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**NRSP6 FY21-25 budget plan**

1 message

**Bamberg, John** <John.Bamberg@ars.usda.gov> Fri, Mar 29, 2019 at 6:06 PM  
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Fred, Rick, Jeff,

Attached is the requested budget plan for NRSP6. We talked to many people at many levels and the TAC held a special meeting in mid-March to get consensus.

As requested, we addressed the consequences of cuts and found opportunities for compensating benefactors. During the process, it was communicated to me that a summary of germplasm distributions would be helpful, so that is included.

A lot of context underlies what you see attached. When the RC meets to discuss this, I would be happy to join you by phone or in person to provide details and answer any questions. It seems to me that a great amount of care is justified, as this contemplates a departure from the course we have been on for 70 years.

John

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**PROPOSAL FOR NRSP6 FY21-25 v 03 29 19 CURRENT.docx**

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## **PROPOSAL FOR NRSP6 FY21-25 BUDGET -- 03 29 19**

### **Impact of lost NRSP6 funding**

A 10% cut of \$15K to \$135K can be proposed now with relatively minor impact by eliminating all supplies and travel spending, covering with soft funds from other sources, and some belt-tightening.

If we were cut by 20% without extramural compensation, we would have to fire temporary, part-time, and student “wage” employees (see FY16-20 project budget sheet). These people support the effort to water, plant, harvest, pollinate, produce custom samples and hybrids, coordinate other cooperating scientists, generate enhancing data, etc. They supply the labor needed to help researchers use the germplasm efficiently. This would make us like a pharmacy that only distributes pills without any instructions or advice. One specific consequence of a 20% cut would be that genebank staff would need to withdraw from coordinating the Potato Crop Germplasm Committee and associated evaluation grants. While this elimination of wage staff would be easiest administratively, the TAC strongly affirms that the high impact genebank service made possible by these support staff should not be sacrificed.

If we were cut by *more than* 20% without extramural compensation, NRSP6 salaried staff with core responsibilities could not be paid. The remaining staff would be reorganized, and reduction or elimination of parts of the germplasm collection would result, starting with the clonal stocks *in vitro*. Order delivery would likely be slowed.

### **Outlook for transition to compensating funding sources**

We investigated all options for compensating funds, but this proposal describes only those from which we have received positive feedback. The best approaches would involve piggy-backing onto existing programs that fund germplasm or breeding projects, and already are familiar, stable, and enjoy broad support.

For SAES contributions, the least disruptive transitioning would be accomplished by reconfiguring SAES support to increase contributions by sympathetic potato states and regions. Most logical and promising is the option of moving potato into the RPIS model by increasing the budgets of regional genebanks NC7 and W6 and transferring that to the Wisconsin site. The goal might be a total of \$30K or 20% reduction in OTT contribution to NRSP6 which would take effect when those projects enter their next project cycles, FY23 and FY22, respectively, and require only a 3% increase in their existing budgets. AAs for those projects responded positively to the idea of pursuing this.

For increasing industry contribution, PotatoesUSA funds US potato breeding programs at about \$10K per year each, and we were invited to make a proposal to include the potato genebank in that program.

For increasing federal contributions, both NCR and WR already get potato breeding special grants to which modest increases for the genebank could be made.

All the above have received encouraging feedback. We will follow up in order to transition to them as much as possible in the FY21-25 NRSP6 budget plan.

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#### THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A SUMMARY OF STOCK DISTRIBUTIONS

For 2018...

1794 units in 9 states for NCR  
2481 units in 7 states for NER  
441 units in 10 states for SR  
910 units in 8 states for WR

1162 units in 7 states for ARS  
3062 units foreign

For details of previous five years see Appendix A of FY16-20 project proposal, found here...

<https://www.ars-grin.gov/nr6/admin.html>.