§ 1484.21 How does FAS determine which Cooperator program applications are approved?

(a) General. FAS allocates funds in a manner that effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets, FAS seeks to identify those projects that would demonstrate a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy by market or product and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country or region goals. These performance indicators are part of FAS’ resource allocation strategy to fund applicants which can demonstrate performance based on a long-term strategic plan and address the performance measurement objectives of the GPRA.

(b) Approval criteria. FAS will consider a number of factors when reviewing proposed projects, including:

(1) The ability of the organization to provide an experienced U.S.-based staff with technical and international trade expertise to ensure adequate development, supervision, and execution of the proposed project;

(2) The organization’s willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties;

(3) The conditions or constraints affecting the level of U.S. exports and market share for the agricultural commodities and products;

(4) The degree to which the proposed project is likely to contribute to the creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets;

(5) The degree to which the strategic plan is coordinated with other private or U.S. government-funded market development projects;

(6) Past program results and evaluations, if applicable; and

(7) Previous Cooperator program funding.

§ 1484.22 How are Cooperator program funds allocated?

After determining which applications to recommend for approval, the Commodity Divisions recommend funding levels for the approved applicants within their respective divisions. Applications then compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the number in parentheses represents a percentage weight factor). Data used in the calculations for contribution levels, past export performance and past demand expansion performance will cover not more than a 6-year period, to the extent such data is available. The method for applying the following criteria will be described in the Cooperator program announcement in the FEDERAL REGISTER:

(a) Contribution Level (40%).

(b) Past Export Performance (20%).

(c) Past Demand Expansion Performance (20%).

(d) Future Demand Expansion Goals (10%).

(e) Accuracy of Past Demand Expansion Projections (10%).

Subpart C—Program Operations

§ 1484.30 How does FAS formalize its working relationship with approved Cooperators?

FAS will notify each applicant in writing of the final disposition of its application. FAS will send a program agreement, allocation approval letter, and a signature card to each approved applicant. The allocation approval letter will specify any special terms and conditions applicable to a Cooperator’s program, including the required level
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§ 1484.33 Must Cooperators follow certain financial management guidelines?

(a) A Cooperator shall implement and maintain a financial management system that conforms to generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) A Cooperator shall institute internal controls and provide written guidance to commercial entities participating in its activities to ensure their compliance with these provisions. Each Cooperator shall maintain all original records and documents relating to program activities for 5 calendar years following the end of the applicable marketing plan year and shall make such records and documents available upon request to authorized officials of the U.S. Government. A Cooperator shall also maintain adequate documentation related to the proper disposition of all property purchased by the Cooperator and for which the Cooperator is reimbursed with program funds.

(c) A Cooperator shall maintain its records of expenditures and contributions in a manner that allows it to provide information by marketing plan year, country or region, activity number, and cost category. Such records shall include:

1. Receipts for all STRE (actual vendor invoices or restaurant checks, rather than credit card receipts);
2. Original receipts for any other program related expenditure in excess of $25.00;
3. The exchange rate used to calculate the dollar equivalent of each expenditure made in a foreign currency and the basis for such calculation;
4. Copies of reimbursement claims;
5. An itemized list of claims charged to the Cooperator’s FMD account;
6. Documentation with accompanying English translation supporting each reimbursement claim, including original evidence to support the financial transactions, such as canceled checks, receipted paid bills, contracts...