Paper Survey Consent Paragraph

I am Jianfeng Zhou, an Assistant Professor from *the University of Missouri*. Together with Andy Thomas, Terry Durham, Alan Helland and Frank Gordon, we are working on a project to develop a fruit handling system for elderberries. Our goal of this project is to assist local elderberry farmers to develop an automated elderberry handling system that integrates destemming, sanitizing and rinsing procedures to increase the efficiency of fruit handling. The developed system will optimize the destemmer, reduce exposure of farmers to hazard sanitizing solution and their labor intensity, and attract more farmers to grow elderberry and boost the elderberry industry. The project is funded by North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

You are being invited to participate a survey to help us better understanding the needs and requirements on such processing system in terms of processing capacity, budget and operational methods. You were selected to participate in this study because you are from the community who have elderberry orchards, processing facility or are planning to join in the community. If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete the survey/questionnaire on the next page. This survey/questionnaire will ask about your expectations on the elderberry handling and processing systems, and it will take you less than 5 minutes to complete.

There are no known risks if you decide to participate in this research study, nor are there any costs for participating in the study. You may not directly benefit from this research; however, we hope that your participation in the study may help me to gain sufficient knowledge to develop an optimal system to improve your work efficiency in the future.

This survey is anonymous. If you choose to participate, do not write your name on the questionnaire. No one will be able to identify you, nor will anyone be able to determine which company you work for. No one will know whether you participated in this study. Nothing you say on the questionnaire will in any way influence your present or future employment with your company.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. You are free to skip any question you choose.

If you have questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact Terry Durham or any personal on the project. You may also reach to Dr. Jianfeng Zhou at 573-882-2495, or at zhoujianf@missouri.edu.

By proceeding to the survey/questionnaire on the next page, you are indicating that you are at least 18 years old, have read and understood this consent form and agree to participate in this research study. Please keep this page for your records and return the survey/questionnaire to the researchers. Please DO NOT write your name on the survey/questionnaire.

(Survey questions are on the back)

- **If you are an elderberry farmer, please answer the following questions:**

    1. How many acres are you planting in 2019? _____

    2. How many pounds of elderberries did you produce in 2018?_____

    3. What is your expectation on the planting area in the five years from now? _____

    4. What are the biggest concerns during elderberry production?

        (a) Labor for harvesting; (b) Labor for processing; (c) Budget; (d) Others_____

    5. What are the biggest concerns during elderberry processing?

        (a) Too slow; (b) Transportation; (c) Too expensive; (d) Others_____

    6. How important do you think to develop an automated processing system?

        (a) Very important; (b) Important; (c) Neutral; (d) Not important; (e) Others_____

    7. What are the automated components you want have in a processing system?

        (a) Unloading; (b) Destemming; (c) Washing; (d) Packaging; (e) Others_____

    8. What is capacity of an elderberry processing system that fits your production?

        (a) <200 lbs/h; (b) 200 - 400 lbs/h; (c) 400-600 lbs/h; (d) >600 lbs/h; (e) Others_____

    9. What is the budget range for an automated elderberry processing system?

        (a) <$5,000; (b) $5,000 - $10,000; (c) $10,000-$15,000; (d) Others_____

    10. What are your preferred model for processing your elderberries?

        (a) Self-owned, portable; (b) Self-owned, fixed facility; (c) Co-operate, portable; (d) Co-operate, facility; (e) Independent service; (f) Others_____

    Any other thoughts you may have:_____

- **If you an elderberry product processor, please answer the following questions**

    1. Please indicate main products related to elderberry. _____

    2. How can a research unit help your business?_____

    3. Please indicate your willingness to collaborate. Yes   Maybe   Not

    4. Please provide any thoughts you have regarding the elderberry processing systems:

        _____

- **If you are new to the elderberry community, please leave your comments:**