

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Applications for FY 1999 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 1999
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 (NRI)
Competitive Grants Program
administered by the Competitive
Research Grants and Awards
Management Division, Cooperative State
Research, Education, and Extension
Service (CSREES), for fiscal year (FY)
1999.

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

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Stakeholder Input

CSREES is soliciting comments
regarding this solicitation of
applications from any interested party.
These comments will be considered in
the development of the next request for
proposals for the program. Such
comments will be forwarded to the
Secretary or his designee for use in
meeting the requirements of section
103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research,
Extension, and Education Reform Act of
1998 (Pub. L. 105-185). Written
comments should be submitted by first-
class mail to: Office of Extramural
Programs; Competitive Research Grants
and Awards Management; USDA-
CSREES; STOP 2299; 1400
Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC 20250-2299, or via e-
mail to: RFP-OEP@reeusda.gov.

In your comments, please include the
name of the program and the fiscal year
solicitation of applications to which you
are responding. Comments are requested
within six months from the issuance of
the solicitation of applications.
Comments received after that date will
be considered to the extent practicable.

Authority and Applicable Regulations

The authority for this program is
contained in 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).

Regulations applicable to this
program include the following: (a) The
regulations governing the NRI, 7 CFR
part 3411, which 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; (b) the
USDA Uniform Administrative
Requirements for Grants and
Agreements with Institutions of Higher-
Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-
Profit Organizations, 7 CFR part 3019;
(c) the USDA Uniform Federal
Assistance Regulations, 7 CFR part
3015; (d) the USDA Uniform
Administrative Requirements for Grants
and Cooperative Agreements to State
and Local Governments, 7 CFR part
3016; and (e) 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 part 3411.12, the academic and
administrative autonomy of an
institution shall be determined by
reference to the January 1998 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 and Eligibility
Requirements**

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, and that
is 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, national
laboratory, 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, national
laboratory, 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**

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, national
laboratory, private organization,
corporation, or individual; however,
further eligibility requirements are
defined in 7 CFR part 3411.3(d) and
restated in the FY 1999 NRI 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
1999, 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 1999, 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 1998 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 1996 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/sfsucni/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 (All Campuses)
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Medical College of 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 at 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-Champaign
 University of Illinois Chicago
 University of Iowa
 University of Kansas
 University of Kentucky (All Campuses)
 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, New York

See the FY 1999 NRI Program Description for complete details on programs and eligibility.

Funding Categories for FY 1999

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 1999 funding and ACTUAL FY 1998 funding, rounded to the \$0.1M, follows in parentheses):

- Natural Resources and the Environment (FY99: \$16.3M, FY98: \$16.3M).
- Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health (FY99: \$7.4M, FY98: \$7.4M).
- Plant Systems (FY99: \$34.4M, FY98: \$34.4M).
- Animal Systems (FY99: \$22.4M, FY98: \$22.4M).
- Markets, Trade, and Policy (FY99: \$3.6M, FY98: \$3.6M).
- New Products and Processes (FY99: \$6.3M, FY98: \$6.3M).

Support for research opportunities 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 7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10), no less than 10 percent (FY99: \$9.0M, FY98: \$9.0M) 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 (FY99: \$1.8M, FY98: \$1.8M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for equipment grants. Further, no less than 30 percent (FY99: \$27.2M, FY98: \$27.2M) 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 (FY99: \$36.3M, FY98: \$36.3M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for mission-linked systems research.

CSREES is prohibited from paying indirect costs exceeding 19 per centum of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively awarded research grants (7 U.S.C. 3310). However, it is expected that Congress, in the Agriculture, Rural Development,

Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, will prohibit CSREES from using the funds available for the NRI for FY 1999 to pay indirect costs exceeding 14 per centum of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively awarded research grants. It is expected that Congress, in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, 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.

Research Opportunities

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
Ecosystem Science
Soils and Soil Biology
Water Resources Assessment and Protection

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY, AND HEALTH

Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health Food Safety

ANIMALS

Animal Reproductive Efficiency
Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization
Animal Genome and Genetic Mechanisms
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 FY 1999 NRI Program Description, which contains research topic descriptions, and the NRI Application Kit, which contains detailed instructions on how to apply and the requisite forms, are available on the NRI home page, www.reeusda.gov/nri. Paper copies of these application materials may be obtained by sending an e-mail with your name, complete mailing address (not e-mail address), 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. Alternatively, paper copies may be obtained by writing or calling the office indicated below.

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, DC 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048

Materials Available on Internet

The following are among the materials available on the NRI home page (www.reeusda.gov/nri).

NRI Program Description

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

NRI Application Kit

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

NRI 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.

NRI Annual Report

The NRI 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 NRI.

Electronic Subscription to NRI Documents

The NRI 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 NRI home page.

To subscribe:

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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

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NRI Deadline Dates

The following fixed dates have been established for proposal submission deadlines within the NRI. 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 NRI solicitation in the **Federal Register**, the NRI Program Description, or the NRI 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.
	23.0	Ecosystem Science.
	25.0	Soils and Soil Biology.
	26.0	Water Resources Assessment and Protection.
	31.0	Improving 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.
	71.2	Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research.
January 15	32.0	Food Safety.
	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.
February 15	42.0	Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization.
	43.0	Animal Genome and Genetic Mechanisms.
	54.2	Nitrogen Fixation/Nitrogen Metabolism.
	80.1	Research Career Enhancement Awards.
	80.2	Equipment Grants.
	80.3	Seed Grants.
	100.0	Agricultural Systems Research.

PLEASE NOTE: Starting in fiscal year 2000, the submission deadline for the Agricultural Systems (100.0), the Research Career Enhancement Awards (Sabbatical Awards)(80.1), the Equipment Grants (80.2), and the Seed Grants (80.3) programs will be November 15.

Done at Washington, DC, this 21st day of August 1998.

Colien Hefferan,

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

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