

Self-Evaluation Report



Texas Israel-Exchange Fund

August 2007

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**Texas-Israel Exchange Fund
Self-Evaluation Report**

I. Agency Contact Information

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 1: Agency Contacts				
	Name	Address	Telephone & Fax Numbers	E-mail Address
Agency Head	Todd Staples	P.O. Box 12847 Austin, TX 78711	512-463-1408 888-232-2375	todd.staples@tda.state.tx.us
Agency's Sunset Liaison	Catherine Wright Steele	P.O. Box 12847 Austin, TX 78711	512-463-7700 888-203-5567	Catherine.wright- steele@tda.state.tx.us

II. Key Functions and Performance

A. Provide an overview of your agency's mission, objectives, and key functions.
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The Texas-Israel Exchange (TIE) Fund supports practical and applied agricultural research and development of mutual benefit to Texas and Israel. The fund makes research grants to public or private entities in Texas partnering with Israeli researchers who are funded by the Bi-national Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) in Israel. Funded projects address common problems and make substantial contributions to the development of agriculture, trade, and business in both areas.

Texas and Israel have many interests in common and face many of the same difficulties in agriculture. The geography of both areas produces semiarid climatic conditions; these areas face a rising demand for a limited supply of water along with increasing pressures to minimize the use of energy in all aspects of agriculture.

This bi-national research partnership promotes research and development in production, processing, marketing and agricultural services with emphasis on the support of applied research to improve water, labor and energy utilization in agriculture.

The TIE Fund Board administers the TIE Fund. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) provides administrative support to the TIE Fund Board and oversees the administration of the funded projects. The TIE Board performs the following functions:

- Ratifies the selection of grants to be administered by TDA and advises the agency on matters involving mutual assistance, trade, and business development between Texas and Israel;
- Ratifies TDA grants, in cooperation with the corresponding Israeli board, to provide Funding for projects to mutually benefit both regions; and
- Consults with the corresponding Israeli board to efficiently address matters of mutual importance while avoiding duplication of effort.

B. Do each of your key functions continue to serve a clear and ongoing objective? Explain why each of these functions is still needed. What harm would come from no longer performing these functions?

The TIE Fund continues to serve its purpose of supporting joint agricultural research of mutual benefit to Texas and Israel. Without the TIE Fund the Texas agricultural industry stands to lose the benefits resulting from sharing information, expertise and resources between Texas and Israel. Every dollar awarded by the TIE Fund Board is matched by the researching institution in Texas and twice matched by BARD in Israel. The abolishment of the TIE Fund would end a 20-year research partnership with Israel that triples every Texas state dollar dedicated to the program.

C. What evidence can your agency provide to show your overall effectiveness and efficiency in meeting your objectives?

The TIE Fund consistently meets the assigned performance measures. Each funded project undergoes in-depth review and analysis by scientific and industry experts before the project is selected and while the research is being carried out. The funded projects result in valuable applied research spanning multiple sectors of the agriculture industry.

D. Does your agency's enabling law continue to correctly reflect your mission, objectives, and approach to performing your functions? Have you recommended changes to the Legislature in the past to improve your agency's operations? If so, explain. Were the changes adopted?

The enabling law for the TIE Fund continues to reflect its mission and approach to performing the objectives set out for the fund and the board. No recent legislation has been introduced to alter the TIE Fund operations.

E. Do any of your agency's functions overlap or duplicate those of another state or federal agency? Explain if, and why, each of your key functions is most appropriately placed within your agency. How do you ensure against duplication with other related agencies?

BARD partners with other state agencies and institutions. Program priorities are unique to each state but all programs support scientific activities related to agriculture. The research funded by the TIE Fund address specific issues in Texas and is awarded only to Texas based researchers.

F. In general, how do other states carry out similar functions?

BARD develops unique programs and partnerships in other states to support their mission. In some instances BARD partners directly with research institutions rather than a state agency. In general, the programs operate in the same manner involving joint research and funding to address a common problem.

G. What key obstacles impair your agency's ability to achieve its objectives?

The numbers of projects funded, and matching dollars secured, are limited by the funding appropriated to the TIE Fund.

H. Discuss any changes that could impact your agency's key functions in the future (e.g., changes in federal law or outstanding court cases).

TDA is not aware of any recent or potential changes impacting the TIE Fund Board's functions.

I. What are your agency's biggest opportunities for improvement in the future?

Increased support and involvement of private industry could enhance the effectiveness of the research conducted and assist in the process of developing the research into products or practices that will benefit Texas agricultural producers.

The development of a comprehensive review of the contributions of past TIE projects to the Texas agriculture industry would be a valuable tool to the board as funding priorities and new projects are considered.

J. In the following chart, provide information regarding your agency's key performance measures included in your appropriations bill pattern, including outcome, input, efficiency, and explanatory measures.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund			
Exhibit 2: Key Performance Measures Fiscal Year 2006			
Key Performance Measures	FY 2006 Target	FY 2006 Actual Performance	FY 2006 % of Annual Target
Average financial assistance grant amount (Non-cumulative)	\$50,000 / award	\$50,000 / award	100 %

III. History and Major Events

1985. The Texas-Israel Semi-Arid partnership was created in 1985 via a signed Memorandum of Agreement between the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Israel to work together on projects of mutual agricultural benefit to the peoples of Israel and Texas. The MOA stated there was considerable potential to work together on projects related to energy, trade, marketing and processing, crop development, water use and conservation, research, and joint adventures.

1987. TIE established its first project: the TIE Demonstration Farm in Laredo. The Laredo Junior College donated 100 acres of land along the Rio Grande for the farm's creation. A feasibility study was financed in the spring of 1987 to design the farm. The farm start up costs was funded from the Meadows Foundation. The first crops planted were in the spring of 1988, which included tomatoes, peppers, melons, and specialty cucumbers.

1991. The Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Board was formally appointed and focused on emphasizing a transfer of knowledge between Texas and Israeli scientists on improving agricultural and livestock production in arid climates.

1992. A new Memorandum of Intent was signed with a focus to broaden the program, encourage greater participation and to prove, through applied research, that the similarities in agriculture between Texas and Israel can be a lesson for both partners.

1993. The name of the fund was change from the Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund to the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund (TIE). The legislature appropriated funding for the program.

1995. TIE Board awarded \$250,000 in 1995 and again in 1996 to the scientists in Texas and the Israeli scientists' projects were funded through the Ministry of Agriculture in Israel. Each of the projects funded required a Texas and Israeli scientist on each team, funded equally by the TIE Fund.

1997. Due to funding decisions in Israel, funds were not available from Israel for projects during 1997.

1998 – 2002. 38 grant awards were made to TIE projects during the period of 1998 – 2002.

2002. A Memorandum of Understanding between the United States/Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) and the TIE Fund Board was created to foster collaborative practical and applied research between agricultural scientists areas of high priority to both Texas and Israel.

2005 – 2007. As a result of the partnership between BARD and the TIE Fund Board five projects were awarded grants. BARD and the institutions of the Texas scientists matched the TIE allocation of \$250,000 per year for three years to be split equally among the five projects. The first funding award was made in 2005, a second year of funding was approved for all projects in 2006 and a third year of funding was approved for all projects in 2007.

2007. The TIE Fund Board worked with BARD to develop an RFP for next round of grant awards. The RFP was published in July and proposals are due in November. The TIE/BARD working paper was updated and a new MOU was signed by both entities.

IV. Policymaking Structure

A. Complete the following chart providing information on your policymaking body members.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 3: Policymaking Body			
Member Name	Term/Appointment Dates/ Appointed	Qualification	City
Todd Staples	The agriculture commissioner serves as chair of the board.	Agriculture commissioner	Austin
Michael A. DeGiglio	Six year term, appointed 2006 by the commissioner	Appointed by the commissioner	Marfa and Fort Davis
Larry Levine	Six year term, appointed 2005 by the commissioner	Appointed by the commissioner	Houston
Sam Roosth	Six year term, appointed 2001 by the commissioner	Appointed by the commissioner	Tyler
Ron Smith	Six year term, appointed 2001 by the commissioner	Appointed by the commissioner	Spring Branch
Mel Waxler	Six year term, appointed 2003 by the commissioner	Appointed by the commissioner	Austin
David Eaton	Six year term, appointed 2001 by the executive office of the University of Texas System	Professor of Natural Resource Policy Studies, LBJ School University of Texas	Austin
Edwin Price	Six year term, appointed 2005 by the executive office of the Texas A&M University System	Associate Vice Chancellor for International Agriculture and Federal Relations Texas A&M University	College Station
Cary Green	Six year term, appointed 2003 by the executive office of Texas Tech University	Director of Agricultural Recruitment Center College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources - Texas Tech University	Lubbock
Joe Cox	Appointed 2006 by the speaker of the house of representatives	Nonvoting, ex officio member and designee of the speaker of the house of representatives	Austin
Bob Ozer	Appointed by the comptroller	Nonvoting, ex officio member and designee of the comptroller	Austin
Jon Heining	Appointed by the lieutenant governor	Nonvoting, ex officio member and designee of the lieutenant governor.	Austin

B. Describe the primary role and responsibilities of your policymaking body.

The TIE Fund Board cooperates closely with the Bi-national Agricultural Research and Development Fund Board (BARD) to evaluate the funding priorities, develop program criteria and review projects under consideration. After consultation with BARD, the board ratifies the choice of projects and programs to be undertaken by the fund. The board reviews progress reports of the funded projects and approves continued support of the projects. Once projects are completed the TIE and BARD boards work together to evaluate the funding priorities for the next funding cycle.

C. How is the chair selected?

Texas Agriculture Code § 45.006 (b) names the commissioner of Agriculture as chair of the TIE Fund Board.

D. List any special circumstances or unique features about your policymaking body or its responsibilities.

The TIE/BARD Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is an international advisory committee to the TIE Fund and BARD boards. The Texas Agriculture Commissioner appoints three Texas members to the committee. Three Israeli members of the Committee include Israeli members of BARD's Board of Directors: the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Head of the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), and a representative of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Quality Sciences of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Parallel panels in Texas and Israel evaluate the grant proposals. Panel members are scientists competent in the relevant area of research. Panel members prioritize all proposals in their panel in the final step of their evaluation. Each country's panel prepares a written recommendation for each proposal and then ranks all the proposals in that panel. The JAC reviews the panel evaluations and makes recommendations to their respective boards.

E. In general, how often does your policymaking body meet? How many times did it meet in FY 2006? in FY 2007?

The board meets at least once annually and met once in FY 2006 and once in FY 2007

F. What type of training do members of your agency's policymaking body receive?

Board members receive the same training as all new board members at the Texas Department of Agriculture. This includes trainings on open meeting requirements, open records requirements, ethics, conflicts of interest for public officials, the rule making process and all program details.

G. Does your agency have policies that describe the respective roles of the policymaking body and agency staff in running the agency? If so, describe these policies.

The TIE Board and BARD Board regularly update the TIE/BARD Working Paper outlining the most current funding priorities and award schedule. The paper defines the role of each entity during and after the award process.

H. What information is regularly presented to your policymaking body to keep them informed of your agency's performance?

The board receives annual and semi annual progress reports on the funded projects.

I. How does your policymaking body obtain input from the public regarding issues under the jurisdiction of the agency? How is this input incorporated into the operations of your agency?

A public comment period is included in each board meeting agenda. All meetings are posted in requirements of the open meetings laws.

J. If your policymaking body uses subcommittees or advisory committees to carry out its duties, fill in the following chart.

The TIE/BARD Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is an international advisory committee to the TIE Fund and BARD boards. The Texas Agriculture Commissioner appoints three Texas members to the committee. Three Israeli members of the Committee include members of BARD's Board of Directors: the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Head of the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), and a representative of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Quality Sciences of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The JAC is appointed once per grant cycle. The JAC will be appointed for the upcoming grant cycle in November 2007.

V. Funding

A. Provide a brief description of your agency's funding.

The TIE Fund is funded through general revenue funds.

B. List all riders that significantly impact your agency's budget.

No riders significantly impacted the TIE Fund during the 80th Legislative Session.

C. Show your agency's expenditures by strategy.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 5: Expenditures by Strategy Fiscal Year 2006 (Actual)		
Goal/Strategy	Total Amount	Contract Expenditures Included in Total Amount
A.1.1 Generate Marketing Opportunities	\$250,000	N/A
GRAND TOTAL:	\$250,000	N/A

D. Show your agency's objects of expense for each category of expense listed for your agency in the General Appropriations Act FY 2007-2008.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 6: Objects of Expense by Program or Function Fiscal Year 2007			
Object-of-Expense	TIE		
Grants	\$250,000		
Total	\$250,000		

E. Show your agency's sources of revenue. Include all local, state, and federal appropriations, all professional and operating fees, and all other sources of revenue collected by the agency, including taxes and fines.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 7: Sources of Revenue Fiscal Year 2006 (Actual)	
Source	Amount
General Revenue	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$250,000

F. If you receive funds from multiple federal programs, show the types of federal funding sources.

N/A

G. If applicable, provide detailed information on fees collected by your agency.

N/A

VI. Organization

A. Provide an organizational chart that includes major programs and divisions, and shows the number of FTEs in each program or division.

The TIE Fund is administered through the External Relations and General Counsel divisions at the Texas Department of Agriculture, there are no FTE's budgeted fully to this program. Several staff in each division provide administrative, legal and program support to the board as needed.

B. If applicable, fill in the chart below listing field or regional offices.

The TIE Fund is administered through the External Relations and General Counsel divisions at the Texas Department of Agriculture, there are no FTE's budgeted fully to this program. Several staff in each division provide administrative, legal and program support to the board as needed. All program support staff are located at the Austin headquarters.

C. What are your agency's FTE caps for fiscal years 2006 - 2009?

N/A

D. How many temporary or contract employees did your agency have as of August 31, 2006?

This program employs no temporary or contract employees.

E. List each of your agency's key programs or functions, along with expenditures and FTEs by program.

N/A

VII. Guide to Agency Programs

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each program description.

Name of Program or Function	Texas-Israel Exchange Fund
Location/Division	Austin/External Relations Division
Contact Name	Brian Murray, Assistant Commissioner for External Relations
Actual Expenditures, FY 2006	\$250,000
Number of FTEs as of August 31, 2006	0

B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.

The Texas-Israel Exchange Fund was established to promote and support practical and applied agricultural research and development that will result in mutual benefit to Texas and Israel. Projects address common problems and make substantial contributions to the development of agriculture, trade, and business in both areas. The fund makes research or development grants to public or private entities that intend to carry out the stated objectives of the fund.

C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and performance measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program.

The TIE Fund Board holds all research proposals funded by the TIE Fund to an arduous semi-annual review process. Projects are awarded on a two or three-year research schedule but funding is only approved one year at a time. Continued funding of the second and third years requires the board's approval based on the progress demonstrated in the semi-annual and annual reports submitted by researchers. Project reports must address all the following questions and objectives:

1. Evaluation of Research Achievements.
 - a. Detail all activities, accomplishments, data, etc. under each objective from the project proposal.
 - b. Specific documentation on the progress made in the project against the original timeline.
 - c. Detail of any changes from the original plan of research and a detailed justification for any such change.
 - d. Specific goals and objectives for the next reporting period and the timeline for meeting those objectives.
 - e. Documentation of evidence of integrated and cooperative work between Principle Investigators (PI) in Texas and Israel for each project objective.

- f. Documentation of how deliverables benefit Texas producers and any outreach activities relating to the project:
 - i. Commercial applications;
 - ii. Businesses or vendors currently, or could be interested in these applications;
 - iii. Other commodities or components of Texas agriculture that may potentially benefit from the research;
 - iv. Specific areas of the state that can benefit from these applications; and
 - v. Any other information demonstrating the significance of the research to Texas producers.
2. List of Publications that contain any articles relating to the joint research.
3. Report on patents that may have been obtained as a result of the research.

D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.

2001. The Legislature changed the TIE Board’s meeting requirements from at least twice annually to at least once annually.

2003. The Legislature changed the number of members on the TIE Board appointed by the commissioner from six members to five.

2005. The Legislature changed the TIE Fund Sunset date to September 1, 2011.

E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

The TIE fund supports scientific activities related to agriculture, including production, processing, marketing, and agricultural services, with emphasis on the support of applied research to improve water, labor, and energy utilization in agriculture. The fund supports applied research in areas of potential mutual interest, including:

- Efficient use and management of soil and water for agriculture,
- Post harvest food technologies – quality, safety and security, transportability and shelf life extension,
- Horticulture, field and garden crops – including drought tolerance,
- Mariculture, and
- Renewable energy and agricultural biofuels.

Affiliates of public or private non-profit research institutions in Texas and Israel that demonstrate the necessary research and development capabilities are eligible to apply for funding. Proposals must be submitted through such legally constituted institutions. Proposals must be prepared jointly by at least one scientist from Texas and one from Israel and submitted to the TIE and BARD boards according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

F. Describe how your program or function is administered. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. List any field or regional services.

The following outlines the steps taken by the TIE Board when initiating a new funding cycle of grants:

1. The TIE and BARD Boards establish program priorities and procedures.
2. RFP is prepared and published in *Texas Register* by TDA.
3. Proposals are received by TDA and BARD and screened for eligibility.
4. Evaluation of proposals:
Parallel panels in Texas and Israel are developed to evaluate TIE/BARD proposals. Panel members (2-4 per panel) are scientists competent in the relevant area of research. Panel members in Texas are appointed by the Texas Agriculture Commissioner and panel members in Israel by BARD's Executive Director. Panel members participate in the identification of outside reviewers to evaluate each proposal. Both panels then receive all the reviews. The *ad hoc* reviews assist the panels to formulate their recommendations regarding the proposals.

Panel members prioritize all proposals in their panel in the final step of their evaluation. Each country's panel prepares a written recommendation for each proposal and then ranks all the proposals in that panel. Panels and reviewers consider the following elements in evaluating proposals:

- The scientific and technological merit of the proposal;
 - Does the proposed project meet the applied research requirement;
 - The feasibility of the objectives;
 - The anticipated benefits to agriculture and or the environment in Texas and Israel;
 - The quality of the cooperation between the investigators;
 - The suitability of the investigators and their facilities; and,
 - The requested budget in relation to the research plan.
5. Following the panel evaluation, the TIE/BARD Joint Advisory Committee receives all panel evaluations for discussions and recommendations. These are based upon the evaluations and recommendations of the panels in Texas and Israel, for all the proposals in the submission. The recommendation will include an interdisciplinary priority ranking of the proposals.
 6. The TIE/BARD Joint Advisory Committee funding recommendations are reviewed by the TIE Fund Board. After consultation with BARD, the board ratifies the choice of projects and programs to be undertaken by the fund.
 7. Awards are announced.
 8. TDA staff develops and monitors grant agreements with Texas grantees and provide support to the TIE Fund Board.
 9. Projects are monitored and the board determines continued funding.

G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).

The TIE Fund is established within TDA, as a fund in the state treasury supported by general revenue.

H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions. Describe the similarities and differences.

BARD partners with other state agencies and institutions from nearly every state. Program priorities are unique to each state but all programs support scientific activities related to agriculture.

I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.

The research funded by the TIE Fund addresses specific issues in Texas and is awarded only to Texas based researchers.

J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.

The TIE Fund Board works with public and private non-profit research institutions in Texas and Israel. Representatives of Texas A&M University, University of Texas and Texas Tech University serve on the TIE Fund Board. Other research institutions, researchers and producers are contacted as necessary to accomplish the goals of the fund.

K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:

- the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2006;
- the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
- the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
- a short description of any current contracting problems.

The TIE Fund did not have any contracted expenditures in fiscal year 2006.

L. What statutory changes could be made to assist this program in performing its functions? Explain.

No statutory changes are needed at this time.

M. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.

TDA staff and TIE Board members will provide any additional information necessary to assist the Sunset Advisory Commission and staff to understand the TIE Program.

N. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:

- why the regulation is needed;
- the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;
- follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;
- sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and
- procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.

N/A

O. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency's practices.

N/A

VIII. Statutory Authority and Recent Legislation

A. Fill in the following chart, listing citations for all state and federal statutes that grant authority to or otherwise significantly impact your agency. Do not include general state statutes that apply to all agencies, such as the Public Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, or the Administrative Procedure Act. Provide information on Attorney General opinions from FY 2003 - 2007, or earlier significant Attorney General opinions, that affect your agency's operations.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 13: Statutes/Attorney General Opinions	
Statutes	
Citation/Title	Authority/Impact on Agency
Tex. Agric. Code Chapter 45 Texas-Israel Exchange Fund	Provides authority to establish a fund to promote and support practical and applied agricultural research and development that will result in mutual benefit to Texas and Israel.
Attorney General Opinions – N/A	

B. Provide a summary of recent legislation regarding your agency by filling in the chart below or attaching information already available in an agency-developed format. Briefly summarize the key provisions. For bills that did not pass, briefly explain the key provisions and issues that resulted in failure of the bill to pass (e.g., opposition to a new fee, or high cost of implementation).

No legislation was enacted or introduced pertaining to the TIE Fund Board during the 80th Legislative session.

IX. Policy Issues

No policy issues at this time.

X. Other Contacts

A. Fill in the following chart with updated information on people with an interest in your agency, and be sure to include the most recent e-mail address.

Texas Department of Agriculture Exhibit 15: Contacts			
INTEREST GROUPS (groups affected by agency actions or that represent others served by or affected by agency actions)			
Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
Binational Agriculture Research and Development Edo Chalutz	P.O. Box 6 Bet Dagan 50250 Israel	972-3-965-5133	echalutz@bard-isus.com
Israel Consul General Balaynash Zevadia	24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1500 Houston, TX 77046	(713) 622-4924	Consular.dep@houston.mfa.gov.il
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Steve Verett	4517 West Loop 289 Lubbock, TX 79414	(806) 792-4904	steve@plainscotton.org
South Texas Cotton and Grain Association Jeff Nunley	P.O. Box 4881 Victoria, TX 77903	(361) 575-0631	jnunley@stcga.org
Texas Ag Industries Association Donnie Dippel	726 Camp Lone Star Road La Grange, TX 78945	(979) 247-4300	ddippel@cvtv.net
Texas Aquaculture Association Donna Hanson	P.O. Box 10584 College Station, TX 77845	(979) 690-1635	taa@txaqua.net
Texas Citrus Mutual Ray Prewett	901 Business Park Drive, Suite 400 Mission, TX 78572	(956) 584-1772	rprewett@sbcglobal.net
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Tony Williams	408 West 14 th Street Austin, TX 78701-1619	(512) 476-8388	tony@tgca.org
Texas Farm Bureau Kenneth Dierschke	P.O. Box 2689 Waco, TX 76702	(254) 751-2220	kdierschke@txfb.org
Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc. Ed Edmondson	7730 South IH-35 Austin, TX 78745	(512) 280-5182	eddy@txnla.org

Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
Texas Mohair Producers Board Zane Willard	P.O. Box 5337 San Angelo, TX 76902	(800) 583-3161	zane@mohairusa.com
Texas Produce Association John McClung	901 Business Park Drive, Suite 500 Mission, TX 78572	(956) 581-8632	johnmclung@msn.com
Texas Rice Producers Board Vicki Rao	1806 Avenue D, Suite 106 Katy, TX 77493	(281) 391-3655	vickirao@gmail.com
Texas Seed Trade Association Charles Leamons	P.O. Box 906 Brenham, TX 77834- 0906	(979) 251-8970	clseed@texasseedtrade.com
Texas State Florists' Association Dianna Doss	P.O. Box 140255 Austin, TX 78714	(512) 834-0361	TXSFA@aol.com
Texas Vegetable Association J, Carnes	901 Business Park Drive, Suite 500 Mission, TX 78572	(956) 581-1881	johnmclung@msn.com
Texas Vegetation Management Association David Wall	6402 Betty Cook Drive Austin, TX 78723	(512)933-9930	pnorth@sbcglobal.net
Texas Wheat Producers Board Rodney Mosier	2201 Civic Circle, Suite 705 Amarillo, TX 79109	(806) 352-2191	info@texaswheat.org
Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
Texas Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board Kenneth White	4676 RR 1501 Uvalde, TX 78801- 4623	(830) 591-8111	Kg-white@tamu.edu
INTERAGENCY, STATE, OR NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (that serve as an information clearinghouse or regularly interact with your agency)			
Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
USDA Agricultural Research Service Edward Kinpling	1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington D.C. 20250	(202) 720-3656	www.ars.usda.gov
National Food Service Institute Dr. Charlotte Oakley, Executive Director	University of Mississippi, 6 Jeanette Phillips Drive, P.O. Drawer 188, University, MS 38677-0188	(662) 915-7658	nfsmi@olemiss.edu

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Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
National Plant Board Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary	P.O. Box 847 Elk Grove, CA 95759	(916) 709-3484	aureliop@elkgrove.net
Southern U.S. Trade Assoc. Jerry Hingle	2 Canal Street, Suite 2515, New Orleans, LA 70130	(504) 568-5986	jerry@susta.org
USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Kenneth Gladney	Amarillo Livestock Auction P.O. Box 30217 Amarillo, TX 79120	(806) 372-6361	kenneth.gladney@usda.gov
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service-Monitoring Programs Office Martha Lamont	8609 Sudley Road, Suite 206 Manassas, VA 20110	(703) 330-2300	martha.lamont@usda.gov
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service-Seed Branch Richard Payne	801 Summit Crossing Place Gastonia, NC 28054	(704) 810-8870	richard.payne2@usda.gov
USDA , Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Kelly Preston	P.O. Box 9000 Brownsville, TX 78520-9000	011 (52-55) 1997-1511	kelly.preston@aphis.usda.gov
USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Stuart Kuehn	903 San Jacinto, Suite 270 Austin, TX 78701	(512) 916-5241	stuart.w.kuehn@aphis.usda.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Maria Martinez	1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202- 2733	(214) 665-2230	martinez.maria@epa.gov
USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service Dave Abbe	USDA/NASS Texas Field Office P.O. Box 70 Austin, TX 78767	(512) 916-5581	dave_abbe@nass.usda.gov
USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service Donald W. Gohmert	101 S. Main, Temple, TX 76501	(254) 742-9822	donald.gohmert@usda.gov
LIAISONS AT OTHER STATE AGENCIES			
Agency Name/Relationship/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
Legislative Budget Board Jennifer Fox	P.O. Box 12666 Capitol Station Austin, TX 78711	(512) 463-1200	jennifer.fox@lbb.state.tx.us
Office of the Attorney General Barbara Deane	209 W. 14th St. Austin, Texas 78701	475-4300	barbara.deane@oag.state.tx.us
Comptroller of Public Accounts Bob Ozer	PO Box 13528 Austin, TX 78711	(512) 305-9788	bob.ozer@cpa.state.tx.us

Group or Association Name/ Contact Person	Address	Telephone	E-mail Address
Office of the Governor Auburn Mitchell	Office of the Governor State Insurance Building 1100 San Jacinto Austin, TX 78701	(512) 463-2000	auburn.Mitchell@governor.state.tx.us
Secretary of State Melanie Best	1100 Congress, Room 1E.8 Austin, TX 78701	(512) 463-9863	mbest@sos.state.tx.us
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Dr. Mark Hussey	2142 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-2142	(979) 845-7980	mhussey@tamu.edu
Texas Animal Health Commission Bob Hillman	P. O. Box 12966 Austin, TX 78711- 2966	(512) 719-0700	bhillman@tahc.state.tx.us
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Glenn Shankle	12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, TX 78753	(512) 239-3500	execdir@tceq.state.tx.us
Texas Cooperative Extension Dr. Ed Smith	Room 112, Jack K. Williams Admin.Bldg College Station, TX 77843-7101	(979) 845-7800	agextension@tamu.edu
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Ann Bright	4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744	(512) 389-8558	ann.bright@tpwd.state.tx.us
Texas Tech University Dr. Cary Green	Texas Tech University Box 42123 Lubbock, TX 79409	(806) 742-2808	cary.green@ttu.edu
University of Texas Dr. David Eaton	University of Texas PO Box Y Austin, TX 78713	(512) 471-8972	No email.
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Rex Isom	P.O. Box 658, Temple, TX 76503	(254) 773-2250	risom@tsswcb.state.tx.us
Texas Water Development Board J. Kevin Ward	P.O. Box 13231 Austin, TX 78711- 3231	(512) 463-7847	kevin.ward@twdb.state.tx.us

XI. Additional Information

A. Fill in the following chart detailing information on complaints regarding your agency. Do not include complaints received against people or entities you regulate. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency’s practices.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 16: Complaints Against the Agency Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006		
	FY 2005	FY 2006
Number of complaints received	N/A*	N/A*
Number of complaints resolved	N/A*	N/A*
Number of complaints dropped/found to be without merit	N/A*	N/A*
Number of complaints pending from prior years	N/A*	N/A*
Average time period for resolution of a complaint	N/A*	N/A*

*The TIE Fund Board has no recent records of complaints.

B. Fill in the following chart detailing your agency’s Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) purchases.

Not applicable. See Texas Department of Agriculture Self-Evaluation Report for additional information on agency statistics.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Exhibit 17: Purchases from HUBs				
FISCAL YEAR 2004				
Category	Total \$ Spent	Total HUB \$ Spent	Percent	Statewide Goal
Heavy Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9%
Building Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.1%
Special Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.2%
Professional Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0%
Other Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.0%
Commodities	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.6%
TOTAL	N/A	N/A	N/A	

FISCAL YEAR 2005				
Category	Total \$ Spent	Total HUB \$ Spent	Percent	Statewide Goal
Heavy Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9%
Building Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.1%
Special Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.2%
Professional Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0%
Other Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.0%
Commodities	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.6%
TOTAL	N/A	N/A	N/A	
FISCAL YEAR 2006				
Category	Total \$ Spent	Total HUB \$ Spent	Percent	Statewide Goal
Heavy Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.9%
Building Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.1%
Special Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.2%
Professional Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0%
Other Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.0%
Commodities	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.6%
TOTAL	N/A	N/A	N/A	

C. Does your agency have a HUB policy? How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy?

Not applicable. See Texas Department of Agriculture Self-Evaluation Report for additional information on agency statistics.

D. For agencies with contracts valued at \$100,000 or more: Does your agency follow a HUB subcontracting plan to solicit bids, proposals, offers, or other applicable expressions of interest for subcontracting opportunities available for contracts of \$100,000 or more? (Tex. Government Code, Sec. 2161.252; TAC 111.14)

Not applicable. See Texas Department of Agriculture Self-Evaluation Report for additional information on agency statistics.

E. For agencies with biennial appropriations exceeding \$10 million, answer the following HUB questions.

Not applicable. See Texas Department of Agriculture Self-Evaluation Report for additional information on agency statistics.

	Response / Agency Contact
1. Do you have a HUB coordinator? (Tex. Government Code, Sec. 2161.062; TAC 111.126)	N/A
2. Has your agency designed a program of HUB forums in which businesses are invited to deliver presentations that demonstrate their capability to do business with your agency? (Tex. Government Code, Sec. 2161.066; TAC 111.127)	N/A
3. Has your agency developed a mentor-protégé program to foster long-term relationships between prime contractors and HUBs and to increase the ability of HUBs to contract with the state or to receive subcontracts under a state contract? (Tex. Government Code, Sec. 2161.065; TAC 111.128)	N/A

F. Fill in the chart below detailing your agency's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statistics.

Not applicable. See Texas Department of Agriculture Self-Evaluation Report for additional information on agency statistics.

Texas-Israel Exchange Fund							
Exhibit 18: Equal Employment Opportunity Statistics							
FISCAL YEAR 2004							
Job Category	Total Positions	Minority Workforce Percentages					
		Black		Hispanic		Female	
		Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %
Officials/Administration	N/A	N/A	7%	N/A	11%	N/A	31%
Professional	N/A	N/A	9%	N/A	10%	N/A	47%
Technical	N/A	N/A	14%	N/A	18%	N/A	39%
Protective Services	N/A	N/A	18%	N/A	21%	N/A	21%
Para-Professionals	N/A	N/A	18%	N/A	31%	N/A	56%
Administrative Support	N/A	N/A	19%	N/A	27%	N/A	80%
Skilled Craft	N/A	N/A	10%	N/A	28%	N/A	10%
Service/Maintenance	N/A	N/A	18%	N/A	44%	N/A	26%

FISCAL YEAR 2005							
Job Category	Total Positions	Minority Workforce Percentages					
		Black		Hispanic		Female	
		Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %
Officials/Administrators			7%		11%		31%
Professional			9%		10%		47%
Technical			14%		18%		39%
Protective Services			18%		21%		21%
Para-Professionals			18%		31%		56%
Administrative Support			19%		27%		80%
Skilled Craft			10%		28%		10%
Service/Maintenance			18%		44%		26%
FISCAL YEAR 2006							
Job Category	Total Positions	Minority Workforce Percentages					
		Black		Hispanic		Female	
		Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %	Agency	Civilian Labor Force %
Officials/Administrators			7%		11%		31%
Professional			9%		10%		47%
Technical			14%		18%		39%
Protective Services			18%		21%		21%
Para-Professionals			18%		31%		56%
Administrative Support			19%		27%		80%
Skilled Craft			10%		28%		10%
Service/Maintenance			18%		44%		26%

G. Does your agency have an equal employment opportunity policy? How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy?

N/A

XII. Agency Comments

The TIE Fund Board and the Texas Department of Agriculture would be pleased to provide any additional information to assist the Sunset Commission in its review of the board. The board looks forward to the opportunity to discuss its operations with Sunset staff as the process moves forward.

ATTACHMENTS

Submit the following supplemental data or documents with the hard copy of the Self-Evaluation Report. Label each attachment with its number. As part of the electronic version, attach a list of items submitted, but do not attach the actual documents to the electronic submission.

Attachments Relating to Key Functions, Powers, and Duties

1. A **copy** of TIE Fund enabling statute.
2. A **copy** of each TDA annual report published by the agency from FY 2002 - 2006.

Attachments Relating to Policymaking Structure

3. Biographical information or resumes of all policymaking body members.

Attachments Relating to Funding

4. A **copy** of TDA Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2008-2009.
5. A **copy** of each TDA financial report from FY 2004 - 2006.
6. A **copy** of each TDA operating budget from FY 2005 - 2007.