

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Applications for FY 1998, National
Research Initiative Competitive Grants
Program**

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

ACTION: Notice of Availability of
Program Description and Solicitation for
Applications for Fiscal Year 1998
National Research Initiative Competitive
Grants Program.

SUMMARY: 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 (FY) 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
USDA/CSREES/NRICGP, Stop 2241,
1400 Independence Ave., SW,
Washington, DC 20250-2241. Phone:
(202) 401-5022. E-mail:
nricgp@reeusda.gov.

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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 United
States 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.

It is expected that Congress, in the
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, will
prohibit CSREES from using the funds
available for the NRICGP for FY 1998 to
pay indirect costs exceeding 14 per
centum of the total Federal funds
provided under each award on
competitively awarded research grants.
It is also expected that Congress, in the
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, will
encourage entities to use grant 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 part 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 1997 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 400W, 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 1998
NRICGP Program Description.
Applications submitted by non-United
States organizations will not be
considered for support. However,
United States citizens applying as
individuals for Postdoctoral
Fellowships may perform all or part of
the proposed work at a non-United
States organization. Agricultural
Research Enhancement Awards are
available in the following categories:

(a) Postdoctoral Fellowships.

(b) New Investigator Awards.

(c) Strengthening Awards: Institutions in USDA EPSCoR entities are eligible for strengthening awards. For FY 1998, 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

For FY 1998, other USDA-EPSCoR entities consist of the following:

American Samoa
District of Columbia
Guam
Micronesia
Northern Marianas
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

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 1997 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 400W, 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 1995 of the Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions* (National Science

Foundation, accessible through the Internet at www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/fedsuppt/start.htm), are as follows:

Arizona State University Main
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
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 Missouri Columbia
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 1998 Program Description for complete details on programs and eligibility.

Funding Categories for FY 1998

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 1998 funding and Actual FY 1997 funding, rounded to the \$0.1M, follows in parentheses):

- Natural Resources and the Environment (FY98: \$16.0M, FY97: \$16.0M)
- Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health (FY98: \$6.7M, FY97: \$6.7M)
- Plant Systems (FY98: \$33.5M, FY97: \$33.5M)
- Animal Systems (FY98: \$21.5M, FY97: \$21.5M)
- Markets, Trade, and Policy (FY98: \$3.6M, FY97: \$3.6M)
- New Products and Processes (FY98: \$6.3M, FY97: \$6.3M)

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 (FY98: \$8.7M, FY97: \$8.7M) 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 (FY98: \$1.7M, FY97: \$1.7M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for equipment grants. Further, no less than 30 percent (FY98: \$26.3M, FY97: \$26.3M) 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 (FY98: \$35.1M, FY97: \$35.1M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for mission-linked research.

Research Topic Areas

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
 (not offered in FY 1998)
 Soils and Soil Biology
 Water Resources Assessment and Protection
 Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health
 Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health
 Ensuring Food Safety
 Animals
 Animal Reproductive Efficiency
 Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization
 Animal Genetic Mechanisms and Gene Mapping
 Animal Health and Well-Being
 Pest Biology and Management
 Plant Pathology
 Entomology and Nematology
 Weed Biology and Management
 Biologically Based Pest Management
 Plants
 Plant Genome
 Plant Genetic Mechanisms
 Plant Growth and Development
 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 Research
 (integrated, multidisciplinary research on 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 FY 1997 or who have recently requested placement on the list for FY 1998 will automatically receive a copy of the FY 1998 solicitation and any supplements.

Proposal Services Unit, Grants Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 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, (not e-mail), phone number, and materials that you are requesting to psb@reeusda.gov. Materials will be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible.

Materials Available on Internet

The following materials are available on the NRICGP Home Page on the Internet (www.reeusda.gov/nri).

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 FY 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 FY 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 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

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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 NRICGP, 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 Home Page (www.reeusda.gov/nri) for up-to-date information.

Postmarked dates	Program codes	Program areas
November 15	22.1	Plant Responses to the Environment.
	25.0	Soils and Soil Biology.
	26.0	Water Resources Assessment and Protection.
	31.0	Human Nutrition for Optimal Health.
	51.4	Weed Biology and Management.
December 15	52.1	Plant Genome.
	52.2	Plant Genetic Mechanisms.
	53.0	Plant Growth and Development.
	54.1	Photosynthesis and Respiration.
	61.0	Markets and Trade.
	62.0	Rural Development.
	71.1	Food Characterization/Process/Product Research.
January 15	71.2	Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research.
	32.0	Ensuring Food Safety.
February 15	41.0	Animal Reproductive Efficiency.
	44.0	Animal Health and Well-Being.
	51.1	Plant Pathology.
	51.2	Entomology and Nematology.
	51.7	Biologically Based Pest Management.
	73.0	Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber.
	42.0	Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization.
43.0	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 Forest/Range/Crop/Aquatic Ecosystems program will not be offered in FY 1998.

Done at Washington, DC, this 31st day of July 1997.

B.H. Robinson,

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

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