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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Availability of Program Description and Solicitation for Applications for Fiscal Year 1997 National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

Applications are invited for competitive grant awards in agricultural, forest, and related environmental sciences under the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRICGP) administered by the Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), for fiscal year 1997.

Authority

The authority for this program is contained in Section 2(b) of the Act of August 4, 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)). Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may award competitive research grants, for periods not to exceed five years, for the support of research projects to further the programs of the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Proposals may be submitted by any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual. Proposals submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

Section 712 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997, Pub. L. No. 104-180, prohibits CSREES from using

the funds available for the NRICGP for fiscal year 1997 to pay indirect costs exceeding 14 per centum of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively awarded research grants. Pursuant to section 716 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997, Pub. L. No. 104-180, recipients of grant funds are encouraged to use such funds to purchase only American-made equipment or products in the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with the funds provided under this program.

Applicable Regulations and Statutory Guidance

The regulations governing the NRICGP currently are found at 7 CFR part 3411. The regulations set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals and the awarding of grants, and regulations relating to the post-award administration of grant projects.

Other regulations and statutes applicable to this program (as specified in those regulations) include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) The USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher-Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations, 7 CFR Part 3019; (b) the USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, 7 CFR Part 3016; (c) the USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, 7 CFR 3015; (d) Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101); and (e) Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3103), which defines "sustainable agriculture."

Conflicts of Interest

For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest in accordance with 7 CFR 3411.12, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the January 1996 issue of the Codebook for Compatible Statistical Reporting of Federal Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit institutions, prepared by Quantum

Research Corporation for the National Science Foundation. Copies may be obtained from Quantum Research Corporation, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 631W, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Project Types

The project types for which proposals are solicited include:

I. Conventional Projects

(a) Standard Research Grants: Research will be supported that is fundamental or mission-linked, conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams. Any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual may apply. Proposals submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

(b) Conferences: Scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research needs, update information, or advance an area of research are recognized as integral parts of research efforts. Any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual is an eligible applicant in this area. Proposals submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

II. Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards

In order to contribute to the enhancement of research capabilities in the research program areas described herein, applications are solicited for Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards. Such applications may be submitted by any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual; however, further eligibility requirements are defined in 7 CFR 3411.3(d) and restated in the FY 1997 NRICGP Program Description. Applications submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support. Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards are available in the following categories:

(a) Postdoctoral Fellowships.

(b) New Investigator Awards.

(c) Strengthening Awards: Institutions in USDA EPSCoR states are eligible for strengthening awards. For FY 1997, USDA EPSCoR states consist of the following:

Alaska
Arkansas
Connecticut
Delaware
Hawaii
Idaho
Maine
Mississippi
Montana
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
North Dakota
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
West Virginia
Wyoming

All U.S. territories and possessions and the District of Columbia.

Investigators at small and mid-sized institutions (total enrollment of 15,000 or less) may also be eligible for Strengthening Awards. An institution in this instance is an organization that possesses a significant degree of autonomy, as determined by reference to the January 1996 issue of the Codebook for Compatible Statistical Reporting of Federal Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions, prepared by Quantum Research Corporation for the National Science Foundation. Copies may be obtained from Quantum Research Corporation, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 631W, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Institutions which are among the top 100 universities and colleges, except those in USDA EPSCoR states, are ineligible for strengthening awards. The top 100 institutions excluding those in USDA EPSCoR states, as listed in the table Federal obligations for science and engineering research and development to the 100 universities and colleges receiving the largest amounts, ranked by total amount received, by agency: fiscal year 1994 (National Science Foundation, accessible at www.grc.com/nsf/srs/fs92/pubs/dst94/start.htm), are as follows:

Baylor College of Medicine
Boston University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie-Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CUNY Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Duke University
Emory University
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University of Science and Technology
Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Medical College Wisconsin
Michigan State University
New York University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oregon Health Sciences University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rockefeller University
Rutgers the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
State University of New York Stony Brook
State University of New York at Buffalo
Texas A&M University
Thomas Jefferson University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California San Francisco
University of California Irvine
University of California San Diego
University of California Davis
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Berkeley
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois Urbana
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland Baltimore Prof Sch
University of Maryland College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Med Schl Worcester
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Health Science Center Houston
University of Texas Health Sci. Center San Antonio
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston
University of Texas SW Medical Center Dallas

University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytech Institute and State University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University
Washington University
Wayne State University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Yeshiva University

See the FY 1997 Program Description for complete details on programs and eligibility.

Funding Categories for Fiscal Year 1997

CSREES is soliciting proposals, subject to the availability of funds, for support of high priority research of importance to agriculture, forestry, and related environmental sciences, in the following research categories (Anticipated FY 1997 funding and Actual FY 1996 funding, rounded to the \$0.1M, follows in parentheses):

- Natural Resources and the Environment (FY97: \$16.6M, FY 96: \$16.2M).
- Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health (FY97: \$7.0M, FY96: \$6.8M).
- Plant Systems (FY97: \$34.7M, FY96: \$33.8M).
- Animal Systems (FY97: \$22.2M, FY96: \$21.7M).
- Markets, Trade, and Policy (FY97: \$3.8M, FY96: \$3.7M).
- New Products and Processes (FY97: \$6.5M, FY96: \$6.4M).

Support for research areas listed below may be derived from one or more of the above funding categories based on the nature of the scientific topic to be supported.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2(b)(10) of the Act of August 4, 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10)), no less than 10 percent (FY97: \$9.1M, FY96: \$8.8M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (excluding New Investigator Awards), and no more than 2 percent (FY97: \$1.8M, FY96: \$1.8M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for equipment grants. Further, no less than 30 percent (FY97: \$27.2M, FY96: \$26.5M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams, and no less than 40 percent (FY97: \$36.3M) (FY96: \$17.7M (20 percent of available funds)) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for mission-linked research.

The funds appropriated as listed above will be used to support research grants in the following areas:
Natural Resources and the Environment

- Plant Responses to the Environment
- Forest/Range/Crop/Aquatic Ecosystems
- Soils and Soil Biology
- Water Resources Assessment and Protection—not offered in FY 1997
- Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health
- Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health
- Ensuring Food Safety
- Animals
- Enhancing Animal Reproductive Efficiency
- Improving Animal Growth and Development
- Identifying Animal Genetic Mechanisms and Gene Mapping
- Sustaining Animal Health and Well-Being
- Pest Biology, Biological Control, and Integrated Pest Management
- Plant Pathology
- Entomology
- Nematology
- Weed Science
- Biologically Based Pest Management
- Plants
- Genomes, Genetics, and Diversity
- Plant Genome
- Plant Genetic Mechanisms
- Plant Growth and Development
- Energy and Metabolism
- Photosynthesis and Respiration
- Nitrogen Fixation/Nitrogen Metabolism
- Markets, Trade, and Rural Development
- Markets and Trade
- Rural Development
- Enhancing Value and Use of
- Agricultural and Forest Products
- Value-Added Products Research
- Food Characterization/Process/Product Research
- Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research
- Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber
- Agricultural Systems
- Application Materials

The solicitation, which contains research topic descriptions, and the NRICGP Application Kit, which contains detailed instructions on how to apply and the requisite forms, may be obtained by writing or calling the office indicated below. Please note that applicants who submitted NRICGP

proposals for fiscal year 1996 or who have recently requested placement on the list for fiscal year 1997 will automatically receive a copy of the fiscal year 1997 solicitation and any supplements. Proposal Services Unit, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Requests for solicitations and application materials may also now be made via Internet by sending a message with your name, complete mailing address, phone number, and materials that you are requesting to psb@reeusda.gov. Materials will be mailed as quickly as possible.

Materials Available on Internet

The following materials are available on the USDA Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service Home Page at www.reeusda.gov:

NRICGP Program Description

This document is available for the current fiscal year, and describes all of the NRICGP funding programs. To apply for a grant, it is also necessary to obtain the NRICGP Application Kit.

NRICGP Application Kit

This document contains guidelines for proposal preparation and the requisite forms.

NRICGP Abstracts of Funded Research

The abstracts available on this searchable database are nontechnical abstracts written by the principal investigator of each individual grant, starting with fiscal year 1993. Each entry also includes the title, principal investigator(s), awardee institution, dollar amount, and proposal number for each grant. The first two digits of the proposal number indicate the fiscal year in which the proposal was submitted.

NRICGP Annual Report

The NRICGP Annual Reports starting with fiscal year 1995 are available. These reports include descriptions of the program concept, the authorization,

policy, inputs to establish research needs, program execution, and outcomes, including relevant statistics. Also included are examples of recent research funded by the NRICGP.

Electronic Subscription to NRICGP Documents

The National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRICGP) has set up a mailserver which will notify subscribers when publications such as its Program Description or Abstracts of Funded Research are available electronically on the World Wide Web. Subscribers will not receive the document itself, but instead will receive an e-mail containing an announcement regarding the document's availability on the Web.

To subscribe: Send an e-mail message to: majordomo@reeusda.gov

In the body of the message, include only the words: subscribe nri-epubs

To unsubscribe: Send an e-mail message to: majordomo@reeusda.gov

In the body of the message, include only the words: unsubscribe nri-epubs. Please note that this is not a forum. Messages, other than those related to subscription, can not be posted to this address.

NRICGP Deadline Dates

The following fixed dates have been established for proposal submission deadlines within the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture. To be considered for funding in any fiscal year, proposals must be transmitted by the date listed below (as indicated by postmark or date on courier bill of lading). When the deadline date falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, transmission must be made by the following business day.

Programs offered in any fiscal year depend on availability of funds and deadlines may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Consult the pertinent NRICGP solicitation in the Federal Register, the NRICGP Program Description, or the NRICGP WWW home page for up-to-date information.

| Postmarked dates | Program codes | Program areas |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| November 15 | 22.1 | Plant Responses to the Environment. |
| | 23.0 | Forest/Range/Crop/Aquatic Ecosystems. |
| | 25.0 | Soils and Soil Biology. |
| | 31.0 | Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health. |
| | 51.4 | Weed Science. |
| December 15 | 52.1 | Plant Genome. |
| | 52.2 | Plant Genetic Mechanisms. |
| | 53.0 | Plant Growth and Development. |

| Postmarked dates | Program codes | Program areas |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| January 15 | 54.1 | Photosynthesis and Respiration. |
| | 61.0 | Markets and Trade. |
| | 62.0 | Rural Development. |
| | 71.1 | Food Characterization/Process/Product Research. |
| | 71.2 | Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research. |
| | 32.0 | Ensuring Food Safety. |
| | 41.0 | Enhancing Animal Reproductive Efficiency. |
| | 44.0 | Sustaining Animal Health and Well-Being. |
| | 51.1 | Plant Pathology. |
| | 51.2 | Entomology. |
| | 51.3 | Nematology. |
| | 51.7 | Biologically-Based Pest Management. |
| | 73.0 | Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber. |
| | February 15 | 42.0 |
| 43.0 | | Identifying Animal Genetic Mechanisms and Gene Mapping. |
| 54.2 | | Nitrogen Fixation/Nitrogen Metabolism. |
| 80.1 | | Research Career Enhancement Awards. |
| 80.2 | | Equipment Grants. |
| 80.3 | | Seed Grants. |
| 100.0 | | Agricultural Systems. |

The Water Resources Assessment and Protection program, previously announced as having a December 15 deadline, will not be offered in FY 1997.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 18th day of Sept. 1996.

B.H. Robinson,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 96-24883 Filed 9-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 20, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 96-24880 Filed 9-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

In accordance with Pub. Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed automation certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by November 29, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed automation packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 12314, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Pub. Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these automations will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed automation certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

- (1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);
- (2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;
- (3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Ohio Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Ohio Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 2:00 p.m. and adjourn at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 1996, at the Radisson Hotel, 101 North Summitt Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights issues of interest and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Grace Ramos, 614-466-6715, or Constance Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The NWS is publishing proposed certifications for the automation of the following Weather Service offices at the indicated FAA Weather Observation Service level:

- (1) Grand Island Weather Service Office (WSO), service level C;
- (2) Beaumont/Port Arthur WSO, service level C;
- (3) Bristol WSO, service level C;
- (4) Columbus, GA WSO, service level C;
- (5) Macon WSO, service level C;
- (6) Waco WSO, service level C;
- (7) Bakersfield WSO, service level C;
- (8) Helena WSO, service level C;
- (9) Residual Phoenix WSO, service level A;
- (10) Residual Reno WSO, service level C; and
- (11) Salem WSO, service level C.