

**The Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
Global Programs**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Cochran Fellowship Program**

NOTE: If you are going to apply for this funding opportunity and have not obtained a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and/or are not currently registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), please take immediate action to obtain a DUNS Number, if applicable, and then to register immediately in SAM at www.sam.gov. It may take 4 weeks or more after you submit your SAM registration before your registration is active in SAM. Detailed information regarding DUNS and SAM is also provided in Section D of this NOFO, subsection, Content and Form of Application Submission.

In addition to obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM, you must also obtain Level 2 eAuthentication to apply for this funding opportunity in ezFedGrants. You must submit an online form requesting access. Normally you will receive an email within 24 hours of your submission, if your request is approved. After this occurs, you will need to schedule an appointment with an LRA. Once you meet with the LRA, your Level 2 eAuthentication should be granted within 2 to 3 days after that meeting. See Section D of this NOFO for detailed information.

A. Program Description

Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of training activities for Cochran Fellowship Fellows.

BACKGROUND

Since 1984, the U.S. Congress has made funds available to the Cochran Fellowship Program for training agriculturalists from middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators working in agricultural trade and policy, agribusiness development, management, animal, plant, and food sciences, extension services, agricultural marketing, and many other areas. Individuals selected for Cochran trainings come from both the public and private sectors. All training occurs in the United States. Training programs are designed and organized in conjunction with U.S. universities, USDA and other government agencies, agribusinesses, and consultants. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. Since its start in 1984, the Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S.-based training for over 18,900 international participants from 126 countries worldwide.

OBJECTIVES

Training objectives must support the agricultural extension goals of the Cochran Fellowship Program to assist eligible countries to develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations and/or strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States by providing fellowships to individuals from eligible countries who specialize in agriculture for study in the United States.

In general, USDA will identify Fellows based on country-specific topics of importance to the international agricultural trading system and place them with U.S. institutions for 1-2 week intensive programs. These programs are expected to contribute to the strategic goals and objectives of the institutions through a hands-on experience in a “real-world” international trade scenario, providing an opportunity for application of research, extension, or teaching agendas. Host institutions will be able to share the knowledge gained through the program in their classroom and extension work with their faculty, students, extension officers, and constituents; and they will be able to continue to maintain professional contacts with the Fellows after their departure from the United States.

SCOPES (see Appendix for details)

- Overview of U.S. Beer, Wine, and Spirits for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda
- Introduction to U.S. Artisanal and Gourmet Cheese for Thailand
- Import/Export Documentation and Sanitary/Logistical Practices at U.S. Ports for Dominican Republic
- Regulatory Protocols on Import/Export Documentation and Sanitary/Logistical Practices for Malaysia
- Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Harmonization, European Union (EU) Alignment, and Pesticide Regulation for Turkey
- U.S. Wheat Promotion for Vietnam

Issued By

Foreign Agricultural Service, Global Programs, Fellowship Programs Division, Cochran Fellowship Program

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number and Title

10.962 Cochran Fellowship Program – International Training – Foreign Participant

Notice of Funding Opportunity Title

2021 Cochran Fellowship Program

NOFO Number

USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-21-0003

Authorizing Authority for Program

Section 1543 of the Agriculture Development and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S. Code 3293) as amended, and supported by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended.

Appropriation Authority for Program

Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (PL 111-8)

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Act, 2010 (PL 111-80)

Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (PL 112-10)

Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2012 (PL 112-55)

Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2013 (PL 113-6)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (PL 113-76)

Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2015 (PL 113-235)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (PL 114-113)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (PL 115-31)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (PL 115-141)

Award Type

New

B. Federal Award Information**Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions****Available Funding for the NOFO:**

\$900,000 total

Each award will be up to \$150,000

Estimated average cost per participant is \$9,500

Projected Number of Awards:

6

Number of Project Budget Periods:

1

Period of Performance:

1 year

Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): September 1, 2021

Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): August 30, 2022

The award period of performance will begin approximately September 1, 2021. However, the Implementer has up to one year from the beginning of the award to ensure the Fellows begin their fellowship. The Fellows will have up to 3 weeks to complete the assigned work. Once the Fellows complete the work, the institution must proceed with closing out the award.

Extensions are allowable, please see Section H. Additional Information to see how to request one should the need arise.

Cost Share or Match requirements: A cost match or cost share is not required.

Funding Instrument

USDA will enter into cost-reimbursable agreements under 7 USC § 3319a with selected recipients. Program staff will maintain involvement in the administration of the Cochran Fellowship Program.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

U.S. State Cooperative Institutions or other colleges and universities in the United States.

A single Principal Investigator (PI) may not host two groups of Fellows simultaneously. The PI must hold a position at an eligible U.S. institution.

Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must have an active registration in the SAM database at www.sam.gov – pending or expired registrants are not eligible. This requirement must be met by the closing date of the announcement and will not be waived. Please contact the program officer listed if you have questions about this requirement.

In addition to obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM, you must also obtain Level 2 eAuthentication to apply for this funding opportunity in ezFedGrants (eFG). You must submit an online form requesting access. Normally you will receive an email within 24 hours of your submission, if your request is approved. After this occurs, you will need to schedule an appointment with an LRA. Once you meet with the LRA, your Level 2 eAuthentication should be granted within 2 to 3 days after that meeting. See Section D of this NOFO for detailed information.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

MOE is not allowable.

Cost Share or Match requirements

Cost share or match is not required.

D. Application and Submission Information

Key Dates and Times

Application Start Date:	May 16, 2021
NOFO Posted Date:	May 16, 2021
Application Submission Deadline:	July 2, 2021 at 11:59PM EDT
Anticipated Funding Selection Date:	No later than August 31, 2021
Anticipated Award Date:	No later than September 1, 2021

Address to Request Application Package

This NOFO represents the full application information.

Applications will be processed through the ezFedGrants portal at <https://grants.fms.usda.gov> – prospective applicants are encouraged to register for this portal. Applicants that are unable to

access the ezFedGrants portal should contact the program manager for alternative submission instructions. Note that if selected, registration is a requirement of performance.

Content and Form of Application Submission

Institutions must be able to host multiple groups over the period of performance and should submit a proposal following the guidelines below:

Required forms and certifications, including:

- [Standard Form 424](#), signed by the applicant
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, when warranted.
- [Standard Form 424A](#). This should be accompanied by a detailed budget worksheet and a detailed budget narrative (NOTE: A budget narrative must be provided). All line items should be described in sufficient detail that would enable FAS to determine that the costs are reasonable and allowable for the project per federal regulations. Definitions of cost items are listed below.
 - a. **Personnel:** Costs of employee salaries and wages. For each staff person, provide the name (if known), title, time commitment to the project as a percentage of a full-time equivalent (FTE), annual salary, and grant funded salary. Do not include the costs of consultants. Consultants are to be included under “Contractual.”
 - b. **Fringe Benefits:** Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate. Provide the method used to calculate the proposed rate amount. If a fringe benefit has been negotiated with, or approved by, a cognizant federal agency, **attach a copy of the negotiated fringe benefit agreement**. If no rate agreement exists, provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, FICA, retirement insurance, taxes, etc. Identify the base for allocating these fringe benefit expenses. (Attach the agreement to the application package.) For foreign entities this may not apply.
 - c. **Travel:** Costs of project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization (do not include costs of sub-contractor or consultant travel). For each proposed trip, provide the purpose, number of travelers, travel origin and destination, number of days, and a breakdown of costs for airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals. The basis for the airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals must be provided, such as past trips, current quotations, Federal Travel Regulations, etc.
 - d. **Equipment:** Equipment is **not** an allowable expenditure for this award. Any article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5000.

NOTE: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, calibration and maintenance services, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation shall be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.
 - e. **Supplies:** Supplies are tangible personal property other than that included in the equipment category if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000,

regardless of the length of its useful life. Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information which supports the amount requested. A computing device is a supply.

- f. **Contractual**: Costs of all contracts for services and goods and subawards that further the work of the project. Sub-contractors, sub-awardees, and/or sub-grantees that do not perform technical work (i.e., landscapers, trash collectors, etc.) belong under other cost categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, other, etc.

Include third party evaluation contracts (if applicable) and contracts with secondary recipient organizations. Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. Identify proposed sub-contractor work and the cost of each sub-contractor. Provide a detailed budget for each sub-contractor that is expected to perform work estimated to be \$25,000 or more, or 50% of the total work effort, whichever is less.

- Identify each planned subcontractor and its total proposed budget. Each subcontractor's budget and supporting detail should be included as part of the applicant's budget narrative.
 - Provide the following information for each planned subcontract: a brief description of the work to be subcontracted; the number of quotes solicited and received, if applicable; the cost or price analysis performed by the applicant; names and addresses of the subcontractors tentatively selected and the basis for their selection; e.g., unique capabilities (for sole source subcontracts), low bidder, delivery schedule, technical competence; type of contract and estimated cost and fee or profit; and, affiliation with the applicant, if any.
 - All required flow down provisions in the award must be included in any subcontract.
- g. **Other Direct Costs**: Any other items proposed as direct costs. Provide an itemized list with costs, and state the basis for each proposed item.
- h. **Indirect Costs**: This will be a cost reimbursable agreement issued under 7 USC § 3319a. By statute, indirect cost rates for cost reimbursable agreements cannot exceed 10%.
- A project narrative that includes the following elements:
 - Indicate the name of the institution applying to host the fellow;
 - Indicate which of the two anticipated awards is applicable to the proposal
 - Provide a description of how the institution, if selected, will identify and recruit candidates, including any rubrics or existing contacts in the region, and including a reasonable timeline.
 - Provide an approach to achieve the objectives listed in each section, including topics to be covered, possible field visits and other activities;
 - A description of how the award, including the logistical elements, will be administered and the role of the university faculty and support staff;
 - A summary of relevant institutional capabilities for hosting international fellows in the applicable topic;

- A brief description of the expertise and international experience of the recipient in the group's field of interest and various countries;
- Demonstrated understanding of cultural context and needs of the trainees;
- The skills or knowledge expected to be acquired by the fellows at the end of the program;
- Means of flexibility to account for potential program changes and the ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances; this should include information on how unforeseen problems that can arise will be addressed.
- A quality assurance plan.

The SF-424 and SF-424A can be completed within the ezFedGrants platform. However, the other required forms must be downloaded from the Forms sections on Grants.gov or will be sent to you upon request to the program officer(s) named in Section G.

Please be aware that OMB Memorandum 18-24: Strategies to Reduce Grant Recipient Reporting Burden has been approved. Various required forms needed to apply for Federal Financial Assistance no longer need to be completed individually at time of application. They are covered in the Financial Assistance Certifications Report.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Financial Assistance Certifications are a common set of certifications and representations required by Federal statutes or regulations in accordance with the grants guidance under Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200.208 Certifications and Representations). Those non-Federal entities who intend to apply for, or are already recipients of Federal grants or agreements, must read and agree to the corresponding certifications and representations. Registrants who reply yes to the questions are required to keep these certifications and representations current, accurate, and complete as part of their entity registration.

FAS will verify in SAM.gov that the proper forms are completed, and if they have not been, you will be contacted and directed to do so. Your award will not be issued until the proper forms are completed within the SAM.gov portal.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov>) before submitting its application;
- (ii) Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

The Federal awarding agency may not make an award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

FAS is using ezFedGrants, which is an electronic grants management system. Applicant(s) with electronic access are required to submit their applications electronically through the ezFedGrants portal.

Before you can apply, you must have a DUNS number, be registered in SAM, and have access to the ezFedGrants website at <https://grants.fms.usda.gov>

Applicants are encouraged to register early. The registration process can take approximately four weeks to be completed. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines.

DUNS number. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at the following website: <http://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html>
The DUNS number must be included in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the Standard Forms (SF)-424 forms submitted as part of this application.

System for Award Management. In addition to having a DUNS number, applicants applying electronically through ezFedGrants must register with SAM. Step-by-step instructions for registering with SAM can be found here:

www.sam.gov

Failure to register with SAM will result in your application being rejected during the submissions process.

ezFedGrants System Access and Electronic Signature

Level 2 eAuthentication. The next step in the registration process is to obtain a Level 2 eAuthentication account that will allow access to the ezFedGrants system. Instructions for getting a Level 2 eAuthentication account can be obtained by emailing ezFedGrants-cfo@usda.gov

If you experience any issues with self-registration or have eAuthentication-related questions, please contact the eAuthenticationHelpDesk for assistance:
By email to eAuthHelpDesk@usda.gov

Requesting a role in ezFedGrants. After obtaining eAuthentication, users will need a role in the system. Descriptions of the roles available and instructions on how to request a role can be obtained by emailing ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov.

Electronic Signature. Applications submitted through ezFedGrants constitute a submission as electronically signed applications. When you submit the application through ezFedGrants, the name of your Signatory Official on file will be inserted into the signature line of the application.

If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions please email the Helpdesk at ezFedGrants-cfo@usda.gov.

Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicant(s) must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the State's process under Executive Order 12372 (<https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>) Name and addresses of the SPOCs are maintained at the Office of Management and Budget's home page at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf>

Funding Restrictions

Generally, funds may not be used in any manner that is prohibited by 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 400, or the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Compensation for personal services (whether classified as personnel, contractual services, or any other form) may not exceed the pro-rated equivalent of Step III of the Executive Schedule. For calendar year 2019, this is \$176,900 per year; \$680.38 per day; or \$85.05 per hour. Non-monetized fringe benefits are generally excluded from this ceiling, however, a federally-negotiated fringe benefits rate agreement may be required if fringe benefits appear to be unusually high.

FAS agreement funds may only be used for the purpose set forth in the award, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Agreement funds and non-monetary support may not be used for matching contributions for other federal grants or cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. Federal employees are prohibited from serving in any capacity (paid or unpaid) on any proposal submitted under this program. Federal employees may not receive funds under this award. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity.

These funds cannot be used for construction purposes, general purpose acquisitions (no particular scientific, technical, or programmatic purpose), equipment exceeding \$5,000 per item, entertainment, capital improvements, thank you gifts, or other expenses not directly related to the project

This will be a cost reimbursable agreement issued under 7 U.S.C. 3319a. Award recipient's indirect costs for cost reimbursable agreements are limited to 10% of direct costs.

Management and Administration (M&A) Costs:

M&A costs are not allowable.

Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs.

Indirect F&A costs means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefited without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. By statute, indirect costs for cost reimbursable agreements cannot exceed 10% of direct costs.

Other Submission Requirements

All applications must be submitted electronically as indicated above.

E. Application Review Information Application Evaluation Criteria

Prior to making a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore application evaluation criteria may include the following risk based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing federal award; (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

Technical Expertise and Experience (45 points)

Trainer must have appropriate technical background to provide the desired training. If necessary, other appropriate collaborating scientists should be identified to meet any of the objectives which the primary trainer cannot address. Trainer's experience and knowledge of relevant agricultural conditions within the Fellows' country(ies) or a similar location will be considered as appropriate. Also taken into account is the trainer's experience with international training and adult education.

Overall Program (40 points)

The overall program plan and design should be relevant to the specified training objectives and Fellows' backgrounds. The program plan should be thorough, well thought out, and will achieve the desired post-program deliverables. Relevant agricultural practices within the region of the university will be considered as appropriate. Relevant University resources should be identified. Additional resources/organizations should be identified as appropriate. Site visits and meetings should be meaningful to the content of the program. Overall Program will also be reviewed based on host institutions ability to demonstrate flexibility and their quality assurance plan.

Budget (15 points)

The proposed budget should be appropriate for the number of Fellows and length of the program. The budget should include appropriate cost savings where available and narrative should accompany each line item.

Quality (5 points)

The overall proposal will be reviewed for overall quality, ensuring that proposal is comprehensive, well thought-out and contains correct spelling and grammar.

Review and Selection Process

In all cases, the Program Manager will ensure application is submitted on time as specified in this announcement. Also, the Program Manager will ensure the organization is capable of delivering the program/activities as described in the announcement based on the applicant's project narrative.

FAS conducts a two-part application review process. The Agency conducts an initial review of applications to determine the responsiveness of the application. If an applicant is determined to be ineligible (see Section C. Eligibility Information) or an application is determined to be non-responsive, FAS will notify the applicant. All responsive and eligible applications will be reviewed as described below:

1. FAS will assemble reviewers which may include both federal and non-federal reviewers to review the eligible applications. Reviews of submitted applications will be conducted either on site or by remote review.
2. Technical reviewers will review each eligible application against the evaluation criteria. The reviewers will assign a score and provide summary comments based on the evaluation criteria identified above. Evaluation Criteria: the evaluation criteria must be directly related to key aspects of the project. The criteria must be measurable with an associated point range. It is a best practice, but not required, that the entire review criteria score range should be out of 100. From the scoring process, a recommendation list will be composed and sent to the FAS Administrator.
3. An application may be selected for a post-review quality control and possible rescoring if it received significantly diverging scores and comments from reviewers.
4. If necessary, a secondary application review process includes an internal review panel consisting of FAS staff, and the Administrator reviewing the recommendation list which will display the highest ranked applications. From this list this internal review panel will make final funding recommendations. The internal review panel may take applications out of rank order in consideration of strategic program priorities, which are identified below:
 - a. Geographic distribution
 - b. Incorporation of minority-serving institutions
 - c. Institutional capability to host foreign Fellows
 - d. Pre-existing relationships between the Fellow and an institution
5. FAS will perform an additional review of the applicant organization which may include reviewing any and/or its key personnel. This review will include reviewing audit reports, publicly available materials and/or government databases and may have a bearing on award outcome. FAS may request additional materials from the applicant as part of this review, including:

- The summary letter from the applicant's most recent audit report; and
 - Documentation of previous grant award completion that includes the name of the grantor, amount awarded, and whether the grant recipient sufficiently completed the requirements of the grant award (e.g., a final close-out report, certification of grant award completion, etc.)
6. After the technical review and before making final funding decisions, FAS may contact the highest-ranking applicants to seek clarification and to negotiate technical and programmatic aspects of the application. If an application includes a sub-awardee, FAS may request to speak with all parties included in the application to ensure sufficient planning and coordination has taken place prior to making an award.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

Technical and cost proposals submitted under this funding opportunity will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. FAS may use one or more support contractors in the logistical processing of proposals. However, funding recommendations and final award decisions are solely the responsibility of FAS personnel.

FAS screens all technical reviewers for potential conflicts of interest. To determine possible conflicts of interest, FAS requires potential reviewers to complete and sign conflicts of interest and nondisclosure forms. FAS will keep the names of submitting institutions and individuals as well as the substance of the applications confidential except to reviewers and FAS staff involved in the award process. FAS will destroy any unsuccessful applications after three years following the funding decision.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Notice of Award

Notice of award will be given to the institution via email. This email is not an authorization to begin performance. The notice of Federal award signed by the grants officer (or equivalent) is the authorizing document through electronic means. It should also indicate if there are any pass-through obligations that successful applicants are required to meet upon receiving award funds, including specific timeline requirements.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All successful applicants for all grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions for Federal Assistance Awards, which are attached to this NOFO and on the FAS website:

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/grants-and-cooperative-agreements-administrative-general-terms-and-conditions>

The applicable Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions will be for the last year specified at that URL, unless the application is to continue an award first awarded in an earlier year. In that event, the terms and conditions that apply will be those in effect for the year in which the award was originally made unless explicitly stated otherwise in subsequent mutually-agreed amendments to the award.

Before accepting the award, the Recipient should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under Federal Awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any Special Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.

Federal Financial Reporting Requirements

The Federal Financial Reporting Form (FFR), as known as the SF-425, must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the agreement. The required form is available online at: <https://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/149786>

Program Performance Reporting Requirements

Performance Progress Reporting must be filed within 90 days of the end of the agreement and should include details the activities undertaken and progress made.

Program Expectations

- Ensure that each Fellow completes the Cochran Training Program Evaluation; and
- Development of an Action Plan by each Fellow, in accordance with the Action Plan template. The Action Plan identifies goals and outlines specific steps or activities which each Fellow will perform upon return to their home country. An Action Plan generally includes steps, milestones, measures of progress, responsibilities, assignments, and timeline. The recipient shall provide a copy of each fellow's Action Plan to the Cochran Fellowship Program.
- A brief final report (format at the discretion of the recipient).
- A pre-training questionnaire to determine Fellows baseline knowledge of the learning objectives. (Template will be provided)
- A post-training questionnaire to determine the knowledge gained in each of the learning objectives. (Template will be provided)
- Analysis of the pre and post training questionnaire. (Template will be provided)

Performance Expectations:

- Provide a thumb drive of the training highlights to each Fellow and the Cochran Fellowship Program;
- Ensure that each Fellow completes the Cochran Training Program Evaluation (which will be provided);
- Development of an Action Plan by each Fellow. The Action Plan identifies goals and outlines specific steps or activities which each Fellow will perform upon return to home country. An Action Plan generally includes steps, milestones, measures of progress, responsibilities, assignments, and a timeline. The applicant shall provide a copy of each Fellow's Action Plan to the Cochran Fellowship Program.

- A brief final report (format at the discretion of the applicant).
- A pre-training questionnaire to determine Fellows' baseline knowledge of the learning objectives. (Template and examples shall be provided upon request)
- A post-training questionnaire to determine the knowledge gained in each of the learning objectives. (Template and examples shall be provided upon request)
- Analysis of the pre- and post-training questionnaire.
- Deliverables are due two weeks after the completion of each training.
- All transportation within the United States, from the point of arrival to the point of departure.
 - The host institution is not responsible for international airfare of participants
 - Please include baggage fees for any domestic flights
- Lodging accommodation, in single occupancy
- Fellows' subsistence (meals and/or per diem allowance, please add a \$5/day supplement for incidentals)
- Implementors should offer appropriate cross-cultural activities for the purpose of sharing language, culture, or history in accordance with J-1 Visa requirements.
- Please note all meetings with Federal Government offices or officials must be initiated by the Fellowship Programs team.

Government Furnished Items:

USDA FAS will provide Fellows with J-1 compliant Emergency Medical Insurance and arrange for DS-2019/J-1 visas for Fellows.

Monitoring

FAS through its authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. During site visits, FAS will review recipients' files related to the funded program.

As part of any monitoring and program evaluation activities, recipients must permit FAS, upon reasonable notice, to review related records and to interview the organization's staff and clients regarding the program, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to FAS requests for information relating to their program.

Close Out Reporting Requirements.

Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, or after an amendment has been issued to close out a grant, whichever comes first, recipients must submit a final FFR and final progress report detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance.

Acceptance of final reports by the agency constitutes a closeout of the award with no further notice or obligation to either party. This acceptance will indicate the period of performance has expired, and any remaining funds will be deobligated. Records must be retained for a minimum of three years after the final reports are submitted, as described in 2 CFR 200.333

The recipient is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawn down but remain as unliquidated on recipient financial records.

G. Awarding Agency Contact Information
Contact and Resource Information

For all general questions, contact:

Desiree Thomas; Director, Cochran Fellowship Program

Hours of operation: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

Telephone: (202) 690-0947

E-mail address: Desiree.Thomas@usda.gov

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Room 3239; Stop 1031

Washington, DC 20250-1031

Adam Carruthers; International Program Specialist

Hours of operation: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

Telephone: (202) 690-4310

E-mail address: Adam.Carruthers@usda.gov

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Room 3233; Stop 1031

Washington, DC 20250-1031

H. Additional Information

1. Extensions

Extensions to this program are allowed. Applicants may request a no-cost extension in order to complete all project activities. The request must be submitted 60 days prior to the expiration of the performance period. Requests for extensions are subject to approval.

2. Prior Approval

The Recipient shall not request reimbursement, incur costs or obligate funds for any purpose pertaining to the operation of the project, program, or activities prior to the approved Budget Period/Performance Period.

3. Budget Revisions

a. Transfers of funds between direct cost categories in the approved budget when such cumulative transfers among those direct cost categories exceed ten percent of the total budget approved in this Award require prior written approval.

b. The Recipient shall obtain prior written approval for any budget revision that would result in the need for additional resources/funds.

c. The Recipient is not authorized at any time to transfer amounts budgeted for direct costs to the indirect costs line item or vice versa, without prior written approval.

4. Post-award program income

In the event program income becomes available to the recipient post-award, it is the recipient's responsibility to notify the FAS Program Manager to explain how that development occurred, as

part of their request for guidance and/or approval. The Program Manager will review approval requests for program income on a case-by-case basis; approval is not automatic. Consistent with the policy and processes outlined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, pertinent guidance and options, as determined by the type of recipient and circumstances involved, may be approved by the Grant Officer. If approval is granted, an award modification will be issued with an explanatory note.

**Cochran Fellowship Program
Overview of U.S. Beer, Wine, and Spirits
for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda
Trade Shows Team**

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program's Trade Shows Team is requesting the design and delivery of a training program on Overview of U.S. Beer, Wine, and Spirits for six Fellows (total) from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

Kenya is an emerging middle-income country and has one of the best performing economies in sub-Saharan Africa. It serves as the commercial hub for East Africa, with coastal ports that allow for imports to be received and transported to landlocked neighbors. Kenya relies heavily on imported food and farm products, much of which the United States produces competitively. Kenya currently boasts a growing middle class, rapid modernization, and a progressive government, all which make it an opportune time to explore increased trade between the United States and Kenya. Kenya's growing middle class and its young and increasingly urban demographic has translated to a growing demand for diverse food and beverage products. Alcoholic beverages imports offer potential depending on the specific type of beverage. While the beer and wine imports have remained nearly flat over the past few years, imports of distilled spirits, primarily whiskeys, have almost doubled in value since 2012. The U.S. wine industry has identified Kenya as a top prospective market.

The training program should educate and introduce Fellows to the different types and quality of beer, wine, and spirits available in the U.S. and to build confidence in U.S. alcoholic beverage regulatory practices. The training program aims to expose foreign government and business personnel to the U.S. wine and alcoholic beverage industries and instill confidence in U.S. alcoholic beverage regulatory practices to encourage the development of reasonable/scientifically sound import regulations in participating countries. Knowledge on the part of suppliers helps better serve a varied customer base. Training topics should include production of beers and spirits, as well as different varieties of beers, wines, and spirits that will meet the tastes of these African markets. Fellows should also receive training on proper handling and storage (particularly with craft beers) and export regulations for these products. Fellows should visit U.S. craft beer breweries, distilleries, and vineyards allowing them to gain an understanding of the whole supply chain of these industries. In addition, there should be meetings with relevant associations including (but not limited to) the U.S. Brewers Association, Hop Growers of America, North American Export Grain Association, New York Wine and Grape Foundation, Northwest Wine Promotion Coalition, Wine Institute, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Wheat Associates, and/or the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. This training program should include attendance at a prominent trade show featuring U.S. beer, wines, and spirits prior to October 2020. A trade show allows exhibitors and buyers to develop profitable business relationships and helps Fellows encounter the latest products.

The objective of the program is to encourage the development of scientifically sound import regulations in participating countries through exposure to U.S. manufacturing standards, testing, certification, and labeling practices, and familiarize U.S. companies with the growing market for

imported U.S. beer, wine, and spirits in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The goal of this program is to increase the fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer will ensure that fellows increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- U.S. alcoholic beverage regulations
 - Standards
 - Labeling
 - Other technical Challenges
- Craft beer formulation
 - Ingredients/raw materials
 - High quality and various varieties of hops, barley, malts
 - Organic hops and pellets, and hops extracts
 - Ingredients available for export to East Africa
- Craft beer production management and best practices
 - Quality, flavor techniques, flavor profiles
 - Quality control
 - Canning or bottling, malting
 - Packaging/ Labeling
 - Storage, shelf life
 - Hops and barley farms, malters, brewery facilities, ingredient suppliers
- U.S. wine production
 - U.S. wine regions and grape varieties
 - Production inputs
 - Sustainable/organic viticulture
 - Quality standards
 - New technologies, innovation
 - Locally produced oak barrels and casks
 - Site visits to vineyards, manufacturing facilities, retail markets, and restaurants featuring quality U.S. wine
- U.S. distilled spirits
 - a. Bourbons and U.S. whiskeys, other U.S. spirits (particularly the different quality levels of bourbon, even from the same company/location)
 - b. Blending, maturation, and warehousing
 - c. Crossover techniques in blending, such as borrowing from one tradition to the other to create something new
- Meetings with relevant associations
 - a. Including (but not limited to): U.S. Brewers Association, Hop Growers of America, North American Export Grain Association, New York Wine and Grape Foundation,

Northwest Wine Promotion Coalition, Wine Institute, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Wheat Associates, and/or the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The consecutive two-week program should take place before December 30, 2021 and include attendance at a prominent trade show featuring U.S. beer, wines, and spirits.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

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Sha’Ron Carter-El, International Program Specialist
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**Cochran Fellowship Program
Introduction to U.S. Artisanal and Gourmet Cheese
for Thailand
Trade Shows Team**

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program's Trade Shows Team is requesting the design and delivery of a training program on Introduction to U.S. Artisan and Gourmet Cheese for seven Fellows from Thailand.

This training program should introduce Thai retailers to the quality and variety of U.S. artisanal and gourmet cheeses. Cheese imports into Thailand have grown quickly and significantly in recent years due to growth in the food service industry and increased usage of cheese as an ingredient in baked goods, ready-to-eat foods, and snacks. Thailand's economic growth has led to an emerging middle class who has a growing demand for dairy products such as processed cheese. As food service, food processing, and retail segments are quickly expanding in Thailand along with its dynamic tourism sector, food consumption habits are rapidly evolving. This presents an opportunity for U.S. artisanal and gourmet cheese manufacturers, companies, and distributors to expand their market into Thailand.

This training program should educate Fellows on specialty and premium U.S. cheeses along with other premium and unique U.S. food products. The training program should include interactive classroom discussions, demonstrations, tasting sessions, farm visits, and most importantly, meetings with U.S. artisanal and specialty cheese companies who are willing and ready to export their products to Thailand. Fellows should be provided with a whole-system perspective on cheesemaking beginning on the farm with dairy production and milk quality, then diving into the science and art of cheesemaking through knowledge of milk composition and microbiology combined with good sanitation practices to form the foundation for the consistent manufacture of high-quality cheese. Fellows should also be taught promotion and presentation strategies for specialty cheeses in the food service and retail markets so they may be able to successfully market these products to the Thai consumer. FAS envisions that this program will include attendance at a widely attended specialty food trade show to be proposed by the applicant; an example of such a show is the Summer Fancy Food Show in New York, NY June 28-30, 2020.

The objective of the program is to increase the market share of U.S. artisanal and gourmet cheese in Thailand. The goal of this program is to increase the Fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer shall ensure that the Fellows increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- Overview on the science and art of cheesemaking
 - Materials used for cheesemaking
 - Techniques of cheesemaking
 - Sensory evaluations
 - Food safety principles

- Quality and variety of U.S. cheeses
- Management of inventory, transportation, and logistics for cheese
- Cultural legacy of cheese in the U.S.
- Food and beverage pairings with cheese
- Marketing and merchandising strategies for U.S. cheese in Thailand
 - 4 P's (Product, Promotion, Place, and Price)
 - Designing and implementing promotional activities for U.S. cheese in Thailand
 - Educating Thai consumers on artisanal and gourmet U.S. cheese and its uses
 - Innovative use of digital media tools (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, blogging, cooking shows, television segments, etc.) to build communities of consumers passionate about U.S. wine and cheese culture
 - Key factors, aside from taste, of successful marketing and selling of artisanal and gourmet cheeses
- Site visits to farms, cheese manufacturing facilities, labs, and retail markets in prominent U.S. cheese producing states such as California, Wisconsin, and/or New York.
- Site visits to trendy retail stores, specialty cheese stores and restaurants and meetings with marketing executives of these stores for idea exchange and success story learning.
- Meetings with U.S. cheese producers, companies, and distributors.
- Meetings and/or collaboration with California Milk Advisory Board and U.S. Dairy Export Council
- Meeting with prominent American food bloggers and influencers who work with and/or market U.S. artisanal and gourmet cheeses.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

FAS envisions that this consecutive two-week training program will include attendance at a widely attended specialty food trade show to be proposed by the applicant; an example of such a show is the Summer Fancy Food Show.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

Tashon Herndon, International Program Specialist
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 Telephone: (202) 690-2456
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Cochran Fellowship Program
Import/Export Documentation and Sanitary/Logistical Practices at U.S. Ports
for Dominican Republic
WTO, SPS, and TBT Team

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program's WTO, SPS, and TBT Team is requesting the design and delivery of a U.S. import and export documentation and inspection processes program for seven Fellows from the Dominican Republic. The Fellows are from Dominican government ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Health, Customs, and Exporters.

This program should provide an in-depth understanding of how agricultural goods and food products are handled by U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon arrival into the United States. This program should also clarify requirements associated with the importation into the United States of agricultural goods and generate dialogue for necessary improvements on the Dominican side to expedite access to U.S. markets.

To maximize participant learning, this program should include visit(s) to an airport and seaport in order to see firsthand port operations processes and compliance with regulations. Please note that all Fellows' visiting U.S. government port facilities are subject to lengthy clearance processes required to visit (up to approximately 120 days vetting process). The training should also include meetings with U.S.-government competent authorities and other relevant agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Codex Office, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Federal Grain inspection Service (FGIS). [Note: USDA FAS staff will be responsible for arranging all meetings with U.S. government agencies unless otherwise specified after selection of the implementing organization; this includes the requirement to have all fellows vetted by DHS CBP for visits to all ports].

Proposing implementers are encouraged to include activities and tabletop exercises that will provide Fellows with the opportunity for hands-on demonstration/practice of applying the skills and knowledge learned in the training program.

The objective of the program is to strengthen the Fellows' knowledge of U.S. inspection processes on imported and exported products, evidence-based inspection systems that appropriately address the sanitary and phytosanitary risks associated with food and agricultural products. The training program's goal is to enhance market development and Fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and harmonization of international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer shall ensure that the Fellows increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- Design of risk-based systems for imports and exports
 - Sampling rates and thresholds
 - Risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication
 - Pest Risk Assessment
 - Traceability and recall management

- Mechanisms for review to make the system dynamic
 - Feedback channels for future policymaking
 - Setting standards for new products
- U.S. import and export inspection procedures and processes
 - Roles and responsibilities of U.S. agencies involved in import and export processes of food and agricultural products (CBP, APHIS, FSIS, FDA)
 - Coordination of government agencies in inspections and port operations
 - Training of agricultural port inspectors
 - Overview of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations governing the import and export of food products (including national treatment and SPS and food safety certification of export shipments)
 - Customs clearance process for live animals, food, and agricultural products
 - Import control measures for live animals and food and agricultural products of plant and animal origin
 - Animal health inspection and animal products inspection
 - Import and export procedures for food
 - Animal and plant quarantine processes and management, including animal disease detection
 - Import and export certificates
 - Plant and animal certificate requirements and related documentation and processes
 - Risk analysis and science-based sampling approaches to passenger inspection at airports and seaports
 - Laboratory testing at ports
 - Private sector compliance with import/export processes and requirements
- U.S. food safety regulations
 - Overview of food safety laws and implementation and roles of regulatory authorities (FDA, FSIS, state-level food safety authorities)
 - The importance of science-based approaches to developing and setting food safety regulations
 - Food Safety Modernization act overview and implementation, including the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs
 - Private sector involvement in complying with food safety regulations
 - Safety of U.S. agricultural/food products from farm to fork including plant and animal products (ex/ grains, pork or poultry, fruits and vegetables)
 - Food quality and the role of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in mandatory and voluntary standards
- Trade Facilitation
 - Private sector role
 - Port authority
 - Large exporters

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Training will be from 1-2 consecutive weeks at the discretion of the applicant. Ideally the activity would take place in December 2021 depending on the type of program and availability of Fellows and applicant.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

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Cochran Fellowship Program
Regulatory Protocols on Import/Export Documentation and Sanitary/Logistical Practices
for Malaysia
WTO, SPS, and TBT Team

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program's WTO, SPS, and TBT Team is requesting the design and delivery of a training program on Regulatory Protocols on Import and Export Documentation and Sanitary and Logistical Practices for seven Fellows and one Locally-Employed Staff (LES) member from Malaysia for a total of eight participants. The Fellows are officials from the Malaysian government. [Note: The LES will pay for their hotel room, any domestic flights and meals/incidentals directly. The University should include any costs related to training fees, local ground transportations, etc. for the LES].

This program should provide Fellows with an in-depth understanding of U.S. government regulatory protocols on import and export documentation and certification for food and agricultural products, as well as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) practices related to traceability. This program will increase understanding of the government of Malaysia on U.S. regulations and practices so Malaysia can adopt a similar system, particularly around traceability of imported agricultural food products and prevention of and response to disease outbreaks related to international trade of agricultural goods (particularly grains, meat products, dairy products, and fresh produce).

This program should increase understanding of how agricultural goods and food products are handled by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and other government agencies when arriving to the United States. This program will clarify requirements associated with the importation into the United States of agricultural goods and generate dialogue for necessary improvements related to access to U.S. markets. The training program should cover risk mitigation and control of foodborne disease contamination and outbreaks, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Training providers are encouraged to include site visits to producer groups and processing facilities (grains, meat products, dairy products, and fresh produce) that can provide firsthand experience on the implementation of U.S. food safety policies through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) codes and audits as well as compliance with FSMA.

To maximize participant learning, this program should include visit(s) to an airport and seaport in order to see firsthand port operations processes and compliance with regulations. Please note that all Fellows' visiting U.S. government port facilities are subject to lengthy clearance processes required to visit (approximately 120 days vetting process). The training should also include meetings with U.S.-government competent authorities and other relevant agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Codex Office, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). [Note: USDA FAS staff will be responsible for arranging all meetings with U.S. government agencies unless otherwise specified after selection of the implementing organization; this includes the requirement to have all fellows vetted by DHS CBP for visits to all ports].

The objective of the program is to increase Fellows' technical knowledge of the U.S. food safety regulations and USDA's implementation of rigorous SPS measures for imports and exports of U.S. agricultural products. The training program's goal is to enhance market development and Fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and harmonization of international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer shall ensure that the Fellows increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- Design of risk-based systems for imports and exports
 - Sampling rates and thresholds
 - Risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication
 - Pest Risk Assessment
 - Traceability and recall management
 - Mechanisms for review to make the system dynamic
 - Feedback channels for future policy-making
 - Setting standards for new products
- U.S. import and export inspection procedures and processes
 - Roles and responsibilities of U.S. agencies involved in import and export processes of food and agricultural products (CBP, APHIS, FSIS, FDA)
 - Coordination of government agencies in inspections and port operations
 - Training of agricultural port inspectors
 - Overview of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations governing the import and export of food products (including national treatment and SPS and food safety certification of export shipments)
 - Customs clearance process for live animals, food, and agricultural products
 - Import control measures for live animals and food and agricultural products of plant and animal origin
 - Animal health inspection and animal products inspection
 - Import and export procedures for food
 - Animal and plant quarantine processes and management, including animal disease detection
 - Import and export certificates
 - Plant and animal certificate requirements and related documentation and processes
 - Risk analysis and science-based sampling approaches to passenger inspection at airports and seaports
 - Laboratory testing at ports
 - Private sector compliance with import/export processes and requirements
- U.S. food safety regulations
 - Overview of food safety laws and implementation and roles of regulatory authorities (FDA, FSIS, state-level food safety authorities)
 - The importance of science-based approaches to developing and setting food safety regulations

- Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) overview and implementation, including the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs
- Private sector involvement in complying with food safety regulations
- Safety of U.S. agricultural/food products from farm to fork including plant and animal products (ex/ grains, pork or poultry, fruits and vegetables)
- Food quality and the role of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in mandatory and voluntary standards
- Trade Facilitation
 - Private sector role
 - Port authority

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Training will be from 1-2 consecutive weeks at the discretion of the applicant. Ideally the activity would take place in December 2021 depending on the type of program and availability of Fellows and applicant.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

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**Cochran Fellowship Program
Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Harmonization,
European Union (EU) Alignment, and Pesticide Regulation for Turkey
WTO, SPS, and TBT Team**

Team-specific Objectives

The Cochran Fellowship Program's WTO, SPS, and TBT Team is requesting the design and delivery of a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Harmonization, European Union (EU) Alignment, and Pesticide Regulation program for six Fellows from Turkey.

This training program should provide Turkish regulatory officials with an in-depth understanding of the how pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) are established, registered, monitored and enforced by Regulatory authorities in the United States which uses a science and risk-based approach.

The training should emphasize the importance of science-based decision making for trade decisions and standard setting based on international standards. The European Union has been encouraging adoption of its precautionary principle and hazard-based regulations worldwide, particularly in countries that seek to export to their market. Fellows' clear understanding and acceptance of risk assessment and risk management systems is imperative to maintaining regulatory consistency worldwide. Proposing implementers are encouraged to include activities and tabletop exercises that will provide Fellows with the opportunity for hands-on demonstration/practice of applying the skills and knowledge learned in the training program. If possible, the proposed program should also include, the fellow's participation in the Annual MRL Harmonization Workshop. Participation in this meeting aims to help Turkish regulators gain a more global perspective as they proceed with their regulation development.

Following the Workshop, Turkish staff would visit Washington, D.C. for meetings to learn about the process of pesticide registration, relationships between relevant U.S. government regulators (including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Data Monitoring Program (PDP)), best practices in pesticide monitoring and enforcement, and the role of international standards (i.e., Codex Alimentarius standards) in aligning with international trade requirements under the World Trade Organization (WTO) in MRL-setting. [Note: USDA FAS staff will be responsible for arranging all meetings with U.S. government agencies unless otherwise specified after selection of the implementing organization].

The objective of this program is to educate Fellows on the regulation of pesticides within the U.S. and build confidence in the export of food products and agricultural goods. The training program's goal is to enhance market development and Fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and harmonization of international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer will ensure that the Fellows increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- SPS and TBT agreements
 - a. General overview of SPS and TBT Agreements and the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
 - b. Experience applying the agreements
 - c. Preventing and responding to technical barriers to trade
 - d. Coordination of SPS notifications
 - e. SPS risk assessment
- Overview of the International Standard Setting Bodies
 - a. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the benefits of compliance
 - b. International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)
 - c. World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
 - d. Codex Alimentarius (Codex)
- Overview of U.S. regulators and other departments/agencies involved in U.S. Trade and Food Safety Regulations (FDA, APHIS, FSIS, and EPA; Enquiry Points)
 - a. Coordination/communication/correlation between institutions that work with SPS and TBT measures
 - b. Legal framework
 - c. Guidelines and standards
 - d. Inspection systems
 - e. Negotiations
- Overview of U.S. SPS surveillance, food safety, risk management and pest risk analysis
 - a. Including regulated pest list, admissibility and quarantine protocols
 - b. Analytical techniques for SPS risk assessment
 - c. Pesticide monitoring programs (USDA AMS PDP)
- Regulations for import/export and understanding market access
 - a. How international trade measures are applied and methods/measure for regulating food imports to protect domestic agriculture while adhering to WTO commitments
 - b. U.S. customs enforcement of trade facilitation; expediting perishable cargo, percentage of total inspected cargo and cold chain maintenance
 - c. Technical requirements for access to markets
 - d. Requirements for export certificates of agricultural products at federal and state levels
 - e. Information systems for companies including online submission systems and electronic signatures
 - f. Sampling and inspection of imports and exports.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Training will be from 1-2 consecutive weeks at the discretion of the applicant. Ideally the activity would occur in prior to December 2021 depending on the type of program and availability of Fellows and applicant.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

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Statement of Work
Cochran Fellowship Program for Vietnam – U.S. Wheat Promotion
Asia Team

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program's Asia Team requests the design and delivery of a training program for up to 8 Fellows and 1 Locally Employed Staff from Vietnam. Fellows will be representatives of Vietnamese industry.

This program will increase Fellows' understanding of the U.S. wheat industry and supply chains. Fellows will learn about wheat breeding programs for the various classes (HRS, HRW, SW, and White Club), and wheat grading and classification at inland points. The program should include site visits that illuminate inland freight movement by truck, rail, and barge, as well as grain handling and storage, including Unit Trains of varying sizes to move high volumes of commodities. To help fellows learn about applications of U.S. wheat, the trainer should arrange visits to flour mills and baking establishments. Fellows will ideally meet with industry actors, which could include producers, exporters, and institutions such as North Dakota State University Northern Crops Institute, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, U.S. Wheat Associates, Washington State University, North Dakota Flour Mill, Federal Grain Inspection Service, and the Wheat Marketing Center (Portland, Oregon). Fellows will benefit from visiting with grain export handlers and export facilities.

The objective of this program is to expose Vietnamese millers to U.S. wheat, its quality and applications, and how U.S. industry and government coordinate on phytosanitary inspections. The goal of this program is to increase the Fellows' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Training providers will ensure that Fellows increase their knowledge in the topics below:

- Varieties of U.S. wheat, its quality and applications
- U.S. industry and government coordination on phytosanitary inspections

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Training will be from 1-2 consecutive weeks at the discretion of the applicant.

For all general questions and proposal submission, contact:

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