

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Cooperative State Research,  
Education, and Extension Service****Solicitation for Applications for Fiscal  
Year 1996 National Research Initiative  
Competitive Grants Program**

Applications are invited for competitive grant awards in agricultural, forest, and related environmental sciences under the National Competitive Research Initiative Grants Program (NRICGP) administered by the Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), for fiscal year 1996.

**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 from scientists at non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

It is expected that Congress, in the final version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (H.R. 1976), will prohibit CSREES from using the funds available for the NRICGP for fiscal year 1996 to pay indirect costs exceeding 14 per centum of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively-awarded research grants. In addition, it is expected that, pursuant to the final version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (H.R. 1976), in the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with the funds provided under this program, entities will be encouraged to use such funds to purchase only American-made equipment or products.

**Applicable Regulations and Statutory  
Guidance**

The regulations governing the NRICGP currently are found at 7 CFR part 3200. 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.

CSREES published a proposed amendment to those regulations on May 11, 1995 (60 FR 25594). The proposed amendment, among other things, would move the regulations at 7 CFR part 3200 to 7 CFR part 3411. With the one change of deleting "full-time" in proposed 7 CFR 3411.3(d)(3)(ii)(C), CSREES expects to publish the text of the proposed rule as the final rule within one month. Any new requirements contained in the proposed 7 CFR part 3411 are incorporated in this solicitation and the Program Description for the FY 1996 NRICGP. Therefore, when effective, 7 CFR part 3411 will apply to the NRICGP, including proposals submitted in response to this solicitation, for the FY 1996 program year.

Other regulations applicable to this program include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, 7 CFR Part 3015; (b) the USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, 7 CFR part 3016; (c) Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101); and (d) 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."

**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 agriculture experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual may apply. Proposals from scientists at 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 from scientists at 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. Applications from scientists at non-United States organizations will not be considered for support. Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards are available in the following categories, for which the eligibility requirements are defined in 7 CFR 3411.3 and restated in the FY 1996 NRICGP Program Description:

- (a) Postdoctoral Fellowships.
- (b) New Investigator Awards.
- (c) Strengthening Awards: Institutions in USDA EPSCoR states are eligible for strengthening awards. For FY 1996, 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  
Vermont  
West Virginia  
Wyoming  
All U.S. territories and possessions,  
including the District of Columbia.

Investigators at other institutions may also be eligible for Strengthening Awards. See the FY 1996 Program Description for complete details on programs and eligibility.

**Funding Categories for Fiscal Year 1996**

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 1996 funding and ACTUAL FY 1996 funding, rounded to the \$M, follows in parentheses):

- Natural Resources and the Environment (FY96: \$16M, FY95: \$15M).
- Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health (FY96: \$7M, FY95: \$7M).
- Plant Systems (FY96: \$34, FY95: \$34M).
- Animal Systems (FY96: \$22M, FY95: \$21M).
- Markets, Trade, and Policy (FY96: \$3M, FY95: \$3M).
- New Products and Processes (FY96: \$6M, FY95: \$6M).
- Water Quality (FY96: \$0M, FY95: \$4M).\*
- Integrated Pest Management (FY96: \$0M, FY95: \$2M).\*\*
- Pesticide Impact Assessment (FY96: \$0M, FY95: \$1M).\*\*

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.

\*Water quality issues will continue to be supported by programs in the Natural Resources and the Environment research program area.

\*\*Integrated pest management and pesticide impact assessment issues will continue to be supported by programs in the Pest Biology, Biological Control, and Integrated Pest Management research program area.

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 (FY96: \$9M, FY95: \$9M) 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 (FY96: \$2M, FY95: \$2M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for equipment grants. Further, no less than 30 percent (FY96: \$27M, FY95: \$28M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams, and no less than 20 percent (FY96: \$18M, FY95: \$19M) 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

#### 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  
Biological Control Research  
Assessing Pest Control Strategies

#### 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  
Biofuels Research  
Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber

#### AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

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 1995 or who have recently requested placement on the list for fiscal year 1996 will automatically receive a copy of the fiscal year 1996 solicitation and any supplements.

Proposal Services Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative

State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AG Box 2245, 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, phone number, and materials that you are requesting to [psb@reeusda.gov](mailto:psb@reeusda.gov). Materials will be mailed as quickly as possible.

#### Materials Available on Internet

Information is available on the USDA Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service Home Page at <http://www.reeusda.gov>.

Information is also available on the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Internet Gopher (which may still be listed as the USDA Extension Service). To reach these items using a gopher, starting with "Gopher Servers in the USA," make the following selections:

"Washington, DC"

"Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service USDA Information"

(The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service USDA Gopher is on port 70 of [zeus.esusda.gov](http://zeus.esusda.gov).)

The following materials are among those available through these services:

#### 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 as described above (not available electronically).

#### 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 investigators, 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.

To be considered for funding during FY 1996, proposals must be shipped by the following dates (as indicated by postmark or date on courier bill of lading):

Postmarked dates	Program areas	Contacts (202)	E-Mail @reeusda.gov
November 27, 1995 .....	Forest/Range/Crop/Aquatic Ecosystems .....	401-4082	tstrickland.
	Soils and Soil Biology .....	401-4082	tstrickland.
	Plant Genome .....	401-1901	ekaleikau.
	Plant Genetic Mechanisms .....	401-5042	llin.
December 4, 1995 .....	Photosynthesis and Respiration .....	401-6030	jsmith.
	Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health .....	205-0250	kellwood.
	Plant Responses to the Environment .....	401-4871	adatko.
	Plant Pathology .....	401-6466	apark.
December 18, 1995 .....	Ensuring Food Safety .....	205-0250	kellwood
January 8, 1996 .....	Entomology .....	401-5114	srockey.
	Nematology .....	401-5114	srockey.
	Weed Science .....	401-6466	apark.
	Enhancing Animal Reproductive Efficiency .....	401-6234	cprofater.
January 16, 1996 .....	Food Characterization/Process/Product Research .....	401-1952	jconrad.
	Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research .....	401-1952	jconrad.
	Biofuels Research .....	401-1952	jconrad.
	Sustaining Animal Health and Well-Being .....	401-6303	pjohnson or pbrayton.
January 22, 1996 .....	Plant Growth and Development .....	401-5042	llin.
January 29, 1996 .....	Assessing Pest Control Strategies .....	401-5114	srockey.
	Markets and Trade .....	401-3487	mbailey.
February 5, 1996 .....	Nitrogen Fixation/Nitrogen Metabolism .....	401-6030	jsmith.
	Improving Animal Growth and Development .....	401-6234	cprofater.
February 12, 1996 .....	Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber .....	401-4871	adatko.
	Identifying Animal Genetic Mechanisms and Gene Mapping .....	401-4399	pbrayton.
	Rural Development .....	401-3487	mbailey.
February 20, 1996 .....	Research Career Enhancement Awards .....	401-5042	llin or pbrayton.
	Equipment Grants .....	401-5042	
	Seed Grants .....	401-5042	
	Agricultural Systems .....	401-6303	pjohnson or ekaleikau.
March 11, 1996 .....	Water Resources Assessment and Protection .....	401-4501	bschmidt.
May 6, 1996 .....	Biological Control Research .....	401-5114	srockey.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 5th day of October, 1995.

Colien Hefferan,

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

[FR Doc. 95-25421 Filed 10-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M