

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Special Research Grants Program, Pest Management Alternatives Research; Fiscal Year 1997; Solicitation of Proposals

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

ACTION: Notice

PURPOSE: Proposals of regional research significance are invited for competitive grant awards under the Special Research Grants Program-Pest Management Alternatives Research (the program) for fiscal year (FY) 1997. This program implements the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) signed August 15, 1994, and amended April 18, 1996, which establishes a coordinated framework for collaborative efforts to develop and implement activities that will make alternative pest management materials available to agricultural producers when regulatory action by the USEPA or voluntary cancellation by the registrant results in the unavailability of certain agricultural pesticides or pesticide uses. In this MOU, the USDA and USEPA agreed to: (1) cooperate in providing for agricultural pest management that is conducted in the most environmentally-sound manner possible, with sufficient pest management alternatives to reduce risks to human health and the environment, to reduce the incidence of pest resistance to pesticides and to ensure economical agricultural production, and (2) cooperate in establishing a process to conduct the research, technology transfer and registration activities necessary to ensure adequate pest management alternatives are available to meet important agricultural needs for situations in which regulatory action would result in pest management problems. The goal of this program is to develop alternatives for critical needs to insure that farmers, foresters, ranchers, and urban pest management specialists and other users have reliable methods of managing pest problems. Emphasis is placed on current and potential loss of select pesticides due to increased worker and food safety and environmental concerns leading to regulatory review and actions, and the loss of pest management practices due to performance failures such as those caused by genetic changes in pests.

Authority

The program is administered by the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). The authority is contained in section 2(c)(1)(A) of the Act of August 4, 1995, Pub. L. No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(1)(A)). Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may make grants, for periods not to exceed five years, to State Agricultural Experiment Stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals for the purpose of conducting research to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

Proposals from scientists affiliated with non-United States organizations are not eligible for funding nor are scientists who are directly or indirectly engaged in the registration of pesticides for profit; however, their collaboration with funded projects is encouraged.

Available Funding

Subject to the availability of funds, the amount available for support of this program in FY 1997 is \$1,516,865. Proposals should be for no more than a two-year period.

Puruant to Section 712 of Pub. L. No. 104-180, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 ("1997 Appropriations Act"), CSREES may not use funds available in FY 1997 to pay indirect cost on research grants awarded competitively that exceed 14 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award.

In addition, pursuant to Section 716(b) of the 1997 Appropriations Act, in the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with grant funds provided under this program, entities are encouraged to use such funds to purchase only American-made equipment or products.

Applicable Regulations

This Program is subject to the administrative provisions for the Special Research Grants Program found in 7 CFR Part 3400 (56 FR 58147, November 15, 1991), which set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals, the awarding of grants, and post-award administration of such grants. Several other Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant proposals considered for

review or to grants awarded under this Program. These include, but are not limited to:

- 7 CFR Part 3019—USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations implementing OMB Circular A-110; and
- 7 CFR Part 3051—Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions.

This competitive grants program addresses the need for development of pest management alternatives to provide for production of abundant and affordable food supplies, to increase the availability of biological and cultural methods as pest management options, and to meet the policy goals set forth in sections 1439 and 1484 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-624. These activities pertain to pesticides identified for possible regulatory action under section 102 of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-170, that amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

Funding Categories for Fiscal Year 1997

The following priority areas have been identified by the USDA and USEPA through interaction with State Agricultural Experiment Station research and extension faculty via the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program and state and regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. In addition, commodity groups and producers of affected crops were involved in the identification of project areas. Needs were identified to address replacement technologies for pesticides under current and potential regulatory review or where pesticides are unavailable due to voluntary cancellation by the registrant and for which producers and other users do not have effective alternatives or where regulatory actions trigger pest resistance problems that limit IPM options. Replacements for methyl bromide are not addressed by this request for proposals. The identified priority areas for FY 1997 projects are:

Note: Projects dealing with other crop and pest combinations will not be considered. However, proposals may address the development of an IPM system that will result in economic management of the targeted crop/pest combination.

Commodity	Pests
Alfalfa	Aphids.
Apples	Mites.
Apricots	Mites.

Commodity	Pests
Artichokes	Aphids.
Blackberry/raspberry	Pear psylla. Rhizopus. Rust
Cabbage	Thrips. Mites.
Carrot	Dodder. Mites. Fungal leaf diseases.
Cole crops	Aphids.
Collards	Alternaria. Anthracnose. Cercospora.
Cranberry	Mites.
Cruciferous greens	Alternaria. White rust.
Grape	Grape phloxaera. Black vine weevil.
Leafy greens	Aphids.
Leek/shallot	Alternaria. Botrytis. Downy mildew. Pale color.
Lemon/tangerine	Aphids.
Lettuce	Annual grasses.
Millet	Mites.
Peaches	Yellow pecan aphid.
Pecans	Weeds.
Peppermint/spearmint	Mites.
Plums/prunes	Brown rot. Pigweed. Nightshade.
Pumpkin	Aphids.
Radicchio	Rice water weevil.
Rice	Chinch bug. Broadleaf weeds.
Sorghum	Fungal leaf diseases.
Spinach	Weeds.
Sugar cane	Aphids.
Sweet potato	Weeds.

The proposal should address:

(1) Identification of the pest management problem, estimation of economic impact, and documentation of the pest management problem and losses associated with the pest(s).

(2) Analysis of the availability of options and their applicability as possible solutions including their compatibility with integrated management systems.

(3) Explicit documentation is needed to qualify the project emphasizing environmental issues, human safety, or resistance management concerns which make the present management options impractical.

(4) A summary of past research or extension activities that demonstrate the practicability of the proposed alternative(s).

(5) A detailed plan for the research, education and technology transfer to achieve the alternative development and field implementation with identified milestones.

(6) An analysis of the durability of the proposed option and the technologic and economic feasibility of the proposed solution.

(7) Demonstrated growers' involvement in the identification of potential approaches to solutions and the opportunity for public/private partnerships and matching resources from grower or commodity groups.

(8) An overview of the availability of natural controls (biological, cultural, and host resistance) as solutions or partial solutions to the pest management problem and compatibility with IPM or crop management systems. This Program will not support basic plant breeding or other tactics where significant progress toward implementation cannot be accomplished within two years. However, this program will support research on the incorporation of pest resistant cultivars into a production system.

(9) Where registrations of new management options by state and Federal agencies are required, the proposal should describe the collaborative actions being taken with regulators which lead toward registration and use of Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).

(10) Demonstrate appropriate budget and collaborative funding to accomplish the proposed project.

All projects that involve a new registration of a product or expanded labelling must be done in compliance with GLP Standards (40 CFR Part 160). IR-4 coordinators are available in every state to advise or assist with GLP and registration requirements. Projects involving collaborative registration and funding are encouraged.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by the Administrator of CSREES assisted by a peer panel with IPM expertise. CSREES seeks proposals which address the following issues: (1) A significant reduction of risk of human health or the environment that would result; (2) no current viable alternatives and documented significant potential losses; (3) significant producer involvement; (4) natural controls as partial or effective solutions to pest management problems; and (5) solutions capable of being rapidly brought to bear on critical problems. Registration considerations must be addressed when they are required for solution implementation.

1. Executive Summary—10 points

(An evaluation of how well the proposal summary can be understood by a diverse audience of university personnel, producers, various public and private groups, budget staff and the general public.)

2. Appropriateness of the Budget—5 points

(An evaluation of appropriate and detailed budget request and collaborative funding to accomplish the proposed project; collaborative arrangements clearly documented.)

3. Problem Statement, Background and Rationale—15 points

(Includes the evaluation of significant reduction of risk to human health or the environment; no viable alternatives presently exist; and significant potential losses would occur without the alternative(s) being developed under this proposal.)

4. Research, Education & Technology Transfer Plan—40 points

(In addition to the evaluation of a detailed plan for research, education, and technology transfer and summary of past research or extension activities that demonstrate the practicability of the proposed alternative(s), includes the evaluation of whether the proposed solutions could rapidly be brought to bear on critical problems and registration consideration are addressed where they are required for solution implementation.)

5. Producer Involvement—15 points

(Evaluation includes growers' involvement in the identification of potential approaches to solutions and the opportunity for public/private partnerships and matching resources from grower or commodity groups.)

6. Professional Competence of the Project Team—5 points

7. Integration of Natural Control Solutions—10 points

(Includes the evaluation of natural controls as partial or effective solutions to the pest management problems being addressed and an analysis of the durability of the proposed option and the technologic and economic feasibility of the proposed solution.)

Programmatic Contact

For additional information on the Program, please contact; Dr. Michael Fitzner, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2220, Washington, D.C. 20250-2220; Telephone: (202) 401-4939; Fax Number: (202) 401-4888; E-mail address: mfitzner@reeusda.gov.

How to Obtain Application Materials

Copies of this solicitation, the administrative provisions for the Program (7 CFR Part 3400), and the

Application Kit, which contains required forms, certifications, and instructions for preparing and submitting applications for funding, may be obtained by contacting: Proposal Services Unit, Grants Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, Washington, D.C. 20250-2245; Telephone: (202) 401-5048. When contacting the Proposal Services Unit, please indicate that you are requesting forms for the Special Research Grants Program, Pest Management Alternatives Research.

Application materials may also be requested via Internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail) and telephone number to psh@reeusda.gov that states that you wish to receive a copy of the application materials for the FY 1997 Special Research Grants Program, Pest Management Alternatives Research. The materials will then be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible.

Proposal Format

Members of review committees and the staff expect each project description to be complete in itself. The administrative provisions governing the Special Research Grants Program, 7 CFR Part 3400, set forth instructions for the preparation of grant proposals. The following requirements deviate from those contained in section 3400.4(c). The following provisions of this solicitation shall apply.

Proposals submitted to the Program should address the described criteria. Each proposal should provide a detailed plan for the research, education and technology transfer required to implement the alternative solution in the field. Involvement of growers or other users in the project is essential and should be clearly identified.

Proposals should adhere to the following format: items 3 through 6 should not exceed 12 single spaced/ single-sided pages altogether, using no type less than 12 point (10 cpi) font size with one-inch margins. The pages should be numbered.

(1) *Application for Funding (Form CSREES-661)*. All full proposals submitted by eligible applicants should contain an Application for Funding, Form CSREES-661, which must be signed by the proposed principal investigator(s) and endorsed by the cognizant Authorized Organizational Representative who possesses the necessary authority to commit the applicant's time and other relevant resources. Principal investigators who do not sign the full proposal cover sheet

will not be listed on the grant document in the event an award is made. The title of the proposal must be brief (80-character maximum), yet represent the major emphasis of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as "investigation of" or "research on" should not be used.

(2) *Executive Summary*. Describe the project in terms that can be understood by a diverse audience of university personnel, producers, various public and private groups, budget staff, and the general public. This should be on a separate page, no more than one page in length and have the following format: Name(s) of principal investigator(s) and institutional affiliation, project title, key words and project summary. A computer disc indicating the word processing program used and the file name for the Executive Summary should be submitted with the original copy of the proposal.

(3) *Problem Statement*. Identify the pest management problem addressed, its significance and options for solution. Define the production area addressed by the proposed solution and the potential applicability to other production regions.

(4) *Rationale and Significance*. Provide information on the basis and rationale for the proposed project. Compatibility with current IPM and crop production practices, technologic economic feasibility and potential durability should be addressed. Explicit documentation is needed to qualify the project emphasizing environmental issues, human safety, or resistance management concerns that make present management options impractical.

(5) *Research, Education and Technology Transfer Plan*. Provide a detailed plan with milestones identified.

(6) *Producer Involvement*. Provide information on producer or other user involvement in identification of the proposed solution and involvement in implementing the proposed solution.

(7) *Facilities and Equipment*. All facilities and major items of equipment that are available for use or assignment to the proposed research project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed with the amount for each item.

(8) *Collaborative Arrangements*. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or subcontractual

arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, or entities, the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a full explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence (i.e., letters of intent) should be provided to assure peer reviewers that the collaborators involved have agreed to render this service. In addition, the proposal must indicate whether or not such a collaborative arrangement(s) has the potential for conflict(s) of interest.

(9) *Personnel Support*. To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed project staff, key personnel who will be involved in the proposed project must be clearly identified. For each principal investigator involved, and for all senior associates and other professional personnel who expect to work on the project, whether or not funds are sought for their support, the following should be included:

(i) An estimate of the time commitments necessary;

(ii) *Curriculum vitae*. The curriculum vitae should be limited to a presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards. Unless pertinent to the project, to personal status, or to the status of the organization, meetings attended, seminars given, or personal data such as birth date, marital status, or community activities should not be included. Each vitae shall be no more than two pages in length, excluding the publication lists. USDA reserves the option of not forwarding for further consideration a proposal in which each vitae exceeds the two-page limit; and

(iii) *Publication List(s)*. A chronological list of all publications in referred journals during the past five years, including those in press, must be provided for each professional project member for whom a curriculum vitae is provided. Authors should be listed in the same order as they appear on each paper cited, along with the title and complete reference as these items usually appear in journals.

(10) *Budget*. A detailed budget is required for each year of requested support. In addition, a summary budget is required detailing requested support for the overall project period. A copy of the form which must be used for this purpose, Form CSREES-55, along with instructions for completion, is included in the Application Kit and may be reproduced as needed by applicants. Funds may be requested under any of the categories listed, provided that the item or service for which support is requested may be identified as

necessary for successful conduct of the proposed project, is allowable under applicable Federal cost principles, and is not prohibited under any applicable Federal statute. However, the recovery of indirect costs under this program may not exceed the lesser of the grantee institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 14 percent of total Federal funds awarded. This limitation also applies to the recovery of indirect costs by any subawardee or subcontractor, and should be reflected in the subrecipient budget.

Note: For projects awarded under the authority of Sec. 2(c)(1)(A) of Pub. L. No. 89-106, no funds will be awarded for the renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such spaces; or for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(11) *Research Involving Special Considerations.* A number of situations encountered in the conduct of research require special information and supporting documentation before funding can be approved for the project. If any such situation is anticipated, the proposal must so indicate. It is expected that a significant number of proposals will involve the following:

(i) *Recombinant DNA and RNA molecules.* All key personnel identified in a proposal and all endorsing officials of a proposed performing entity are required to comply with the guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health entitled, "Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules," as revised. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification of compliance (Form CSREES-662).

(ii) *Experimental vertebrate animal care.* The responsibility for the humane care and treatment of any experimental vertebrate animal, which has the meaning as "animal" in section 2(g) of the Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2132(g)), used in any project supported with grant funds rests with the performing organization. In this regard, all key personnel associated with any supported project and all endorsing officials of the proposed performing entity are required to comply with the applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Agriculture in 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The applicant must submit a statement certifying that the proposed project is in compliance with the aforementioned regulations, and that the proposed project is either under review by or has been reviewed and approved

by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification (Form CSREES-662).

(iii) *Human subjects at risk.* Responsibility for safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects used in any proposed project supported with grant funds provided by USDA rests with the performing entity. Regulations have been issued by USDA under 7 CFR Part 1c, Protection of Human Subjects. In the event that a project involving human subjects at risk is recommended for award, the applicant will be required to submit a statement certifying that the project plan has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at the proposing organization or institution. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification (Form CSREES-662).

(12) *Current and Pending Support.* All proposals must list any other current public or private research support (including in-house support) to which key personnel identified in the proposal have committed portions of their time, whether or not salary support for the person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to, other possible sponsors, including other USDA programs or agencies. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to other possible sponsors will not prejudice proposal review or evaluation by the Administrator of CSREES for this purpose. However, a proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or that will be funded) by another organization or agency will not be funded under this program. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for listing current and pending support (Form CSREES-663).

Note: This proposal should be listed in the pending section of the form.

(13) *Additions to Project Description.* The Administrator of CSREES, the members of peer review groups, and the relevant program staff expect each project description to be complete while meeting the page limit established in this section (Proposal Format). However, if the inclusion of additional information is necessary to ensure the equitable evaluation of the proposal (e.g., photographs that do not reproduce well, reprints, and other pertinent materials that are deemed to be unsuitable for inclusion in the text of the proposal), then 14 copies of the

materials should be submitted. Each set of such materials must be identified with the name of the submitting organization, and the name(s) of the principal investigator(s). Information may not be appended to a proposal to circumvent page limitations prescribed for the project description. Extraneous materials will not be used during the peer review process.

(14) *Organizational Management Information.* Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one-time basis prior to the award of a grant for this Program if such information has not been provided previously under this or another program for which the sponsoring agency is responsible. USDA will contact an applicant to request organizational management information once a proposal has been recommended for funding.

Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

As outlined in 7 CFR Part 3407 (the CSREES regulations implementing NEPA), the environmental data or documentation for any proposed project is to be provided to CSREES in order to assist CSREES in carrying out its responsibilities under NEPA. In some cases, however, the preparation of environmental data or documentation may not be required. Certain categories of actions are excluded from the requirements of NEPA. The USDA and CSREES exclusions are listed in 7 CFR 1b.3 and 7 CFR 3407.6, respectively.

In order for CSREES to determine whether any further action is needed with respect to NEPA (e.g., preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS)), pertinent information regarding the possible environmental impacts of a proposed project is necessary; therefore, the National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions Form (Form CSREES-1234) provided in the Application Kit must be included in the proposal indicating whether the applicant is of the opinion that the project falls within one or more of the categorical exclusions. Form CSREES-1234 should follow Form CSREES-661, Application for Funding, in the proposal.

Even though a project may fall within the categorical exclusions, CSREES may determine that an EA or an EIS is necessary for an activity, if substantial controversy on environmental grounds exists or if other extraordinary conditions or circumstances are present that may cause such activity to have a significant environmental effect.

Proposal Submission***What To Submit***

An original and 14 copies of a proposal must be submitted. Each copy of each proposal must be stapled securely in the upper left-hand corner (DO NOT BIND). All copies of the proposal must be submitted in one package.

Where and When To Submit

Proposals must be received on or before February 26, 1997. Proposals sent by First Class mail must be sent to the following address: Proposal Services Unit, Grants Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of

Agriculture, STOP 2245, Washington, D.C. 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Proposals that are delivered by Express mail, a courier service, or by hand must be submitted to the following address (note that the zip code differs from that shown above): Proposal Services Unit, Grants Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 303, Aerospace Center, 901 D Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Supplementary Information

For reasons set forth in the final rule-related Notice to 7 CFR Part 3015,

Subpart V (48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983), this Program is excluded from the scope of Executive Order No. 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Action of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3504(h)), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0022.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 30th day of December 1996.

Colien Hefferan,

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

[FR Doc. 97-159 Filed 1-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M