

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Notice of a Program To Provide for the Sharing of United States Agricultural Expertise With Emerging Markets

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice contains information concerning a U.S. Department of Agriculture technical assistance program that was amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 in order to provide such assistance to emerging markets. This notice replaces the Federal Register notice published on June 3, 1992 (57 FR 23374).

**DATES:** This notice is effective immediately.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for information should be addressed to the Director, Emerging Markets Office, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 6506, South Building, Washington, DC 20250; Fax (202) 690-4369.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Description of Program

The Emerging Markets Program is authorized by section 1542(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (1990 Act). Section 1542(d) provides that:

For each of the fiscal years 1991 through 2002, the Secretary of Agriculture . . . in order to develop, maintain, or expand markets for United States agricultural exports, is directed to make available to emerging markets the expertise of the United States.

The expertise is to be used to assess, recommend, and identify projects and activities, including those that have the potential to reduce trade barriers, to enhance the food and rural business systems needs of emerging markets, and

to provide technical assistance to implement such projects and activities.

The Emerging Markets Office (EMO) of the Foreign Agricultural Service is responsible for the management and implementation of the Emerging Markets Program.

##### 2. Country Eligibility

Section 1542(f) of the 1996 Act provides that an emerging market is any country that:

- Is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country; and
- Has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities.

In order to determine whether a country has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for U.S. agricultural commodities and products, EMO will consider various factors, including:

- (a) Per capita income less than \$8355 (the food aid per capita income cut-off figure of OECD's Development Assistance Committee);
- (b) Population greater than 1 million; or
- (c) Positive economic growth factors.

##### 3. Assessments, Recommendations and Identification of Opportunities and Projects

Section 1542(d)(1)(B) of the 1990 Act provides that the Secretary may select teams of experts to conduct assessments (including an analysis of the food and rural business needs of an emerging market), make recommendations, and identify opportunities and projects which technical expertise could be provided to address those needs.

Teams of experts will not be used if sufficient information is available from existing information to determine whether technical assistance is needed to implement a project. Under other circumstances the Secretary may select an individual or firm to provide the same services as those of a team of experts. A data base of experts is maintained by EMO and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Persons interested in being included in the data base may write EMO for information. In addition, an advisory committee, authorized by the 1990 Act and the

Federal Advisory Committee Act, may provide advice to the Secretary concerning assessments, recommendations, and the identification of opportunities and projects for which technical assistance would be utilized.

##### 45. Technical Assistance

In accordance with section 1542(d)(1)(D) of the 1990 Act, the Secretary is authorized to provide or pay for technical assistance, including the establishment of extension services, to enable individuals or other entities to implement recommendations or to carry out identified opportunities or projects. If USDA does not have the expertise to provide needed technical assistance, USDA will consider entering into contracts, or cooperative agreements with non-USDA sources in order to obtain the needed expertise. In such instances, USDA will solicit technical assistance through the Commerce Business Daily. Contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will be awarded according to USDA policies, guidelines, and regulations, which are available from EMO on request.

##### 5. Selection

Factors used to determine whether the Secretary will provide or pay for technical assistance to implement projects may include:

1. Amount of private sector contributions;
2. Prospects for developing, maintaining or increasing U.S. agricultural exports;
3. Long-range impact on U.S. agricultural exports;
4. Enhancement of emerging markets' food and rural business systems;
5. Impact on the transformation of host country economics to free market systems;
6. Compatibility with U.S. foreign policy interests; and
7. Cost

Signed at Washington, D.C. on May 31, 1996.

August Schumacher, Jr.,  
Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.  
[FR Doc. 96-14407 Filed 6-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

**Forest Service****Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Meeting****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee will meet on June 17, 1996, at the Robert Duncan Plaza Building, 333 SW First Ave., Portland, Oregon 97208 in Rooms 3A and 3B on the 3rd floor. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions to identify issues and solutions to improve the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) and in particular to focus on better ways to integrate the ecological and economic aspects of the NFP. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 17 and continue until 5:00 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include, but are not limited to: (1) issues which impede the efficient implementation of the NFP, (2) recommendations to resolve the issues, and (3) identification of procedures to implement recommendations. The IAC meeting will be open to the public and is fully accessible for people with disabilities. Interpreters are available upon request in advance. Written comments may be submitted for the record at the meeting. Time will also be scheduled for oral public comments. Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Don Knowles, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone: 503-326-6265).

Dated: May 29, 1996.

Donald R. Knowles,  
*Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 96-14376 Filed 6-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Changes in Hydric Soils of the United States****AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of change.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 7 CFR 12.31(a)(3)(i), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture gives notice of a change in the Hydric Soils of the United States as listed in the third

edition of the Hydric Soils of the United States, Miscellaneous Publication 1491, USDA, Soil Conservation Service, June 1991.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** P. Michael Whited, Chair, National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, NRCS Wetland Institute, USDA-NAC, East Campus-UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583-0822.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The third edition of the Hydric Soils of the U.S. was published in June 1991, and a notice of change published in the Federal Register, October 11, 1991. Vol. 56, No. 198, page 51371. Changes to this document were made in 1993 and published in the Federal Register October 6, 1993, Vol. 58, No. 192, page 52078. Further changes were made in 1994 and published in the Federal Register July 13, 1994, Vol. 59, No. 133, page 35680. The changes published herein reflect soils added and deleted since the 1994 Federal Register notice.

The national list of hydric soils changes as additional soil series are recognized and defined and/or properties of existing soil series are updated based on additional data. These changes reflect refinements in knowledge of the soils of the United States. New soil series are recognized as soils are mapped in previously unmapped areas. These new series have always met the hydric criteria, whether recognized as series or not, and thus represent as insignificant change in acreage of hydric soils. Soils that are removed from the list are mostly dry phases of existing hydric soils. These dry phases would not have met wetlands hydrology criteria, thus represent an insignificant change in acreage of wetlands.

The hydric soils list is computer generated using the hydric soil criteria and a database of properties of each soil series in the U.S. The current hydric soil criteria was published in the Federal Register February 24, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 37, page 10349. The database is also used to generate interpretations of how soils perform for many land uses. Therefore, some changes in the list of hydric soils result from adding phases for a hydric soil to refine other interpretations. This split or addition of a hydric phase causes an increase in the number of hydric soils, but does not affect the acres of the hydric soil. Data for all soil series are in the Soil Interpretations Record and may be reviewed by contacting a local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the appropriate state.

Dated: May 6, 1996.  
Norman C. Melvin III,  
*Plant Ecologist, Wetland Institute.*  
Richard W. Arnold,  
*Director, Soils Division.*

Briefing Paper, National List of Hydric Soils: Prepared by: P. Michael Whited, April 1996.

**Background**

—The National List of Hydric Soils is:

- Published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Revised annually and notice is filed in the Federal Register.
- Generated from Soil Interpretations Records in the National Soil Database.

—The National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils reviews and concurs with changes to the National List of Hydric Soils.

—The Soil Interpretations Records for soil series are:

- Continuously updated as data is collected on soil properties.
- Reviewed by the soil survey Staff at MLRA Soil Survey Regional Offices.
- Used in all aspects of the National Soil Survey Program of which soils are a small part.

**Reasons for Changes in the Hydric Soil List**

—Addition of new soil series due to:

- Newly mapped areas (soils have always been hydric but have not been previously recognized as soil series).
- Narrowing of an existing series into two soils. An example being a series that is both hydric and nonhydric being split into their respective parts.

—Result from new phases being added to an existing soil series. Phases are added for many reasons and include:

- Flooding and ponding phases of which some may be hydric and others nonhydric. Many of these changes are made to accommodate nonhydric interpretations of soil use.
- Surface texture or depth phases both of which are not related to change in hydric soil status but are needed for other interpretations.
- Wetness or water table phases of which some may be hydric and others nonhydric. Some of these changes are made to accommodate other interpretations of soil use.

—Result from change in flooding, ponding, water table, or drainage class as a result of new information. Soils are added or deleted from the list due to these changes.

**Summary of Changes From 1994 National List**

—287 entries (soils) added of which: