A. Program Description

Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities
The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of training programs for Multiple Topics for the Asia Region during Fiscal Year 2018.

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 18,000 international participants from 126 countries worldwide.

Objectives
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 2-3 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 and 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.

Cochran fellows may be identified in any of the topics listed below:

(A) China – Fresh Fruit (non-citrus) Supply Chain Management
(B) China – Overview of U.S. Animal Biotechnology
(C) Pakistan – Soybeans and Dry Distiller Grains Processing
(D) Myanmar (Burma) – Risk-Based Port Inspection and Regulation
(E) India – Overview of Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety
(F) Thailand and Laos – Overview of U.S. Agricultural Policies and Regulations
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE
Training will be from 1-3 consecutive weeks on the discretion of the applicant. Ideally the program would be implemented before or on October 31, 2018 depending on the type of program and availability of Fellows and applicant.

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE
- The host institution shall propose the place(s) of performance in their Technical Proposal, which must be in the United States.
- The host institution will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses.

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, 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 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. (a template will be provided upon request)
- A post-training questionnaire to determine the knowledge gained in each of the learning objectives. (A template will be provided upon request)
- Analysis of the pre and post training questionnaire.
- Deliverables are due two weeks after the completion of each training.

Government furnished items:
- Emergency Medical Insurance
- Certificates of Eligibility for J-1 visas

Issued By
Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Capacity Building & Development, Trade & Scientific Exchanges 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
Cochran Fellowship Program

NOFO Numbers
- China – Fresh Fruit (non-citrus) Supply Chain Management
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0036
• China – Overview of U.S. Animal Biotechnology  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0037  
• Pakistan – Soybeans and Dry Distiller Grains Processing  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0038  
• Myanmar (Burma) – Risk-Based Port Inspection and Regulation  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0042  
• India – Overview of Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0043  
• Thailand and Laos – Overview of U.S. Agricultural Policies and Regulations  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0044  
• Vietnam – Maximum Residue Limits  
  USDA-FAS-10962-0700-10.-18-0045  

Authorizing Authority for Program  
The legislative authority for the Cochran Fellowship Program is provided in Section 1543 of the Agriculture Development and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S. Code 3293) as amended in 1996 and supported by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended.

Appropriation Authority for Program  
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (PL 115-31)

Program Type  
New

B. Federal Award Information  
Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions

Available Funding for the NOFO:  
Award will be funded at $6,000-$9,000 per Fellow depending on program type and agenda.

Projected number of Awards:  
7

Number of Project Budget Periods:  
1

Period of Performance:  
3 months

Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s):  
Subject to the availability of implementer and Fellows.

Projected Period of Performance End Date(s):  
3 months from start of agreement.

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

Pre-Award costs: Not Allowable

Cost Share or Match requirements: A cost match or cost share is not required.
Funding Instrument
USDA will enter into a cost reimbursable agreement under 7 USC 3319a with selected universities. Program staff will maintain involvement in the administration of the Cochran Fellowship Program.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants
Proposals may be received from U.S. State Cooperative Institutions or other colleges and universities and minority serving institutions (MSIs).

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.

D. Application and Submission Information

Key Dates and Times

Application Start Date: June 20, 2018
NOFO Posted Date: June 20, 2018
Application Submission Deadline: July 11, 2018 at 11:59 EDT
Anticipated Funding Selection Date: Approximately 3-4 weeks after selection
Anticipated Award Date: Approximately 3-4 weeks after selection

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:
  - SF-424 version 2.1, with an OMB Expiration Date of 10/31/2019
  - SF-424A version 1.0, revised July 1997. 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. An example budget narrative is included in the appendix, but is not required.
  - SF-LLL, revised February 1997, if the projected budget exceeds $100,000.
  - AD-3030, revised February 2016
  - AD-3031, revised February 2016
- Indicate the name of the institution applying to host the groups;
- Indicate the training topic;
- Provide a tentative training plan based on the training interests listed in the statement of work, including topics to be covered, possible field visits and other activities;
- Please include a narrative description of the proposed training, how it will be administered and the role of the university faculty and support staff;
- Provide a summary of relevant institutional capabilities for hosting international Fellows in;
- Briefly describe the expertise and international experience of the trainer in the group’s field of interest and various countries;
- Demonstrate understanding of cultural context and needs of the trainees;
- Identify the expected skills or knowledge to be acquired by the Fellows at the end of the program;
- Briefly demonstrate flexibility in training plan to account for potential program changes and the ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances;
- Include a quality assurance plan. This should include information on how unforeseen problems that can arise will be addressed;
- Complete a budget using Standard Form 424A, Budget Information Non Construction Programs, along with a detailed budget and budget narrative. 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

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. The Certification regarding Lobbying and the Grants and Agreement Coversheet will be sent to you along with this NOFO.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)
The link below provides information on 2 CFR §25.110. Please read.
FAS is using ezFedGrants to post NOFO’s and issue agreements, which is an electronic grants management system. Applicant(s) with electronic access are to submit their applications electronically through:

https://grants.fms.usda.gov

Before you can apply, you must have a DUNS number, be registered in SAM, and have access to the ezFedGrants website).

**Applicants are encouraged to register early. Due to recent changes in the SAM platform, the registration process can take 6-8 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](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.

You may also request Level 2 eAuthentication online at: https://www.eauth.usda.gov/MainPages/index.aspx

If you experience any issues with self-registration or have eAuthentication-related questions, please contact the eAuthenticationHelpDesk for assistance: By email to eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.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
You may also go into the link below for instructions on requesting eFG access. The document is called “External Portal Access Request Submission”.

https://www2.nfc.usda.gov/FSS/Training/Online/ezFedGrants/access_user_roles.php

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.

The Federal awarding agency may not make a Federal 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.

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 (see http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/rgeo12372.pdf). Name and addresses of the SPOCs are maintained at the Office of Management and Budget’s home page at:


Funding Restrictions
This will be a cost reimbursable agreement issued under 7 U.S.C. 3319a. University indirect costs for cost reimbursable agreements are limited to 10% of direct costs.

Allowable Costs:
To help in this review, and expedite the award process, budgets must include a detailed budget narrative explaining all line item costs. The categories listed below are examples of some of the more common items found in project budgets. All items should be described in sufficient detail that would enable FAS to determine that costs are reasonable and allowable for the project per federal regulations.

1. Salaries and Fringe Benefits:
Requested funds may be allocated toward salaries, fringe benefits, or the combination thereof. Only individuals that hold positions at eligible U.S. institutions should be listed in this category.

2. Travel:
For domestic travel, provide the purpose of the travel and information used in calculating the estimated cost, such as the destination, number of travelers, and estimated cost per trip. There are several restrictions associated with traveling on federal funds. In most cases, airfare must be purchased in economy class from a U.S. carrier. Travelers must
also adhere to federally mandated domestic per diem guidelines. Additional information may be found in the “Legislative Authority” section of this announcement.

3. Supplies:
All personal property excluding equipment, intangible property, and debt instruments as defined in this section.

4. Other Direct Costs:
Other Direct Costs are those anticipated charges not included in other budget categories, including materials and supplies, lab fees, publication costs, reasonable consultant fees, computer services, sub-awards (the level of detail required for the sub-award budget is the same as the recipient organization), equipment rental, facility rental, conferences and meetings, speaker fees, or honorariums.

5. Indirect Costs:
Indirect Costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs (7 USC 3319a).

Unallowable Costs:
General purpose equipment (no particular scientific, technical, or programmatic purpose) and scientific equipment exceeding $5,000 or more; entertainment; capital improvements; thank you gifts, and other expenses not directly related to the project are not allowed.

“Please note, Cochran Fellows (as trainees, not students) are considered EXEMPT INDIVIDUALS under the IRS Substantial Presence Test for tax purposes. The exemption falls under one or both of the following categories: either the Foreign Government-Related Individuals standard or the Closer Connection Exception. The only requirement is to complete IRS Form 8843 (Sections 1 and 2). These funds are for federal financial assistance, as such no taxes should be withheld from Cochran Fellows since they are exempt.”

Management and Administration (M&A) Costs:
M&A costs are not allowable.

Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs.
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 (50 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 (25 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.

Qualified applications will be referred to a panel of 2-3 program staff and/or technical experts, and adjudicated among the criteria described above. In general, the highest-rated proposal will be selected, however, FAS may occasionally select out of score order for policy reasons, such as geographic distribution, incorporation of minority-serving institutions, past experience, etc.

   i. Prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold as defined by 48 CFR § 2.101, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS).

   ii. An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.
iii. will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant’s integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

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
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, which are available online at:

https://www.fas.usda.gov/grants/general_terms_and_conditions/default.asp

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.

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.

Reporting
**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.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html#sortby=1

At the top of the website select **FORMS**, and from the drop down box select **POST AWARD REPORTING FORMS**.

**Program Performance Reporting Requirements.**
Performance Progress Reporting must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the agreement, and should include details the activities undertaken and progress made during the reporting period.

**Program Performance Requirements.**
- 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)

**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.

After these reports have been reviewed and approved by OCBD, a close-out notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be de-obligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for three years from the date of the final FFR.

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; Cochran Fellowship Program Branch Chief
Hours of operation: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time
Telephone: (202) 690-0947
E-mail address: Desiree.Thomas@fas.usda.gov
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 by FAS.

2. Prior Approval
The Recipient shall not, without the prior written approval of the FAS Program Manager, 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 by the FAS Program Manager.

b. The Recipient shall obtain prior written approval from the FAS Program Manager 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 of the FAS Program Manager.
Statement of Work

Fresh Fruit (non-citrus) Supply Chain Management

China

Scope of Work
The Cochran Fellowship Program’s Asia region is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for six (6) Fellows and one (1) locally employed staff (LES) – total of seven (7) participants – from China. The Fellows are all in the fresh fruit business or retail business. The program should teach the team about the high-quality of U.S. fruit products in China. The team is interested in learning about fruit farm technologies and management operations including harvesting machinery, packaging used, the seasoning of various fruits, and international trade practices and policies related to fruit products. The program should also emphasize supply chain management and the food safety of U.S. food products from farm to fork. It is suggested that fellows also learn about the cold-chain for transporting perishable products. The Fellows should visit with relevant federal and state regulatory entities, USDA cooperators, various U.S. fruit associations, orchards, fruit packing houses, fruit suppliers and exporters, a university or institution involved in processing, and retail stores in California and Washington State. If feasible, it would be valuable for the Fellows to visit an international trade show such as the PMA annual show. The objective of the program is to educate Fellows on U.S. fresh fruits supply chain and distribution system; in particular for apples, cherries, citrus, table grapes, strawberries, avocado, and blueberries.

Learning Objectives
The trainer will ensure that Fellows develop competencies in the following areas. In your proposal, please clearly identify which learning objective(s) is addressed in each of your proposed activities.

- **U.S. fruit production and processing**
  - Managing fruit farming operations (e.g., breeding, reasonability, harvesting)
  - Learn about U.S. fruits and specialty fruits (e.g., apple, citrus, table grapes, strawberries, avocado, blueberry)
  - Pretreatment, grading, sorting, storage, packaging, processing, and logistic technology of fruit
  - Decay management of fruit
  - Cold chain facility management and temperature control

- **U.S. marketing of fruits**
  - History of fruit in U.S.
  - Marketing of fruit (e.g., health products, targeting specific age groups)
  - International trade (practices and policies)
  - Research and development of fruit
  - Role and function of associations in the U.S.
  - New technology application in fruit industry
  - Retail marketing
  - Digital marketing
  - Meeting with fruit associations

- **Safety of U.S. agricultural/food products from farm to fork**
  - Processing, packaging, grading techniques, and transportation of U.S. fruit products
  - Quality assurance measures
  - Certificates of origin and health (traceability)

Period of Performance
Suggested 12-15 days, preferable in summer or match with the Produce Marketing Association’s Fresh Summit Conference and Expo in the U.S. in October.
Statement of Work
Overview of U.S. Animal Biotechnology
China

Scope of Work
The Cochran Fellowship Program’s Asia region requests the design and delivery of a training program for six (6) to eight (8) Fellows and one (1) locally employed staff (LES) – total of seven (7) to nine (9) participants – from China.

The objective of the program is to educate leading Chinese professionals from the research, academic, and industry sectors on U.S. animal biotechnology practices in the areas of disease resistance, production traits (genetics), vet drugs, and other applications of biotechnology for animal breeding and production. The training should provide an understanding of how biotechnology is regulated in the United States and also the process of approving the use of biotechnology events, vet drugs, and other applications. The training should include visits with major research institutes and leading academic professors, U.S. Government departments (e.g., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration), as well as related biotech companies. The program should also emphasize how consumers in the United States perceive the use of biotechnology and steps taken at the state and federal level to educate consumers on and make consumers aware of the use of biotechnology. As requested by the participants, the training should give extra attention to breeding and gene editing.

After discussion with the appropriate U.S. industry, the requesting office has obtained suggestions for trainings and seminars, one of which was the Large Animal Genetic Engineering (LAGE) summit that will take place from June 3-6 in Utah. If the fellows are not able to attend the LAGE summit, the program should include a visit to a similar seminar.

Additionally, Fellows should visit and observe breeding farms where biotechnology is used to better understand application. Better understanding of U.S. biotechnology procedures and techniques, as well as understanding of the development, enforcement, and compliance of U.S. biotechnology, will enhance eastern and central Chinese professionals’ confidence and understanding of U.S. biotechnology systems. The objective of the program is to demonstrate the effectiveness and sophistication of U.S. animal biotechnology and encourage further understanding of international biotechnology standards. By educating the appropriate Chinese professionals on these, the goal of the program is to facilitate greater dialogue and understanding of the United States use of biotechnology.

Learning Objectives
The trainer will ensure that Fellows develop competencies in the following areas. In your proposal, please clearly identify which learning objective(s) is addressed in each of your proposed activities.

- U.S. animal biotechnology laws and regulations (FDA, CBP, APHIS, FSIS)
  - Risk analysis
  - Approval process
  - Risk management and food safety (exports and imports)
  - How the U.S. implements labeling requirements
  - Coordination between agencies

- U.S. animal biotechnology application
  - Breeding techniques
Use and application of animal health products

- Safety of U.S. agricultural/food products
  - Animal disease control
  - Use of hormones in animal production
  - Quality assurance measures
  - Marketing and understanding associations (e.g. US Livestock Genetics Exports)

Suggested program topics and visiting places (based on candidates’ input) may include, but are not limited to:

**Interested topics**

- The progress and the trends of animal bio-tech from a global view
- Animal breeding (pig, cow, and poultry)
- Genomic selection in livestock (e.g. pig)
- Gene editing's application in agriculture
- DNA chip technology
- Animal health products and technology,
- Animal drug development
- Animal disease control
- Hormone for animal reproduction
- Controlling of female ratio
- Improvement of animal production

**Interested organizations**

- The Departments of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) and Animal Science at Iowa State University
- The Egg Industry Center located at Iowa State University.
- Animal breeding companies (e.g. Smithfield, GeneSeek, Illuminal, PIC or NSR pig breeding companies or farms)
- Animal health products manufacturers and research labs
- Animal drug companies and research centers.
- Companies doing gene editing technique for agriculture. For example, zoetis, pfizer,
- Companies involved in gene editing and drug development. (How are the drug candidates are screened out or designed?)
- Companies related to animal disease control and trait recording.

**Period of Performance**

This consecutive 2 week training program should be provided after September 2018.
Statement of Work

Soybeans and Dry Distiller Grains Processing
Pakistan

SCOPE OF WORK
Pakistan’s tax reforms have made soybeans imports economically viable and the import of dried distiller grains (DDG’s) is on its way to explore the market. Post foresees enhanced trade of soybeans and DDG’s in the ensuing years. Pakistan imported 1.7 million ton of soybeans during MY 2016/17 and is expected to import 2.0 million tons during the current marketing year. DDG’s import is on its way; Pakistan imported 65,000 tons during 2016 and 43,000 tons in 2017. Pakistan’s solvent extractor industry, feed mills and other stakeholders are in demand of high quality and consistent products from a reliable source. By creating trade connections and market awareness of soybeans and DDG’s we can capitalize this opportunity in Pakistan.

The post plans to take a group of six Participants from solvent industry and feed mills / importers to U.S. on a market awareness program. Poultry and dairy sectors are rated as the fastest growing sectors in the Pakistan’s economy. The demand for soybeans and dry distiller grains is up as the poultry sector grows, segments of the dairy industry modernize, and investors consider modern beef production. Simultaneously, the availability and consumption of soybean oil is also preferred by local community. The program will focus on the capacity building of solvent industry and feed mill managers and professionals. The training should include fellow’s exposure to U.S. industry in different U.S. states and help enhance their business efficiency in Pakistan. The goal of this training is to improve the awareness level of participants about products availability, processing and marketing infrastructure. It will also be useful to increase connectivity between the trade professionals of both countries. This program would further develop the demand for soybeans and DDG’s through education and familiarity of the quality and variety of U.S. exports.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
The trainers are expected to ensure that Cochran Fellows develop competencies in the following areas.

1) Varieties of soybeans grown in the U.S. and their characteristics
2) Varieties of DDG’s produced and marketed
3) Procurement techniques, commercial contract management and risk management
4) Decision making tools for booking/buying
5) Pricing and hedging techniques
6) Crushing and processing efficiencies
7) Understanding of regulatory issues
8) Shipping issues and logistic fundamentals
9) Quality control and testing methods
10) Storage and handling techniques
11) Use of soybean meal and DDG’s as energy and protein supplement
12) Participants would like to visit soybean fields, state of the art solvent extractor and DDG producing unit, elevators, labs, port facilities and a modern feed mill.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:
This consecutive 2 week training program should be arranged during September 22 to October 5, 2018.
Statement of Work

Myanmar – Risk-Based Port Inspection and Regulation

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program’s Asia Region is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for 8 fellows including one LES from Myanmar, who are representatives of the Myanmar Customs Department and Myanmar Department of Agriculture, The Department of Food and Drug Administration, and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The Fellows are interested in learning about the U.S. approach to risk-based port inspection and regulation. In particular, the Fellows would like to learn about Post-entry quarantine, control of SPS issues, quarantine pest list development, and Pest Risk Analysis. The program should cover import/export regulations and procedures for both plant and animal products at the port level. The training should include visits with Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). The program will also emphasize how these laws and regulations are enforced and implemented at the port level including visits to ports to learn how products are inspected for both import and export.

The objective of this program is to increase understanding on food safety and pest risk assessment systems. The goal is to assist Myanmar officials in adopting science-based standards and procedures in their daily inspection work and to strengthen a long-term relationship between U.S. and Myanmar officials. A successful program will help expand U.S. exports by reducing potential market access barriers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer will ensure that the Fellows develop competencies in the following areas:

1. Import inspection procedures
2. Design of risk-based systems
   a. Sampling rates and thresholds
   b. Risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication
   c. Pest Risk Assessment
   d. Traceability and recall management
   e. Mechanisms for review to make the system dynamic
   f. Feedback channels for future policy-making
   g. Setting standards for new products
3. Food Safety
   a. International food trade
   b. Regulatory Issues
   c. Food safety management systems
   d. Food hazards and detection
4. Mechanisms for Equivalence
   a. Paths for building toward equivalence
   b. Certifying officials in country of export
5. US Food Safety Regulatory structure
   a. Bodies involved in risk assessment & management
b. MRL setting process  
c. Good regulatory practice and regulatory impact assessment  
6. Case Studies on risk-based systems

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2 week training program should be conducted in October 2018.
Statement of Work

India – Overview of Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety

SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program’s Asia Region is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for 7 Fellows and 1 USDA/FAS Locally Employed Staff from India.

(2) Scientists for the Biosafety Support Unit, Indian Department of Biotechnology
(1) Director of the Indian Institute of Ag Research
(2) Committee Members of the GE Appraisal Committee
(1) Scientist and University Head of Entomology with a state agricultural university

The Fellows are interested in learning about the U.S. approach to regulation of agricultural biotechnology with special reference to safety of food and agricultural products derived from GE crops and animals. In particular, the Fellows are interested in how approvals are conducted for newly developed genetically engineered (GE) crops and agricultural products. The Fellows would like to learn about biosafety around GE agricultural products, and monitoring and evaluation procedures used in the U.S. The handling and segregation of GE commodities in agricultural supply chains is also a topic of interest. In addition, the Fellows would like to learn about the approval process for imports of food and agricultural products derived from GE crops in other countries (specially EU and other developing countries) importing from the United States.

The program should include visits to research farms where field trials are currently being conducted, and a lab that does monitoring on GE crops and food and ag products derived from GE crops. The Fellows should also have the opportunity to meet with U.S. officials involved in policymaking and enforcement, and members of industry developing new GE food and agricultural products.

The objective of this program is to teach Indian government officials and academic advisors about the U.S. approach to biotechnology regulation and biosafety. The goal is to help India develop its regulatory framework for biotechnology and align its approach with the United States and other countries, reducing barriers to trade in GE food and agricultural products from the United States.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Biotechnology policies and regulatory framework in a national and global context
   a) Approvals for new biotech products
b) Approval for imports of food and agricultural products in the U.S. and Other countries  
c) Learning how to set up protocols for regulatory framework  
d) Understanding day to day responsibilities of legal guidelines  
e) International policies and standards – CODEX, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,  
  Intellectual Property Rights

2. Risk analysis, assessment and management of biotechnology

3. Understanding the current state of biotechnology in the United States  
   a. Learning how agencies coordinate, public policy, relationship universities/public sector  
   b. Advantages and benefits of using GMOs – production, environmental and for consumers  
   c. Public perception of GMOs – studies and labeling  
   d. Learn about food safety studies of GMO products and biosafety protocols, with special reference to DDGS, soya meal and other major US ag exports derived from GE crops

4. Understanding technical aspects of modern biotechnology  
   a) Learning the newest genetic engineering techniques and applications – i.e.: genome editing, use on insects and other animals  
   b) Learning the laws that govern biotechnology and biosafety in the United States and other Countries

5. Visit field trials being conducted, labs performing monitoring of GE crops, and field visits to processing and feed manufacturing facilities using DDGS, soymeal and other food/feed derived from GE corn and soybeans.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2 week training program should take place in September - October 2018.
SCOPE OF WORK

The Cochran Fellowship Program’s Asia region is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for eight Cochran Fellows, including: (1) ASEAN Health Policy and Scientific Affairs Director; (1) Representative of the Thai Krisdika Counsel (Judicial Counsel); (1) Technical Officer of the Thai Food and Drug Administration; (1) Deputy Director General for the Laos Department of Foreign Trade Policy; (1) Director General and (1) Director of Food Control for the Laos Food and Drug Department; (1) Deputy Director General for the Laos Department of Livestock and Fisheries; and (1) USDA/FAS Locally Employed Staff.

This Cochran Fellowship Program will teach Laos and Thai regulators how U.S. regulators work with businesses balancing their concerns with consumer interest groups and finding ways to achieve policy objectives without impeding business and trade.

This training will provide regulatory officials from Thailand and Laos the opportunity to learn about the U.S. regulatory system for agricultural products and commodities. The proposed training should provide officials insight into how the United States formulates its policies and regulations. The training should incorporate topics such as US mechanisms for internal discussion on policymaking, public hearings and soliciting feedback from industry, balancing international obligations with domestic interests, how government handles lobbying groups, risk analysis, risk communication, and U.S. food safety law. It would be valuable for the fellows to learn about a case study on the formation of a new policy or regulation, and how a new regulation can affect different stakeholders. The fellows should also meet with counterparts in FDA and FSIS.

In addition it would be beneficial for the Fellows to understand the importance of establishing science-based protocols and the benefits of being in line with international standards. The program objective is to train regulators to take a more balanced approach in the formulation of new policies and regulations, considering the needs of business and the effect that new policies have on trade. The goal is for better regulations to be written going forward, creating a better environment for U.S. exports.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer will ensure that the Fellows develop competencies in the following areas:

- Understanding the U.S. regulatory process in ensuring the safety of all food products
- Risk analysis, risk management, and risk communication. Regulatory impact assessment
- Impact of food safety standards on producers and consumers
- Harmonizing food safety standards with internationally recognized principles and standards, like Codex
- Creating, implementing, and enforcing rules and regulations
- Good regulatory practice
- Effect of regulatory policies on industry and trade
- Soliciting input from industry
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2 week training program should take place in September - November 2018.
SCOPE OF WORK

This team consists of six Fellows, accompanied by an FAS Agricultural Specialist who will provide consecutive interpretation, from Vietnam. The Fellows are representatives of Vietnamese government agencies that oversee food safety, and have expressed interest in receiving an overview and understanding of the U.S. food safety system, with a special emphasis on standard setting for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).

The team is interested in learning about safe and effective use of veterinary drugs and feed additives for food and feed products, education on the U.S. regulations related to maximum residue limits (MRLs), establishment and enforcement of MRLs, and risk assessment. The training should cover enforcement procedures, recall procedures, regulations, and approvals for new products. The Fellows are also interested in learning about the science used to derive new regulations, and publicly available resources that detail the science. The team should be able to see how these systems and regulations apply domestically as well as their relevance with regards to international trade. Visits should include regulatory agencies, key trade associations, policy makers, testing/sampling facilities, livestock and poultry farms, and slaughterhouse facilities. The objective of the program is to teach the team about the U.S. food safety system and a science-based risk management approach to setting regulatory standards.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer will ensure that Fellows develop competencies in the following areas. In your proposal, please clearly identify which learning objective(s) is addressed in each of your proposed activities.

- Understanding of food safety regulatory systems in the U.S.
- Safe use of veterinary drugs and feed additives
  - Residue control
  - Testing/detection methods
  - MRLs
  - Management, control, & data collection at the farm level
  - Procedures for lab testing and food inspection
- How MRLs are set and U.S. international role in CODEX
  - The science behind regulations
  - Risk Management

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 10-14 day training program should take place in September - November 2018.