s Summit on Production Agriculture held in August 2011 and is in response to the recommendations from the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Agricultural Processing.

The initiative will use a competitive grant process to fund research, education, and technical assistance efforts focused on removing barriers and leveraging opportunities identified by processors, agri-business, and those in agricultural production as critical to business development and growth.

MDARD is hosting six meetings across the state to inform industry leaders, partners and interested persons about the grant process and goals. Food processors and other food, fiber and agriculture businesses are encouraged to attend one of the regional meetings listed below.

**Regional Meetings**

**Monday 5/6/13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Location: Alpine Center Complex, 800 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord

**Tuesday 5/7/13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Location: Peter White Public Library, 217 North Front Street, Marquette

**Wednesday 5/8/13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Location: MSU Office, 1 Tuscola Street #100, Saginaw

**Thursday 5/9/13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Location: The Eastern Market, 2934 Russell St., Detroit

**Tuesday 5/14/13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Location: Kalamazoo RESA, 1819 E. Milham Ave., Portage

**Thursday 5/16/13, Grand Rapids (at Food Summit)**

Location: Frederik Meijer Gardens, 1000 E. Beltline, NW, Grand Rapids

Many thanks for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Mike DiBernardo at 517/242-3021 or dibernardom@michigan.gov.