FY13 USDA AFRI Food Security

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadlines - April 20 or April 29, 2013  
Final Submission Deadline - July 17

In FY 2013, the AFRI Food Security program invites applications to address the following two priorities (see bottom of this e-mail for a heads-up on the FY14 and FY15 priorities):
1 - Reducing Crop and Livestock Losses; and
2 - Food Security Conference or Workshop.

Although associated with limited funding, I would especially encourage Workshop applications since the topics of interest (below) align well with CAES strategic directions and could position us favorably for future AFRI funding priorities.

Reducing Crop and Livestock Losses
Integrated grants for up to $1 million total for a project duration of up to 5 years. Mandatory LOI due 20 April.
In FY 2013, only proposals that focus on reducing crop and livestock losses in U.S. agricultural systems will be considered for funding. Proposed projects should develop and extend sustainable, integrated management strategies that reduce pre and post-harvest losses caused by diseases, insects, and weeds in crop and animal production systems, while maintaining or improving product quality and production efficiency. Proposals should aim to develop approaches for managing losses throughout the whole food system (production, harvesting, storage, processing, distribution, and consumption), and should address the social, economic, and behavioral aspects of food security. The proposed project is expected to begin showing impact before the end of the project's grant period and it must address threats to U.S. food security. Examples of key threats include the spread of herbicide resistant weeds and losses from newly introduced or emerging insects and diseases (including new biotypes). Strategies to prevent or reduce crop and livestock losses must include at least one of the following:
• Improved genetic lines, cultivars, or breeds for a single trait or combination of traits;
• Enhanced and innovative management practices; and/or
• New approaches for encouraging producers to adopt loss reduction strategies, including analysis of behavioral or economic incentives.

Food Security Conference or Workshop
Up to $50,000 for 1 year. LOI encouraged but not required (29 April deadline).
Proposals should be designed to further advance a systems or transdisciplinary perspective on food security. Food security conferences and workshops can also be used to develop the information, focus, and collaborative partnerships needed to respond to future food security challenge area RFAs. Potential conference/workshop topics include food systems, research gaps, knowledge exchange, technology and production, infrastructure, marketing and distribution, ecosystem services and land management, consumption, waste and loss, and cross-cutting issues such as behavioral and policy factors that contribute to food security, systems integration, and collaboration. Conferences and workshops should discuss a transdisciplinary, systems approach to scientific studies that identify and address elements of social, economic, and ecological aspects of food security. While all conference topics related to food security will be considered, priority will be given to conferences that will convene experts to discuss and evaluate cross-cutting scientific problems and provide answers to one or more of the following questions:
• How do we undertake, (and what would be included in) a meta-analysis of a food system?
• How do we create whole-landscape initiatives that seek to increase agricultural production, ensure food security, restore and sustain healthy ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and guarantee access of local people to water and other resources they need for health and prosperity?
• How to conduct transdisciplinary plant and animal production systems research?
• What are the food security implications of regional food systems compared to a national-scale food system? Assess these implications from a biological, economic, and environmental standpoint. Is food security best achieved by producing food locally, within regions, or by producing it in regions with comparative advantages and moving to other parts of the nation?
• How to develop genetic/genomic data management and database connectivity, bioinformatics, and
comparative genomic methodologies in plant and animal agriculture?
• How can existing genetic/genomic resources be better leveraged in the development of improved
  genetic lines, cultivars, or breeds?
• How should effective national and/or international plant and animal disease surveillance systems be
  created and managed?
• What is impact of incomplete pollination on yield potential and food security?
• How can we promote successful coexistence between conventional, transgenic and organic production
  systems through genetic strategies, management practices, social systems and producer cooperation?

Future anticipated priorities:
In FY 2014 – Emphasis is anticipated to address detection, diagnostics, prevention, and potential impacts
  of new and emerging diseases and pests of crops and livestock.
In FY 2015 – It is anticipated that attention will be given to food loss and waste, sustainable production,
  and food marketing systems.