

Independence Avenue SW., Room 6136 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The amount of the proposed changes varies considerably for each of the Conservation Practice Standards addressed in this notice. To fully understand the proposed changes, individuals are encouraged to compare these changes with each standard's current version as shown at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html>. To aid in this comparison, following are highlights of the proposed revisions to each standard:

*Channel Bed Stabilization (Code 584)*—Name changed for better description, plus minor edits.

*Dust Control From Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces (Code 375)*—This is a new Conservation Practice Standard.

*Karst Sinkhole Treatment (Code 527)*—Practice name changed from "Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment" to "Karst Sinkhole Treatment." Practice specially does not apply to sinkholes with non-karst origins (structural failures due to piping, etc.), plus minor edits.

*Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)*—Changes to the standard include: A revision in the range in Manning's roughness and references cited in the criteria section; an expansion of the considerations section to include fish and wildlife and soil bioengineering, etc.; and more comprehensive guidance on what should be included in the plans and specifications section.

*Monitoring Well (Code 353)*—Updated references to ASTM standards and minor edits.

*On-Farm Equipment Efficiency Improvement (Code 374)*—This is a new Conservation Practice Standard.

*Pond Sealing or Lining—Bentonite Treatment (Code 521C)*—The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH), Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

*Pond Sealing or Lining—Compacted Clay Treatment (Code 521D)*—The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, AWMFH, Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

*Pond Sealing or Lining—Soil Dispersant Treatment (Code 521B)*—The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, AWMFH, Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

*Salinity and Sodict Soil Management (Code 610)*—Clarified the Conditions

Where Practice Applies and General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes sections. Added separate sections for Criteria Applicable to Irrigated Lands and to Non-Irrigated Lands. Expanded the sections for Criteria To Reduce Problems of Crusting, Permeability or Soil Structure on Sodium-Affected Soils, and to Saline Seeps and Their Recharge Areas. Expanded the Considerations section. Added detailed requirements for Plans and Specifications. Deleted the Operation and Maintenance section. Reduced the References section.

*Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395)*—Changed "Stream Visual Assessment Protocol" to "Stream Visual Assessment Protocol, Version 2," changed considerations, added monitoring guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of the conservation actions, and added post-project monitoring to Operation and Maintenance.

*Vertical Drain (Code 630)*—Additional emphasis on water quality protection if practice is used.

*Water Well (Code 642)*—Purpose clarified to exclude human consumption. Screen entrance velocity criteria changed in accordance with AWWA standard.

*Water Well Decommissioning (Code 351)*—Name was changed to Water Well Decommissioning, distinguishing this practice from industry practices for closure of other purposed wells (oil, injection, etc.). Purpose was clarified. Additional clarification on plugging materials was added.

*Well Water Testing (Code 355)*—Conditions Where Practice Applies has been updated to exclude water wells not for agricultural use, plus minor edits.

Signed July 29, 2010, in Washington, DC.

**Dave White,**

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19133 Filed 8-3-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Request for Proposals: Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Opportunity for Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives (REIC)

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Initial notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs are administered

through USDA Rural Development. USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$300,000 in competitive cooperative agreement funds for fiscal year (FY) 2010 to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. USDA Rural Development hereby requests proposals from institutions of higher education interested in applying for a competitively awarded cooperative research agreement. This funding follows previous funding awarded in FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009, the intent of which was to encourage research on the critical issue of the economic value of cooperatives. Funding for FY 2010 is expected to expand upon research undertaken with FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 funds.

**DATES:** Interested parties may submit completed applications for the cooperative agreement on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be received by September 1, 2010, to be eligible for FY 2010 funding. Electronic copies must be received by September 1, 2010, to be eligible for FY 2010 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2010 funding.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants may obtain application forms, guides, and materials for the cooperative agreement at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm> or by contacting USDA Rural Development at (202) 720-8460, (TDD: (800) 877-8339, Federal Information Relay Service) and ask for the cooperative research agreement application package.

Submit completed paper applications for a cooperative agreement to USDA Rural Development's Cooperative Programs, Attn: Cooperative Research, Mail STOP 3250, Room 4016-South, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558.

Submit electronic applications at <http://www.grants.gov>, following the instructions found on this Web site.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Visit the program Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>, which contains application guidance, including an Application Guide and application forms. Or you may contact USDA Rural Development at (202) 720-8460 (TDD: (800) 877-8339 Federal Information Relay Service).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, OMB must approve all “collections of information” by USDA Rural Development. The Act defines “collection of information” as a requirement for “answers to \* \* \* identical reporting or recordkeeping requirements imposed on ten or more persons \* \* \*.” (44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A)) Because the RFP is expected to receive less than 10 respondents, the “collection of information” requirement in the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply.

### Overview

*Federal Agency:* Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives.

*Announcement Type:* Initial announcement.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 10.778.

*Dates:* You may submit completed applications for the cooperative agreement on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be received by September 1, 2010, to be eligible for FY 2010 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2010 funding.

Electronic copies must be received by September 1, 2010, to be eligible for FY 2010 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2010 funding.

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

This solicitation is issued pursuant to the Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111–80) directing funds “for a cooperative research agreement with a qualified academic institution to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives.” The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the program’s administration to USDA Rural Development.

The primary objective of this cooperative research agreement program is to facilitate university research on the national economic impact of cooperatives. This cooperative research agreement is a continuation of research conducted in USDA Rural Development cooperative research agreements RD–06–01, RBS–07–31, RBS–08–00 and RBS–09–00, collectively known as “REIC Agreements”. As further described below, data generated and results produced in the REIC Agreements will be accessible to the institution awarded this cooperative research agreement.

These agreements have produced the first census data of U.S. cooperatives

across economic sectors, reporting their financial variables and employment data. Based on this census, cooperatives’ direct and indirect impacts on national revenue, income and employment were estimated. Standard estimation methods, as applied to all types of business organizations, were used to obtain the economic estimates. These estimation methods do not measure distinctive and deeper economic impacts of cooperatives, which is the overall objective of this research program.

Two research initiatives were launched in FY 2009 that will help increase public and academic awareness of cooperatives. First, a more detailed survey sample, called the Cooperative Business Study, was launched to address the elements of member governance that influence distinctive policies in the operations and impacts of cooperatives. Further surveys of these sample cooperatives will examine in comprehensive detail the subjects of finance and human resources. Second, a program for annual collection of cooperative data by the U.S. Census Bureau was initiated. Completing these initiatives launched in 2009, will be a part of the work plan for FY 2010.

The cooperative agreement proposal must address specifically, and in detail sufficient to assess the effectiveness of proposed work, how the following deliverables will be provided:

1. Complete a proposal to the U.S. Census Bureau for annual collection of data on cooperatives, involving criteria for identifying businesses and organizations as cooperatives.

2. Complete the first phase of the Cooperative Business Study on governance.

3. Develop research proposals for further surveys of the sample of cooperatives on the topics of finance, human resources, and other avenues of inquiry that provide a basis for examining the distinctive and deeper impacts of cooperatives.

4. Initiate research projects in the following subjects:

- a. Economic resiliency—comparing and contrasting cooperatives with other types of firms on various measures of sustaining their operations or maintaining services over time or during and after economic recessions.

- b. Competitive yardstick—measure the impact of cooperatives in maintaining competitive prices for producers and consumers, or in terms of supporting services that would be provided to some diminished degree in the absence of cooperatives.

- c. Local impact—identify the extent to which local communities or rural areas

have developed and retained more wealth because of the operations of cooperatives.

5. USDA Rural Development will arrange for the winner of this competition to obtain updates and preliminary data from the University of Wisconsin, the FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 award recipient, as further progress is made on the FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 research.

6. The performance of subcontracting services, oversight, and financial controls for the overall project.

7. The submission of quarterly progress reports and quarterly financial reports to USDA Rural Development; and

8. The preparation and submission of publishable quality written reports for Deliverables 1 through 4 to USDA Rural Development.

USDA Rural Development will competitively award one cooperative agreement to fund the collection and analysis of data to determine the national economic impact of cooperatives. An institution of higher education may collaborate with others on the research and data collection. A formal consortium of academic institutions is allowed.

### Definitions

The definitions at 7 CFR 3019.2 are incorporated by reference.

### II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Cooperative Agreement.

*Fiscal Year Funds:* FY 2010.

*Approximate Total Funding:* \$300,000.

*Approximate Number of Awards:* 1.

*Approximate Average Award:* \$300,000.

*Floor of Award Range:* None.

*Ceiling of Award Range:* \$300,000.

*Anticipated Award Date:* September 24, 2010.

*Budget Period Length:* 24 months.

*Project Period Length:* 24 months.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be institutions of higher education. Proposals may be submitted by public or private colleges or universities, research foundations maintained by a college or university, or private nonprofit organizations funded by a group of colleges or universities.

#### B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Matching funds are not required but are highly encouraged. Applicants must verify in their applications that matching funds are available for the

time period of the agreement if the matching funds are required to complete the project. Matching funds must be provided by either the applicant or by a third party in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Matching funds must be spent on eligible expenses and must be from eligible sources.

### C. Other Eligibility Requirements

**Indirect Cost Eligibility:** Section 705 of Public Law 111–80, “Agriculture, rural development, food and drug administration and related agencies appropriations act, 2010” continues the provision which states “No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.” Indirect costs in excess of 10 percent of the direct cost, therefore, will be ineligible for funding.

**Activity Eligibility:** A cooperative agreement reflects a relationship between the United States Government and an eligible recipient where the principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to the eligible recipient to carry out the desired research; and substantial involvement is anticipated between USDA Rural Development acting for the United States Government and the eligible recipient during the performance of the research in the agreement. A cooperative agreement is not a grant. Therefore, the project proposed must include a description of USDA Rural Development’s substantial participation. USDA Rural Development may subsequently negotiate the nature of its participation before the cooperative agreement is executed.

Applicants that propose budgets that include more than 10 percent of total project costs that are ineligible for the program will be ineligible, and the application will not be considered for funding. However, if an application with 10 percent or less of ineligible costs is selected for funding, all ineligible costs must be removed from the project and replaced with eligible activities or the amount of the award will be reduced accordingly.

**Cooperative Agreement Period Eligibility:** Applications that have a timeframe of more than 24 months will be considered ineligible and will not be considered for funding. Applications that request funds for a time period ending after September 30, 2012, will not be considered for funding.

**Completeness Eligibility:** Applications without sufficient information to determine eligibility will not be considered for funding. Applications that are missing any required elements (in whole or in part) will not be considered for funding.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

### A. Address To Request Application Package

If you plan to apply using a paper application, you can obtain the application package for this funding opportunity at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>. If you plan to apply electronically, you must visit <http://www.grants.gov> and follow the instructions.

### B. Content and Form of Submission

You may submit your application in paper or in an electronic format. You may view the Application Guide at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>.

If you submit your application in paper form, you must submit one signed original of your complete application along with two additional copies.

If you submit your application electronically, you must follow the instructions given at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants are advised to visit the site well in advance of the application deadline if they plan to apply electronically to insure that they have obtained the proper authentication and have sufficient computer resources to complete the application.

An application must contain all of the following elements. Any application that is missing any element or contains an incomplete element will not be considered for funding:

1. **Form SF–424, “Application for Federal Assistance.”** In order for this form to be considered complete, it must contain the legal name of the applicant, the applicant’s Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, the applicant’s complete mailing address, the name and telephone number of a contact person, the employer identification number (EIN), the start and end dates of the project, the Federal funds requested, other funds that will be used as

matching funds, an answer to the question, “Is applicant delinquent on any Federal debt?”, the name and signature of an authorized representative, the telephone number of the authorized representative, and the date the form was signed. Other information requested on the form may be applicable, but the above-listed information is required for an application to be considered complete.

The DUNS number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by accessing <http://www.dnb.com/us/> or calling (866) 705–5711.

2. **Form SF–424A, “Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs.”** In order for this form to be considered complete, the applicant must fill out Sections A, B, C, and D. The applicant must include both Federal and any matching funds to be included.

3. **Form SF–424B, “Assurances—Non-Construction Programs.”** In order for this form to be considered complete, the form must be signed by an authorized official and include the title, name of applicant, and date.

4. **Title Page.** The title page must include the title of the project as well as any other relevant identifying information. The length should not exceed one page.

5. **Table of Contents.** For ease of locating information, each proposal must contain a detailed Table of Contents immediately following the title page.

6. **Executive Summary.** A summary of the proposal, not to exceed one page, must briefly describe the project, including goals, tasks to be completed, and other relevant information that provides a general overview of the project. In the event an applicant submits more than one page for this element, only the first page submitted will be considered.

7. **Eligibility Discussion.** A detailed discussion, not to exceed four pages, will describe how the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. In the event that more than four pages are submitted, only the first four pages will be considered.

i. **Applicant Eligibility.** The applicant must first describe how it meets the definition of an institution of higher education.

ii. **Purpose Eligibility.** The applicant must describe how the project purpose is eligible for funding. The project purpose is comprised of two components. First, the applicant must describe how the proposed project consists of activities needed to

determine the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. Second, the applicant must demonstrate that the combined activities are sufficient to estimate the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives.

8. *Proposal Narrative.* The narrative must include the following information:

i. *Project Title.* The title of the proposed project must be brief, not to exceed 75 characters, yet describe the essentials of the project. It should match the project title submitted on the SF-424. The project title does not need to appear on a separate page. It can be included on the title page and/or on the information sheet.

ii. *Information Sheet.* A separate one-page information sheet listing each of the evaluation criteria referenced in this funding announcement followed by the page numbers of all relevant material contained in the proposal that address or support each criterion.

iii. *Goals of the Project.* A clear statement of the ultimate goals of the project must be included. There must be an explanation of how economic benefit will be measured.

iv. *Workplan.* The narrative must contain a description of the project and set forth the tasks involved in reasonable detail. The description should specify the activity, who will perform the activity, during what timeframe the activity will take place, and the cost of the activity. Please note that one of the proposal evaluation criteria evaluates the work plan and budget. Applicants should only submit the work plan and budget once, either in this section or as part of the work plan/budget evaluation criterion discussion.

v. *Proposal Evaluation Criteria.* Each of the proposal evaluation criteria referenced in this funding announcement must be addressed, specifically and individually, in narrative form.

9. *Certification of Judgment.* Applicants must certify that the United States has not obtained a judgment against them. No Federal funds shall be used to pay a judgment obtained by the United States. It is suggested that applicants use the following language for the certification. "[INSERT NAME OF APPLICANT] certifies that the United States has not obtained a judgment against it." A separate signature is not required.

10. *Verification of Matching Funds.* Matching funds are not required but are highly encouraged. If matching funds are provided, applicants must provide a budget to support the work plan showing all sources and uses of funds during the project period. Applicants

will be required to verify any and all matching funds, both cash and in-kind. All proposed matching funds must be specifically documented in the application. If the matching funds are to be provided by an in-kind contribution from the applicant, the application must include a signed letter from an authorized representative of the applicant verifying the goods or services to be donated, when the goods and services will be donated, and the value of the goods or services. Applicants should note that only goods or services for which no expenditure is made can be considered in-kind. If the applicant is paying for goods and services as part of the matching funds contribution, the expenditure is considered a cash match, and should be verified as such. If the matching funds are to be provided by a third party in cash, the application must include a signed letter from that third party verifying how much cash will be donated and when it will be donated. Verification of funds donated outside the proposed time period of the cooperative agreement will not be accepted. If the matching funds are to be provided by a third party in-kind donation, the application must include a signed letter from the third party verifying the goods or services to be donated, when the goods and services will be donated, and the value of the goods or services. Verification of in-kind contributions donated outside the proposed time period of the cooperative agreement will not be accepted. Verification of in-kind contributions that are over-valued will not be accepted. The valuation process for the in-kind funds does not need to be included in the application, especially if it is lengthy, but the applicant must be able to demonstrate how the valuation was achieved at the time of notification of tentative selection for the award. If the applicant cannot satisfactorily demonstrate how the valuation was determined, the award may not be made.

If matching funds are in cash, they must be spent on goods and services that are eligible expenditures for this cooperative agreement program. If matching funds are in-kind contributions, the donated goods or services must be considered eligible expenditures for this program. The matching funds must be spent or donated during the agreement period. (See 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3019 for funds use eligibility rules.)

If acceptable verification for all proposed matching funds is missing from the application by the application deadline, the application will receive

zero points for the Funding Match part of the evaluation criteria.

### C. *Submission Dates and Times*

*Application Deadline Date:* September 1, 2010.

*Explanation of Deadlines:* Paper applications must be received by the deadline date (see Section IV.F. for the address). Final electronic applications must be received by <http://www.grants.gov> by the deadline date. If your application does not meet the deadline above, it will not be considered for funding. You will be notified whether or not your application was received on time.

### D. *Intergovernmental Review of Applications*

Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, does not apply to this program.

### E. *Funding Restrictions*

Funding restrictions apply to both Federal funds and matching funds. Funds may only be used for activities related to determining the economic impact of cooperatives.

No funds made available under this solicitation shall be used to:

1. Pay for the preparation of the cooperative agreement application;
2. Pay expenses not directly related to the funded project;
3. Fund political or lobbying activities;
4. Fund any activities prohibited by 7 CFR parts 3015 or 3019;
5. Duplicate current services or replace or substitute support previously provided;
6. Pay costs of the project incurred prior to the date of agreement approval; or
7. Pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States.

### F. *Other Submission Requirements*

You may submit your paper application for a cooperative agreement to USDA Rural Development's Cooperative Programs, Attn: Cooperative Research, Mail STOP 3250, Room 4016-South, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558. You may also choose to submit your application electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>. Final applications may not be submitted by electronic mail, facsimile, or by hand-delivery. Any application submission in a non-electronic format must contain all required documents in one envelope.

## V. Application Review Information

### A. Criteria

All eligible and complete applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria and maximum point allowances. Failure to address any one of the following criteria by the application deadline will result in a determination of incomplete and the application will not be considered for funding. The total points available for the set of criteria are 100.

1. *Relevance of the project proposal (30 points)*. Proposals will be evaluated on how directly they address the general objective of demonstrating economic impact of all types of cooperatives in the United States. Factors to be weighed by evaluators in scoring a proposal's relevance will include the:

- Description of how research projects would measure differences of economic impacts of cooperatives as compared to other forms of business organization;
- Description of sound data collection and analysis methodology; and
- Description of a program of assisting the Census Bureau in identifying cooperatives for annual data collection.

2. *Quality of work plan (30 points)*. The quality evaluation criterion will be based on whether the proposal outlines a sound plan of work that will meet the objectives in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Factors to be weighed by evaluators in scoring a proposal's work plan will include:

- How well the steps for carrying out the work are defined;
- The logic of the sequence of proposed steps and the likelihood they will achieve their intended result;
- The establishment of clear benchmarks and timetables to measure the progress of the project;
- The detail, accuracy, and reasonableness of the project's proposed budget; and

3. *Quality of personnel and management plan (20 points)*. The quality of the management plan and the personnel involved in carrying out the proposed project will evaluate the capabilities of the individuals and institutions to implement the work plan in an effective manner. Factors to be weighed by evaluators in scoring a proposal's personnel and management plan will include the:

- Experience of project leaders and the lead institution in managing complex research projects;
- Demonstration of a clear understanding of business models and general economic development;

- Management controls, progress measurements, and reporting systems within a structured project management plan; and

- Experience and relevant skills of researchers, consultants, and subcontractors assigned to carry out specific roles in the project.

4. *Cooperative and academic community support (20 points)*. Points will be awarded for having support for the proposal from both cooperative and academic communities. This support should be evidenced by either contribution of resources or by statements from representatives about the value of the proposed research to their organizations or communities.

### B. Review and Selection Process

Each application will be initially reviewed by Rural Development personnel for eligibility and to determine whether all required elements are complete. A list of required elements follows:

- SF-424
- SF-424A
- SF-424B
- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Applicant Eligibility Discussion
- Purpose Eligibility Discussion
- Project Title
- Information Sheet
- Goals of the Project
- Work Plan
- Proposal Evaluation Criterion 1
- Proposal Evaluation Criterion 2
- Proposal Evaluation Criterion 3
- Proposal Evaluation Criterion 4
- Certification of Judgment
- Verification of any Matching Funds

Any incomplete or ineligible applications will not be further evaluated or considered for funding.

All eligible and complete proposals will be evaluated by a team of at least three reviewers based on criteria 1 through 4 described in paragraph A of this section. Reviewers will represent the Rural Development broad mission area, and will include at least three employees of USDA.

Once the scores for criteria 1 through 4 have been independently completed by the three reviewers, the scores will be used to rank the proposals. If the three reviewers rank the best proposal differently then, with the aid of a facilitator, the three reviewers will develop a consensus ranking. If the three reviewers cannot reach a consensus, two additional reviewers will review the proposals and be added to the rankings. A final ranking will be obtained based on the consensus

rankings of the three member review panel, or, if appointed, the average of the five reviewers' rankings. Final award recommendation will be sent to the Under Secretary for Rural Development for final selection concurrence.

After the award selection is made, all applicants will be notified of the status of their applications by mail. The awardee must meet all statutory and regulatory program requirements in order to receive the award. In the event that an awardee cannot meet the requirements, the award will be withdrawn.

### C. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

*Award Date*: The announcement of award selection is expected to occur on or about September 24, 2010.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

The successful applicant will receive a notification of tentative selection for funding from USDA Rural Development. The applicant must sign a mutually agreed to cooperative agreement and comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, and this notice before the award will receive final approval.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification, including mediation procedures and appeal rights, by mail.

### B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

This award is subject to 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3019. These regulations may be accessed at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html#page1>.

The following additional documentation requirements apply to the awardee selected for this program:

- Agency Approved Cooperative Agreement.
- Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds."
- Form AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters-Primary Covered Transactions."
- Form AD-1048, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions."
- Form AD-1049, "Certification Regarding a Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants)."
- Form RD 400-1, "Equal Opportunity Agreement."
- Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement."

Additional information on these requirements can be found at <http://>

[www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm).

**Reporting Requirements:** You must provide USDA Rural Development with an original or an electronic copy that includes all required signatures of the following reports. The reports should be submitted to the Agency contact listed on your Cooperative Agreement. Failure to submit satisfactory reports on time may result in suspension or termination of your award.

1. *Form SF-425 or SF-425A.* A "Financial Status Report," listing expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories, on a quarterly basis. Reporting periods end each December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30. Reports are due 30 days after the reporting period ends.

2. *Quarterly performance reports that compare accomplishments to the objectives stated in the proposal.* Identify all tasks completed to date and provide documentation supporting the reported results. If the original schedule provided in the work plan is not being met, the report should discuss the problems or delays that may affect completion of the project. Objectives for the next reporting period should be listed. Compliance with any special condition on the use of award funds should be discussed. Reporting periods end each December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30. Reports are due 30 days after the reporting period ends. Supporting documentation must also be submitted for completed tasks. The supporting documentation for completed tasks include, but are not limited to, questionnaire or interview guides, publications of research findings, summaries of data collected, and any other documentation related to how funds were spent.

3. *Final Project performance reports that compare accomplishments to the objectives stated in the proposal.* Identify all tasks completed and provide documentation supporting the reported results. If the original schedule provided in the work plan was not met, the report must discuss the problems or delays that affected completion of the project. Compliance with any special condition on the use of award funds should be discussed. Supporting documentation for completed tasks must also be submitted. The supporting documentation for completed tasks include, but are not limited to, publications of research findings, summaries of data collected, documentation of data and software delivered to USDA Rural Development, and any other documentation related to how funds were spent. The final

performance report is due within 90 days of the completion of the project.

## VII. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement and for program technical assistance, please contact the USDA Rural Development's Cooperative Programs, Mail STOP 3250, Room 4016-South, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250, Telephone: (202) 720-8460 (TDD: (800) 877-8339 Federal Information Relay Service), e-mail: [cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov).

## VIII. Non-Discrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Dated: July 26, 2010.

**Judith A. Canales,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19155 Filed 8-3-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

#### Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding Assessments Focused on Improving Food Aid and Providing Safe Water

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), formerly known as the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

(CSREES) requests input from the public regarding (1) the assessment of methods and tools used by non-governmental organizations and international agencies to measure, characterize and describe nutritional gaps among populations served by U.S. humanitarian food assistance programs, including recommendations on how to improve such programs in the field at the lowest possible cost, and (2) the assessment of the most cost-effective technologies for the purification and supply of safe water which could be implemented in the field to benefit highly vulnerable populations, including recommendations on the most cost-effective and commercially available systems that require priority research assistance.

**DATES:** All comments must be received by close of business (5 p.m. EST) September 3, 2010, to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by [2010-0003] by any of the following methods to the NIFA Docket Clerk; and electronic submissions are preferred:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

*E-mail:* [FANEP@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:FANEP@nifa.usda.gov). Include [2010-0003] in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* (202) 690-2355.

*Hand Delivery/Courier:* FANEP; Science and Education Resources Development (SERD) Unit, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3322 Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

*Mailing Address:* FANEP; Science and Education Resources Development (SERD) Unit, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 2203, Washington, DC 20250-2203.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and the [2010-0003] for this rulemaking. A summary of the results obtained from the responses to this request for information will be available to the public on the Web site <http://www.regulations.gov>, and may include any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Edwin Lewis, International Program Leader, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 2203, Washington, DC 20250-2203, Phone: (202) 720-3801.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**