

and goods and services provided by U.S. entities in support of overseas marketing and promotion activities) compared to

- The applicant's 4-year average share (1999–2002) of the funding level for all MAP participants.

(b) Past Performance (30)

- The 3-year average share (1999–2001) of the value of exports promoted by the applicant compared to

- The applicant's 2-year average share (2000–2001) of the funding level for all MAP applicants plus, for those groups participating in the Cooperator program, the 2-year average share (2001–2002) of Cooperator marketing plan budgets, and the 2-year average share (2000–2001) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural office;

(c) Projected Export Goals (15)

- The total dollar value of projected exports promoted by the applicant for 2002 compared to

- The applicant's requested funding level;

(d) Accuracy of Past Projections (15)

- Actual exports for 2000 as reported in the 2002 MAP application compared to

- Past projections of exports for 2000 as specified in the 2000 MAP application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended funding level for each applicant is converted to a percentage of the total MAP funds available then multiplied by the total weight factor as described above to determine the amount of funds allocated to each applicant.

Closing Date for Applications

All Internet-based applications must be properly submitted by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 11, 2002. Signed certification statements also must be received by that time at one of the addresses listed below.

All applications on diskette (with two accompanying paper copies and a signed certification statement) and any other applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 11, 2002, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932–S, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff,

STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250–1042.

Signed at Washington, DC on December 31, 2001.

Mary T. Chambliss,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Announcement of the Quality Samples Program for Fiscal Year 2002

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Commodity Credit Corporation is inviting proposals for the FY 2002 Quality Samples Program.

DATES: All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 11, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932–S, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250–1042, (202) 720–4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announces that proposals are being accepted for participation in the Fiscal Year 2002 Quality Samples Program (QSP). The QSP is designed to encourage the development and expansion of export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities by assisting U.S. entities in providing commodity samples to potential foreign importers to promote a better understanding and appreciation for the high quality of U.S. agricultural commodities. CCC will review all proposals it receives against the evaluation criteria contained herein and award QSP funds on a competitive basis. Financial assistance will be made available on a reimbursement basis.

Under the QSP, CCC enters into agreements with those entities whose proposals have been accepted. The QSP agreement between CCC and the participant will include the maximum amount of CCC funds that may be used to reimburse certain activity costs which have been approved by CCC and paid by the QSP participant. QSP participants will be responsible for procuring (or arranging for the procurement of) commodity samples, exporting the

samples, and providing the technical assistance necessary to facilitate successful use of the samples by importers. A QSP participant will be reimbursed after CCC reviews its reimbursement claim and determines that the claim is complete. CCC will not reimburse the costs of providing technical assistance. QSP agreements are subject to review and verification by the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Compliance Review Staff. Upon request, a QSP participant shall provide to CCC the original documents which support the participant's reimbursement claims. CCC may deny a claim for reimbursement if the claim is not supported by adequate documentation. Cash advances will not be made available to any QSP participant.

The QSP is administered by FAS. This notice supercedes any prior notices concerning the QSP.

Authority

The QSP is authorized under section 5(f) of the CCC Charter Act, 15 U.S.C. 714c(f).

Available Funds

\$2.5 million of cost-share assistance may be obligated under this announcement.

General Scope of QSP Projects

QSP projects are the activities undertaken by a QSP participant to provide an appropriate sample of a U.S. agricultural commodity to a foreign importer, or a group of foreign importers, in a given market. The purpose of the project is to provide information to an appropriate target audience regarding the attributes, characteristics, and proper use of the U.S. commodity. A QSP project addresses a single market/commodity combination. As a general matter, QSP projects should conform to the following guidelines:

- Projects should benefit the represented U.S. industry and not a specific company or brand;
- Projects should develop a new market for a U.S. product, promote a new U.S. product, or promote a new use for a U.S. product, rather than promote the substitution of one established U.S. product for another;
- Sample commodities provided under a QSP project must be in sufficient supply and available on a commercial basis;
- The QSP project must either subject the commodity sample to further processing or substantial transformation in the importing country, or the sample must be used in technical seminars designed to demonstrate to an

appropriate target audience the proper preparation or use of the sample in the creation of an end product;

- Samples provided in a QSP project shall not be directly used as part of a retail promotion or supplied directly to consumers; and

- Samples shall be in quantities less than a typical commercial sale and limited to the amount sufficient to achieve the project goal (e.g., not more than a full commercial mill run in the destination country).

QSP projects shall target foreign importers and target audiences who:

- Have not previously purchased the U.S. commodity which will be shipped under the QSP;

- Are unfamiliar with the variety, quality attribute, or end-use characteristic of the U.S. commodity which will be shipped under the QSP;

- Have been unsuccessful in previous attempts to import, process, and market the U.S. commodity which will be shipped under the QSP (e.g., because of improper specification, blending, or formulation; or sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) issues);

- Are interested in testing or demonstrating the benefits of the U.S. commodity which will be shipped under the QSP; or

- Need technical assistance in processing or using the U.S. commodity which will be shipped under the QSP.

Major Changes From the FY 2001 Program

Due to limited funding, the FY 2001 program limited the number of projects which could be undertaken by a participant. Under this announcement, the number of projects per participant will not be limited.

The FY 2001 program limited the funding to \$50,000 of QSP reimbursement. Under this announcement, projects will be limited to \$60,000 of QSP reimbursement. Projects comprised of technical preparation seminars; that is, projects which do not include further processing or substantial transformation; will remain limited to \$10,000 of QSP reimbursement, as these projects require smaller samples. Under the QSP, participants may be reimbursed for certain costs of purchasing and transporting commodity samples. Although providing technical assistance is required for all projects, costs of providing the actual technical assistance will not be reimbursed under the QSP.

Proposal Process

In order to be considered for participation in the QSP, interested parties should submit proposals to FAS

as described in this notice. QSP proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects. This notice is complemented by concurrent notices announcing four other foreign market development programs administered by FAS, including the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) Program, the Emerging Markets Program, and the Section 108 Foreign Currency Program.

The MAP and Cooperator Program notices detail a Unified Export Strategy (UES) application process which provides a means for interested applicants to submit a consolidated and strategically coordinated single proposal that incorporates funding requests for any or all of these programs. Some applicants to the QSP, particularly those who also are applying for funding under the MAP or Cooperator Program, are encouraged to use the UES application process. The Internet-based UES application, including step-by-step instructions for its use, is located at the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html>. Other applicants should follow the application procedures contained in this notice.

Entities interested in participating in the QSP are not required to submit proposals in any specific format; however, FAS recommends that proposals contain, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Organizational information, including:

- Organization's name, address, Chief Executive Officer (or designee), and Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN);

- Type of organization;
- Name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the primary contact person;

- A description of the organization and its membership;

- A description of the organization's prior export promotion experience; and
- A description of the organization's experience in implementing an appropriate trade/technical assistance component;

(b) Market information, including:

- An assessment of the market;
- A long-term strategy in the market;

and

- U.S. export value/volume and market share (historic and goals) for 1998–2004;

(c) Project information, including:

- A brief project title;
- Amount of funding requested;
- A brief description of the specific market development trade constraint or opportunity to be addressed by the

project, performance measures for the years 2002–2004 which will be used to measure the effectiveness of the project, a benchmark performance measure for 2001, the viability of long term sales to this market, the goals of the project, and the expected benefits to the represented industry;

- A description of the activities planned to address the constraint or opportunity, including how the sample will be used in the end-use performance trial, the attributes of the sample to be demonstrated and their end-use benefit, and details of the trade/technical servicing component (including who will provide and who will fund this component);

- A sample description (i.e., commodity, quantity, quality, type, and grade), including a justification for selecting a sample with such characteristics (this justification should explain in detail why the project could not be effective with a smaller sample);

- An itemized list of all estimated costs associated with the project for which reimbursement will be sought; and

- The importer's role in the project regarding handling and processing the commodity sample;

(d) Information indicating all funding sources and amounts to be contributed by each entity that will supplement implementation of the proposed project. This may include the organization that submitted the proposal, private industry entities, host governments, foreign third parties, CCC, FAS, or other Federal agencies. Contributed resources may include cash, goods, and services.

Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the applicable FAS commodity division. The divisions will review each proposal against the factors described below. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals, recommend an appropriate funding level for each proposal based upon these factors, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs.

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;

- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;

- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;

- The nature of the specific market constraint or opportunity involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;

- The extent to which the importer's contribution in terms of handling and processing enhances the potential outcome of the project;

- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties; and

- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

Highest priority for funding under this announcement will be given to meritorious proposals which target countries which meet either of the following criteria:

- Per capita income less than \$9,265 (the ceiling on upper middle income economies as determined by the World Bank (World Development Indicators 2001)); and population greater than 1 million. Proposals may address suitable regional groupings, for example, the islands of the Caribbean Basin; or

- U.S. market share of imports of the commodity identified in the proposal of 10 percent or less.

Agreements

Following approval of a proposal, CCC will enter into an agreement with the organization that submitted the proposal. Agreements will incorporate the details of each project as approved by FAS. Each agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of each project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for shipment of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the agreement (organizations should endeavor to ship commodities within 6 months of effective date of agreement), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as required), compliance with the Fly American Act requirements (shipment on United States air carriers, as required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 90 days of expiration of the agreement. Evaluation reports should address all performance measures which were presented in the proposal.

Closing Date for Proposals

All proposals must be submitted in duplicate and received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 11, 2002, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932-S, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042.

Signed at Washington, DC on December 31, 2001.

Mary T. Chambliss,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-434 Filed 1-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-035N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will meet January 22-25, 2002. This meeting replaces the NACMCF meeting originally scheduled for September 17-20, 2001. The original meeting was postponed because of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The meeting is open to the public. The committee will discuss *Salmonella* performance standards in meat and poultry products; *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in blade-tenderized, non-intact beef; the evaluation of hot holding temperatures; Codex "Discussion Paper on Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures," and the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting date and post it to its Internet web page.

DATES: The full Committee will meet on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 23, 24, and 25, 2002; subcommittee meetings will be held on January 22 and 23, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Send an original and two copies of comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Docket Room: Docket #01-035N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments should contact Brenda Halbrook (202) 690-6600, Fax (202) 690-6337, e-mail address: brenda.halbrook@dchqexs1.hqnet.usda.gov, or mailing address: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health and Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Halbrook, by January 7, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established on March 18, 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for food, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal 1988. The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/programs/nacmcf_chart.htm.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense. Dr. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, is the Committee Chair, Janice F.