

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

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## Global Food Security

*FY 2010 Request for Applications*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

extension, it is accepted that extension activities include technology transfer and applied research aimed at strengthening the monitoring system.

- Implementation of existing knowledge and technology and development and/or adaptation of tools to fill needs in wide-area pest monitoring programs should be included. The science community should be engaged to form cohesive teams that respond to grower needs relative to high consequence pest management issues and provide for grower education as well as information technology-based push and pull technologies to inform growers of pest risk.
- Development of programs under a common conceptual IT platform or connectivity of data under a common portal to allow shared access among collaborators and appropriate display of public data within the guidance of Federal data security and personally identifiable information (PII) concerns. Data hosting to assure public access for data visualization and appropriate information security.
- Integration of social sciences to measure access to and adoption of best management practices and new technologies with analysis of implications of effects on farm profitability, environmental, and human health implications.
- As appropriate to the disease and objectives, teams should contain expertise in areas such as: microbiology, pathology, physiology, genetics/ genomics/ proteomics, epidemiology, infectious disease mechanisms, and diagnostics at the molecular, cellular, and pathosystem level. Teams may also include experts in ecology, engineering, computer science, curriculum development, extension, program evaluation, economics, sociology, and human sciences.
- An undergraduate extension/research component with direct connections to the project is expected, and these activities must have the following four components and be appropriately budgeted for:
  - Mentorship – be supervised directly by the Project Director or co-Project Director(s);
  - Originality – have a novel component with meaningful contribution from the student to the objectives of the project;
  - Acceptability – employ techniques or methods that are appropriate for the discipline and at the cutting edge of science; and
  - Dissemination – have a plan to share the results with the broader field and the community.
- Collaboration with international partners is expected; however, applications must be submitted by eligible U.S. institutions.
- Leveraging and coordination of project resources with other USDA and non-USDA efforts for the same or similar area(s) is required.

5. ***Improved Sustainable Food Systems to Reduce Hunger and Food Insecurity Domestically and Globally***

**Program Area Code** – A5141

**Letter of Intent Deadline** – April 30, 2010 (5:00 p.m., ET); see Part IV, A (page 25) for instructions.

**Application Deadline** – June 29, 2010 (5:00 p.m., ET)

**Proposed Budget Requests** –

- Standard Grants must not exceed \$1,000,000 per year (\$5 million total, including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 5 years. Program anticipates making up to 5 awards in FY 2010.
- Conference and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants must adhere to the guidelines outlined beginning in Part II, D. 4 and 5 (page 17).
- Requests exceeding the budgetary guidelines will not be reviewed.

**Requested Project Type** – Integrated Projects

**Requested Grant Type** – Standard, Conference, and FASE Grants

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**Program Area Priority – Applicants must address the following:**

- Develop research, education, and extension sustainable programs on local and regional food systems that will increase food security in disadvantaged U.S. communities and create viability in local economies.

**Other Program Area Requirements:**

- All applications must adhere to the requirements beginning in Part IV (page 25).
- Applications from and collaborations with Minority Serving Institutions are strongly encouraged.
- Applications should involve collaborations of multiple institutions.
- There are many regional and local sustainable food system programs across the country addressing food insecurity by developing small food economies in diverse ways. Applications must explore best practices in these projects, better understand the basis for success or failure measure the innovations, assess social, economic, and environmental impact, determine cost/benefit, and provide feedback and replication opportunities to improve the work.
- Applications must be focused on urban and/or rural self-defined geographic regions centered on ongoing local and regional sustainable food systems (food sheds) that include disadvantaged communities.
- Active participation of disadvantaged communities should guide the project's assessment of best practices that inform future activity, assess infrastructure needs, identify gaps between knowledge and practice; and draw on both domestic and international experience to improve existing approaches.
- Proposed projects must:
  - Include a multi-state, multi-institutional, and trans-disciplinary team composed of public, private, for profit and non-profit sectors, including, but not limited to community-based organizations, universities, local governments, and foundations;
  - Integrate with existing sustainable food system programs and projects and existing successes; and
  - Draw upon such expertise as, but not limited to, the agricultural, social, environmental and economic scientific communities as well as practitioners in community development, marketing, sustainable agriculture, program evaluation, economics, sociology, and human sciences. Applications are required to demonstrate partnerships with and inclusion of individuals representing disadvantaged community members and use community-based approaches.
- Awarded projects will be expected to insure cross linkages between other funded projects to share lessons learned and best practices for efficient use of program funds.
- Projects should promote food security through research, education, and extension using approaches such as, but not limited to, the following:
  - Topic areas for research, education, and extension to be covered may include, but are not limited to:
    - Farm-to-Institution: Farm to schools, farm to retail, farm to hospital
    - Value Supply Chain: entrepreneurship, marketing, community and school garden, youth farm stands, cooperatives
    - Financial: Cost benefit analysis, availability of resources, types of financial instruments, micro-financing
    - Policy: Barriers and enablers of local regional sustainable food systems work and food policy councils interface of local and regional food systems with USDA food assistance programs
  - Research:
    - Identify, assess, and evaluate the best practice constraints and barriers in sustainable, local and regional food systems
    - Identify and assess relevant innovations and trends
    - Develop and test program methods, approaches, and models
    - Translate existing social, biological, environmental, economic, and cultural research into best practices

- Include disadvantaged community participatory research on food systems within their communities to shape best practices
- Identification of special features of local food cultures
- Extension:
  - Participate in all aspects of project activity
  - Implementation of community organizing
  - Collaborating and catalyzing community activity
  - Adoption and application of best practices
  - Inform research through feedback to planning cycle
  - Inform, train, and engage purchasers and consumers
- Education:
  - Develop human capital through formal and non-formal education (*i.e.*, internships for college students; curriculum development; leadership training; staff development; youth development)