

Program Priority

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Rapid Response Food and Agricultural Science for Emergency Issues

Genetic Resource Movement and Use in U.S. Food & Agriculture

Program Code - 97100

National Program Leader – Dr. Mark Poth (202-401-5244 of mpoth@csrees.usda.gov)

Letters of Intent – not required

Application Deadline – for consideration for this priority please respond by COB Eastern Time on **July 20, 2009**

How to Apply – see the full request for applications for AFRI at

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html; and the “[CSREES Grants.gov](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/grants/) Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.”

For this announcement in particular, please note the AFRI Rapid Response program opportunity description on **pages 108-110**, and the application instructions on **pages 116-125** of the AFRI RFA. Proposed integrated or research project budgets must not exceed \$250,000 (including indirect costs) for a project period up to 2 years. Requests exceeding the budgetary guidelines will not be reviewed. Proposals must indicate the type of AFRI project being proposed, as described on **pages 13-21** of the AFRI RFA.

Background

This program is a mechanism to rapidly provide the science necessary to more effectively respond to important emergency issues vital to agriculture, food science, and related natural and human resources. The availability of genetic resources is vital for agriculture and a new international agreement may have important ramifications for U.S. agriculture. Every sector of U.S. food and agriculture production, from plant-based commodities to processed foods, relies on genetic resources, many of which are imported. For the purposes of this request, genetic resources, also known as natural products or naturally occurring organisms, are defined as species, subspecies, or genetic varieties of plants, animals, and microorganisms of actual or potential value. Genetic resources form the basis for commodities and consumer goods around the world.

An imminent international agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, to which the United States is not a party, will develop and implement an access and benefit sharing regime for all genetic resources (including those used in food and agriculture) that could negatively impact U.S. food and agriculture production. The United States, through its active participation in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, has an opportunity to provide input to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the needs of food and agriculture with respect to an access and benefit sharing regime.

FY 2009 Priority

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, through the Rapid Response Food and Agricultural Science for Emergency Issues program seeks to support a comprehensive assessment that will detail the exchange and use patterns of genetic resources used in all sectors of U.S. food and agriculture. A report on the preliminary findings, including a

literature review and a description of the projected scope of the proposed comprehensive assessment will be due by 30 September 2009. The comprehensive assessment will ultimately include information regarding the extent to which U.S. food and agriculture interests rely on foreign sourced genetic resources. The assessment will include data from industry and public sector stakeholders in food and agriculture sectors to determine the extent of U.S. reliance on foreign-sourced genetic resources.

The scope of the assessment should include broad coverage of current relevant issues and products for example: food safety and animal health pathogens (*E. coli*, *Listeria*, Foot and Mouth Disease and Newcastle disease); insect genetic resources (honey bees used in specialty crop production); aquatic genetic resources (shrimp, hybrid striped bass and trout); biofuels (enzymes and microorganisms); and microorganisms used in processed food products (yeast for wine and beer, lactic acid bacteria for culture dairy products, bacteria for vinegar production, and enzymes used in fruit juice, wine and dairy products).

Based on the data gathered, the assessment will answer the following questions regarding all sectors of U.S. food and agriculture production:

- Are genetic resources of any kind used in any phase of production? If so, what type of genetic resource is used?
- Is the stakeholder aware of the country of origin of the genetic resources used? If known, what country/countries typically provide these genetic resources?
- Has the stakeholder experienced difficulty in the past year obtaining foreign sourced genetic resources? If so, what has been the nature of the difficulty?
- Has any provider of foreign sourced genetic resources approached the stakeholder regarding compliance with provisions of the CBD regarding access and benefit sharing?