

instructions, from the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/ues/unified.html>. A UES handbook also may be obtained by contacting the Marketing Operations Staff on (202) 720-4327.

All cooperator program applicants, whether applying via the Internet on diskette, also must submit by March 11, 2002, via hand delivery or U.S. mail, an original signed certification statement as specified in 7 CFR section 1484.20(a)(14). The UES handbook contains an acceptable certification format.

Any organization which is not interested in applying for the Cooperator program but would like to request assistance through one of the other programs mentioned should contact the Marketing Operations Staff on (202) 720-4327.

Review Process and Allocation Criteria

The FAS allocates funds in a manner which effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 and the USDA's Food and Agricultural Policy (FAP). In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets, the FAS seeks to identify a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country goals. The FAS also considers the extent to which a proposed project targets markets with the greatest growth potential. These factors are part of the FAS resource allocation strategy to fund applicants who can demonstrate performance and address the objectives of the GPRA and FAP.

Following is a description of the FAS process for reviewing applications and the criteria for allocating available Cooperator program funds.

(1) Phase 1—Sufficiency Review and FAS Divisional Review

Applications received by the closing date will be reviewed by the FAS to determine eligibility of the applicants and the completeness of the applications. These requirements appear at § 1484.14 and § 1484.20 of the Cooperator program regulations. Applications which meet the application requirements then will be further evaluated by the proper FAS Commodity Division. The Divisions will review each application against the criteria listed in § 1484.21 and § 1484.22 of the Cooperator program regulations. The purpose of this review is to identify

meritorious proposals and the recommend an appropriate funding level for each application based upon these criteria.

(2) Phase 2—Competitive Review

Meritorious applications then will be passed on to the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs, for the purpose of allocating available funds among the applicants. Applications which pass the Divisional Review will compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the number in parentheses represents a percentage weight factor):

(a) Contribution Level (40)

- The applicant's 6-year average share (1998–2003) of all contributions (contributions may include cash and goods and services provided by U.S. entities in support of foreign market development activities) compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1998–2003) of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets.

(b) Past Export Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share (1997–2002) of the value of exports promoted by the applicant compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1997–2002) of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share (1996–2001) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office.

(c) Past Demand Expansion Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share (1997–2002) of the total value of world trade of the commodities promoted by the applicant compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1997–2002) of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share (1996–2001) of MAP program ceiling levels and a 6-year average share (1996–2001) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office.

(d) Future Demand Expansion Goals (10)

- The project total dollar value of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2008 compared to
- The applicant's requested funding level.

(e) Accuracy of Past Demand Expansion Projects (10)

- The actual dollar value share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2001 compared to

- The applicant's past projected share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2001, as specified in the 1998 Cooperator program application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended funding level for each applicant is converted to a percentage of the total Cooperator program funds available then multiplied by the total weight factor 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, 1400 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–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Announcement of the Market Access Program for Fiscal Year 2002

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Commodity Credit Corporation is inviting proposals for the Fiscal Year 2002 Market Access Program.

DATES: All applications 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, (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announces that applications are being accepted for participation in the Fiscal Year 2002 Market Access Program (MAP). The MAP is designed to create, expand and maintain foreign markets for United States' agricultural commodities and products through cost-share assistance. Financial assistance under the MAP will be made available on a competitive basis and applications will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria contained herein. The MAP is administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Under the MAP, CCC enters into agreements with eligible participants to share the costs of certain overseas marketing and promotion activities. MAP participants may receive assistance for either generic or brand promotion activities. The program generally operates on a reimbursement basis.

Authority

The MAP is authorized under section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended. MAP regulations appear at 7 CFR part 1485.

Eligible Applicants

To participate in the MAP an applicant must be: a nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organization, a nonprofit state regional trade group (i.e., an association of State Departments of Agriculture), a U.S. agricultural cooperative, a State agency, or a small-sized U.S. commercial entity (other than a cooperative or producer association).

Available Funds

\$90 million of cost-share assistance may be obligated under this announcement to eligible MAP applicants.

Application Process

To be considered for the MAP an applicant must submit to the FAS information required by the MAP regulations set forth in 7 CFR part 1485. Incomplete applications and applications which do not otherwise conform to this announcement will not be accepted for review.

The FAS administers various other agricultural export assistance programs including the Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) program, Cochran Fellowships, the

Emerging Markets Program, the Quality Samples Program, the Section 108 foreign currency program, and several Export Credit Guarantee programs. Organizations which are interested in applying for MAP funds are encouraged to submit their requests using the Unified Export Strategy (UES) format. The UES allows interested entities to submit a consolidated and strategically coordinated single proposal that incorporates requests for funding and recommendations for virtually all the FAS marketing programs, financial assistance programs, and market access programs. The suggested UES format encourages applicants to examine the constraints or barriers to trade which they face, identify activities which would help overcome such impediments, consider the entire pool of complementary marketing tools and program resources, and establish realistic export goals. Applicants are not required, however, to use the UES format.

Organizations can submit applications in the UES format by two methods. The first allows an applicant to submit information directly to the FAS through the UES application Internet site. The FAS highly recommends applying via the Internet, as this format virtually eliminates paperwork and expedites the FAS processing and review cycle. Applicants also have the option of submitting electronic versions (along with two paper copies) of their applications to the FAS on diskette.

Applicants planning to use the Internet-based system must contact the FAS Marketing Operations Staff on (202) 720-4327 to obtain site access information. The Internet-based application, including step-by-step instructions for its use, is located at the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html>.

Applicants who choose to submit applications on diskette can download the UES handbook, including the suggested application format and instructions, from the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/ues/unified.html>. A UES handbook also may be obtained by contacting the Marketing Operations Staff on (202) 720-4327.

All MAP applicants, whether applying via the Internet or diskette, also must submit by March 11, 2002, via hand delivery or U.S. mail, an original signed certification statement as specified in 7 CFR 1485.13(a)(2)(i)(G). The UES handbook contains an acceptable certification format.

Any organization which is not interested in applying for the MAP but would like to request assistance through

one of the other programs mentioned should contact the Marketing Operations Staff on (202) 720-4327.

Review Process and Allocation Criteria

The FAS allocates funds in a manner which effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 and the USDA's Food and Agricultural Policy (FAP). In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets, the FAS seeks to identify a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country goals. The FAS also considers the extent to which a proposed project targets markets with the greatest growth potential. These factors are part of the FAS resource allocation strategy to fund applicants who can demonstrate performance and address the objectives of the GPRA and FAP.

Following is a description of the FAS process for reviewing applications and the criteria for allocating available MAP funds.

(1) Phase 1—Sufficiency Review and FAS Divisional Review

Applications received by the closing date will be reviewed by the FAS to determine the eligibility of the applicants and the completeness of the applications. These requirements appear at § 1485.12 and § 1485.13 of the MAP regulations. Applications which meet the requirements then will be further evaluated by the proper FAS Commodity Division. The Divisions will review each application against the criteria listed in § 1485.14 of the MAP regulations. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals and to recommend an appropriate funding level for each application based upon these criteria.

(2) Phase 2—Competitive Review

Meritorious applications then will be passed on to the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs, for the purpose of allocating available funds among the applicants. Applications which pass the Divisional Review will compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the number in parentheses represents a percentage weight factor):

(a) Applicant's Contribution Level (40)

- The applicant's 4-year average share (1999-2002) of all contributions (cash

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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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