



# TRANSFORMING FOOD DESERTS INTO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

i-Suntari Social Innovation L3C

*Hakeem Suntari Moore*



# "N.C. CONTINUES TO LOSE FARMS, BUT RATE OF LAND LOSS SLOWS"



SOURCE : NCDA&CS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 2014



NORTH CAROLINA HAD 2,700 FEWER  
FARMS IN 2012 THAN IT DID IN 2007.



SOURCE : NCDA&CS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 2014



"THE LOSS OF 2,700 FARMS IS TROUBLING  
AT A TIME WHEN WORLDWIDE DEMAND FOR  
FOOD CONTINUES TO GROW...

SOURCE : NCDA&CS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 2014



"WE ALSO KNOW THAT NORTH CAROLINA IS  
GAINING ABOUT 100,000 PEOPLE A YEAR,  
WHICH WILL ONLY INCREASE THE PRESSURE  
ON FARMLAND. WE CLEARLY HAVE TO STEP  
UP OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS...

SOURCE : NCDA&CS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 2014



"IT'S A PRIORITY I WILL WORK ON WITH  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR."

– STEVE TROXLER, STATE AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

SOURCE : NCDA&CS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 2014



"A SMALL RISE IN THE NUMBER OF  
FARMERS BETWEEN 25 AND 34 YEARS  
OLD"

– TOM VILSACK, USDA AGRICULTURE SECRETARY  
FEBRUARY 22, 2014

SOURCE : ASSOCIATED PRESS



"MY QUESTION IS NOT JUST WHO IS  
GOING TO FARM, BUT WHO IS GOING TO  
DEFEND THEM ?"

– TOM VILSACK, USDA AGRICULTURE SECRETARY  
FEBRUARY 22, 2014

SOURCE : ASSOCIATED PRESS





**WHO'S  
GOING  
TO FILL  
THIS  
UNMET  
NEED?**





★ **JOBS FOR VETS** ★

– JAMES COMER ANNOUNCES TWO NEW PROGRAMS  
AIMED AT HELPING MILITARY VETERAN-FARMERS



THE ARMY WOULD INSTITUTE THE LARGEST ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE SINCE WORLD WAR II BY ELIMINATING COMBAT FORCES FROM 10 BASES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, PART OF A PLANNED REDUCTION OF 80,000 ACTIVE-DUTY TROOPS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

SOURCE : GEN. RAY ODIERNO, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, NY TIMES 2013



THE ARMY WILL CUT ITS BRIGADE  
COMBAT TEAMS TO 33 FROM 45 BY 2017 AT  
BASES IN COLORADO, GEORGIA, KANSAS,  
KENTUCKY, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA,  
TEXAS AND WASHINGTON STATE.

SOURCE : GEN. RAY ODIERNO, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, NY TIMES 2013



# FORT BRAGG IS THE LARGEST US ARMY BASE IN TERMS OF POPULATION = 238,646



SOURCE : [ARMY-TECHNOLOGY.COM](http://ARMY-TECHNOLOGY.COM)



# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2014 - 2024

NORTH CAROLINA CAN LEAD THE NATION IN  
ATTRACTING AND RETAINING MILITARY  
RETIREEES AND RETURNING VETERANS.

SOURCE : NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2014 - 2024

THIS HIGHLY-SKILLED AND TRAINED  
WORKFORCE HAS EXPERIENCE IN  
ADVANCE MANUFACTURING AND CAPACITY  
FOR INNOVATION

SOURCE : NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



**LET'S MAKE THE CONNECTION...**





“WHAT WE’VE FOUND IS THAT **VETERAN-OWNED  
BUSINESS LEADERS** HIRE **VETERANS**. SO ...  
YOU MIGHT CREATE A CEO WHO WOULD **HIRE  
THOUSANDS OF VETERANS** OVER THE NEXT  
FEW YEARS.”

---

– PAUL RIECKHOFF, VETERANS ADVOCATE

SOURCE : IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA, 2013



# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING NORTH CAROLINA FOOD DESERTS

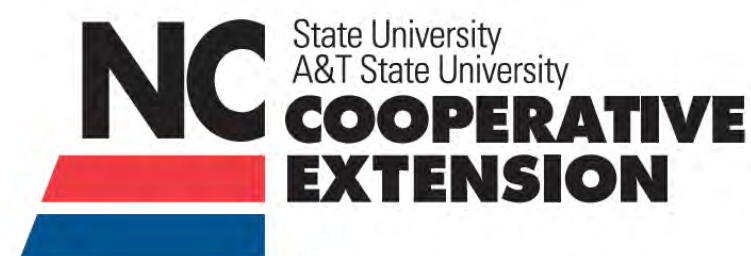
VETERANS + SCIENCE-BASED FARMING +  
BUSINESS TRAINING = SOLUTION



VECMAC = VETERAN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL  
CONSORTIA OF MANUFACTURING AND  
AGRIBUSINESS COMMERCIALIZATION

TRADEMARK OF I-SUNTARI SOCIAL INNOVATION L3C

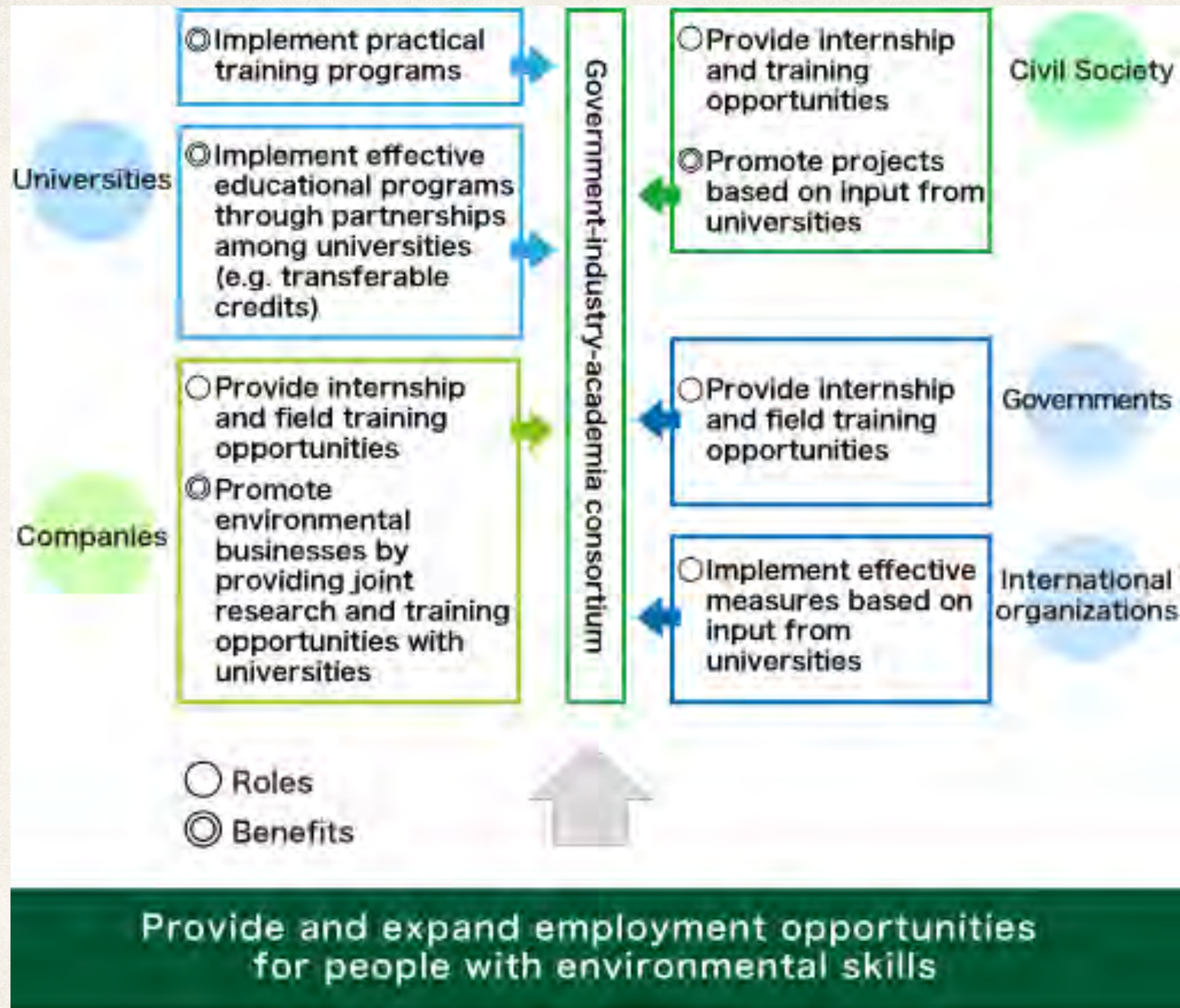




## Cooperative Extension









# VECMAC

AIM : CREATE JOINT-VENTURES IN  
VETERAN-OWNED AGRIBUSINESS AND  
PROVIDE VETERAN STEM CAREER  
PLACEMENT SERVICES AND TO SUPPORT  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND  
COMMERCIALIZATION OF AQUAPONIC  
PRODUCTS.

TRADEMARK OF I-SUNTARI SOCIAL INNOVATION L3C



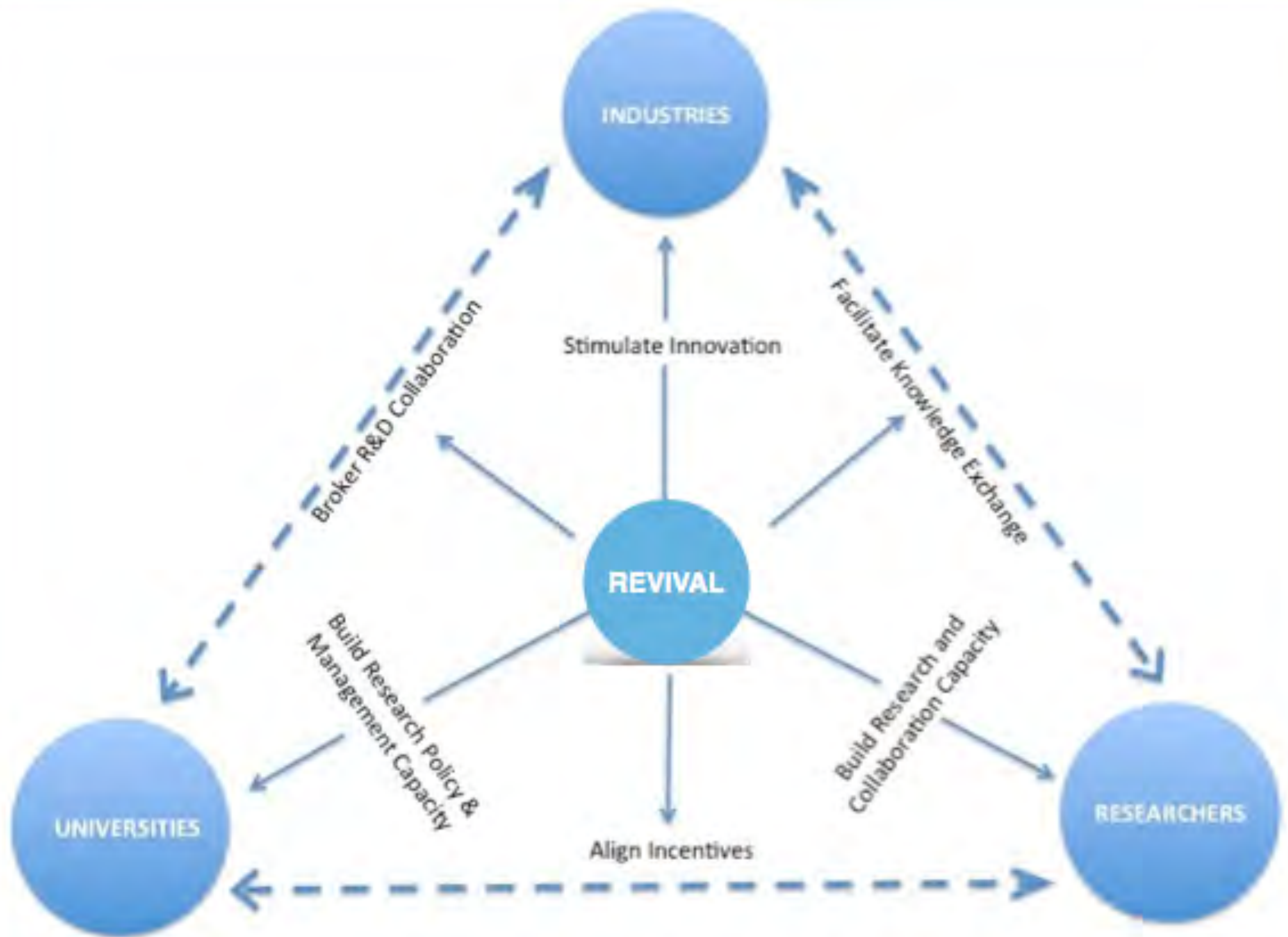
# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING NORTH CAROLINA FOOD DESERTS

"**REVIVAL**" - **RE-ESTABLISH VETERAN'S  
INDEPENDENCE THROUGH VENTURES IN  
AGRI-BASED LIFEWORK**

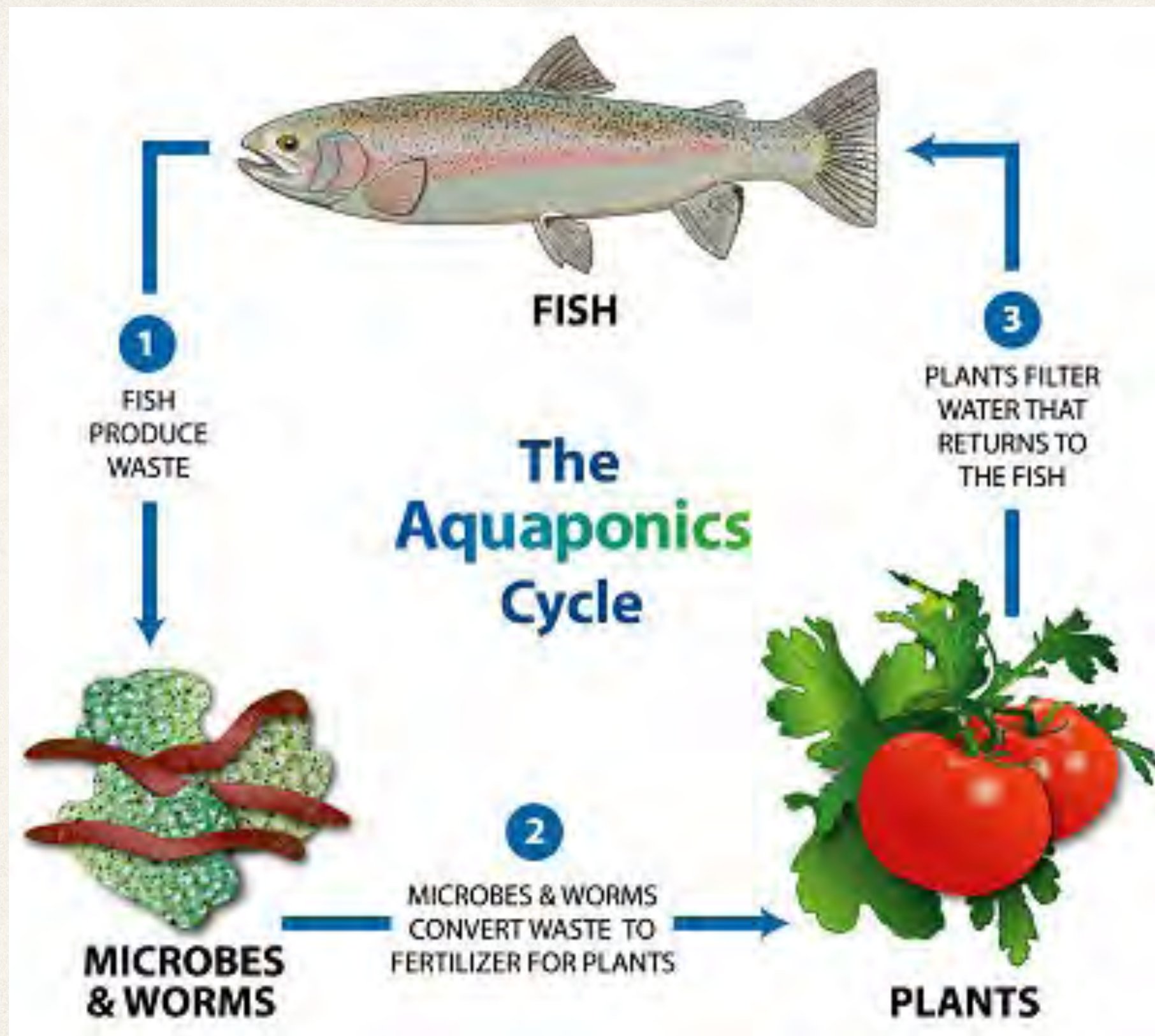


"REVIVAL" - SERVE SERVICE-DISABLED  
AND WOMEN VETERANS REGAIN  
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY  
PROVIDING A YEAR LONG TRAINING  
PROGRAM IN CREATING, MANAGING AND  
SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE-BASED NEW  
VENTURE















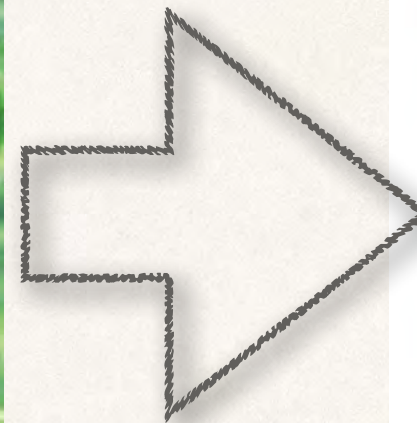
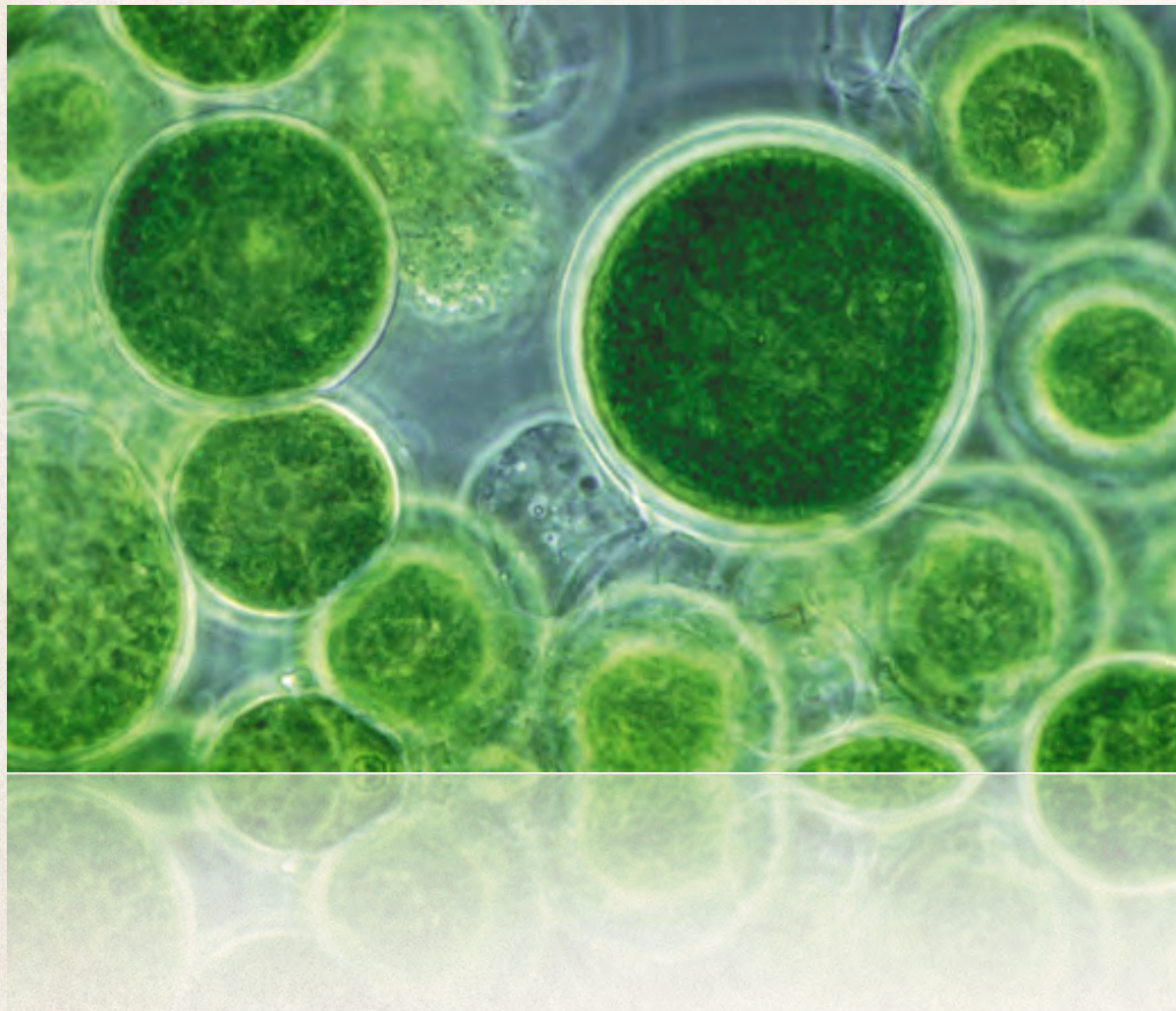








# ALGAE USED TO CREATE A QUICK-CHARGE, LIGHTWEIGHT BATTERY



SOURCE : 2013 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



VETERANS ARE AT LEAST 45% MORE LIKELY  
THAN THOSE WITH NO MILITARY  
EXPERIENCE TO BE ENTREPRENEURS

**BUY  VETERAN®**

GRATITUDE • TRUST • PATRIOTISM

SOURCE : SBA'S OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2014 - 2024

ENHANCING CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION WITH A FOCUS ON STEM  
"TRAINING" MANUFACTURING FOR  
INDUSTRY CLUSTERS LIKE AGRIBUSINESS

**Leaders**  
**in STEM**

SOURCE : NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2014- 2024



# WOMEN MAKE UP ONLY 24 PERCENT OF THE U.S. STEM WORKFORCE



SOURCE : THE CENSUS BUREAU'S 2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)



# NORTH CAROLINA HAS THE 6TH LARGEST POPULATION OF FEMALE VETERANS



SOURCE : RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER 2012



# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2014 - 2024

THIS HIGHLY-SKILLED AND TRAINED  
WORKFORCE HAS EXPERIENCE IN ADVANCE  
MANUFACTURING AND CAPACITY FOR  
INNOVATION

SOURCE : NORTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



SEC. 12304

MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURE LIAISON

CONNECT RETURNING VETERANS WITH  
BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING AND  
AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL AND  
REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AND  
CAPACITY FOR INNOVATION

SOURCE : AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014, 113TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION



SEC. 12304

MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURE LIAISON

LIAISON AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO  
CONTRACTS OR COOPERATIVE  
AGREEMENTS WITH INSTITUTIONS HIGHER  
EDUCATION OR NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

SOURCE : AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014, 113TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION



## SEC. 12201

# OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS -  
THERE ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE  
APPROPRIATED TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION  
\$20,000,000 FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS  
2014 THROUGH 2018

SOURCE : AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014, 113TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION