

Agenda Brief: ESCOP National Research Support Project Review Committee

Date: July 20, 2011

Presenter: Ralph Cavalieri/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. Committee Membership:

- Chair
 - Ralph Cavalieri (WAAESD)

- Delegates
 - Abel Ponce de Leon (NCRA)
 - Jon Wraith (NERA)
 - Clarence Watson (SAAESD)
 - Kirland Mellad (ARD)
 - Tom Bewick (NIFA)
 - L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)

- Executive Director
 - Arlen Leholm (NCRA)

- Executive Director/Executive Vice-Chair
 - Dan Rossi (NERA)

- Representative
 - Don Latham (CARET)

2. Meetings

The NRSP Review Committee met on June 6, 2011 by conference call. It will meet by conference call in August and in person at the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting in Estes Park, CO in September.

3. NRSP Proposals Recommendations

- NRSP_temp1 - National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)
Recommend approval of project proposal for 2011-2016.

4. NRSP 2012 Budget Request Recommendations

<u>Project</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
NRSP-1	\$50,000	\$50,000
NRSP-3	\$50,000	\$50,000
NRSP-4	\$481,182	\$481,182
NRSP-6	\$150,000	\$150,000 ¹
NRSP-7	\$325,000	\$325,000 ²
NRSP-8	\$500,000	\$500,000
NRSP-9	\$175,000	Deferred ³

¹ The approval of the proposal and FY2011 budget for NRSP-6 was on condition that the Committee develops a plan for commercial users to pay for the services. The following response was submitted and accepted by the NRSP-RC:

A vigorous effort has been made to procure funding to substitute for NRSP6 in FY11. Donations totaling \$25,500 (equal to more than 1/6 = 17% of the NRSP6 budget) were solicited and received from private industry in FY11 and deposited in UW accounts created for use by the genebank, and those funds are being used 100% for germplasm research support: Frito-Lay contributed \$15K, Kemin Industries contributed \$10K, and Controlled Environmental Technology Systems (CETS) contributed \$500. Our plan for FY12-15 includes several targets. We will ask Frito Lay, Kemin, and CETS to continue and increase their FY11 contributions, and will similarly approach Simplot, with a goal of increasing annual contributions from private industry to at least 20% of the NRSP6 budget (\$30K). In FY12, we will consult the National Potato Council, the leaders of the four US regional genebanks, and our sister potato genebanks in other countries for advice on how private donations can be most efficiently pursued. We will produce and distribute a brochure to all private-sector germplasm recipients which explains the value of the project to the public, and follow up with a personal contact suggesting voluntary donations. We have also had success in getting public sector funds. USDA has assumed the burden of ½ salary for one UW genebank position and converted another former UW genebank position to federal. We got a \$50K USAID grant to facilitate cooperative work with our sister genebank in Peru. We sought and received a \$3500 federal grant to support germplasm acquisition. We are planning a proposal for the NSF grant program “Improvements to Biological Research Collections” in September. All of these efforts are aimed at maintaining the US Potato Genebank germplasm services which currently benefit SAES faculty.

² With the caveat that if funds equal to or less than this amount become available to NRSP-7 through a Congressional special grant or equivalent funding mechanism during FY2011-12, that amount will not be distributed to NRSP-7 from Hatch MRF. In addition, The NRSP-7 Committee requested a floor amount of \$100,000 in the event that federal budget approval is delayed. This request cannot be approved as no money is released unless the federal budget is approved.

³ The Committee deferred a decision on NRSP-9 as it is awaiting confirmation that NRSP-9 has secured matching funds for FY2011 and can provide assurance of matching funds for FY2012.

The directors will also be asked to vote on the \$15,000 to support the project that receives the 2011 ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award. The Committee did not discuss this item during the June meeting but will address it during the August conference call.

5. Other Business

- As a result of a concern about the forthcoming federal budget that will result to an estimated \$25M cut on Hatch funds, a motion was made to reduce all the NRSPs' off-the-top funding that the NRSP-RC will recommend at the same percentage cut on Hatch for FY2012. While the motion was not passed, a suggestion was made to reconsider this motion at the August conference call of the Committee, as by then, we will have a better picture of where the federal budget is heading.
- The NRSP-RC was asked to provide feedback to a revised ipm-PIPE proposal. The Committee members have provided feedback but as it was not formally submitted, no action was taken.
- The issue of placing sunsets and funding caps on NRSP projects was discussed. After considerable discussion it was decided that there is an opportunity to address these concerns when proposals for new projects or renewable of projects are reviewed.

6. Committee Leadership

Abel Ponce de Leon will be recommended as the incoming Chair of the NRSP-RC. He would replace Chair Ralph Cavalieri on October 1, 2011. Arlen Leholm will replace Dan Rossi as the Executive Vice-Chair and will provide administrative support to the chair. Mike Harrington will be the incoming Executive Director-Member, as the next rotation of leadership will be from Western region.

Action Requested: For information only.