

NRSP FFY2021 Renewal Feedback by Region

(5/4/2020)

NRSP-4: Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses

WAASED:

- Recommendation: Fully fund
- Necessary for industry, both nation-wide and in the West, particularly with the large amount of specialty crops that are grown in western states.
- Includes industry backing

SAAESD:

- Recommendation: Fully fund
- Doing a good job

NCRA:

- No major issues with the renewal.
- Some revisions requested.

NERA:

- The MAC expressed general support for NRSP4.
- NRSP4 is a minor but relatively important component of IR-4.
- NRSP4 contributes \$500k to IR-4's \$20M budget.
- IR-4 is an individual USDA budget line item.
- Currently IR-4 administrative offices are transitioning to NC State University (has been with Rutgers since 1963.)
- NRSP funding has been leveraged to secure other sources of funding.
- NRSP dollars are spread out to support regional IR-4 offices across the country.
- NRSP guidelines call for a transition plan to decrease off the top funding and increase support from other alternative sources of funding. Can the current level of NRSP support be decreased?
- IR-4 would not disappear without NRSP funding, but NRSP funding helps stations across the country to organize and helps to showcase the value of IR-4 at a national level.
- NERA recommendation on NRSP4 renewal: Approve renewal of NRSP4 with the caveat that the NRSP4 technical team provide a transition plan to reduce or eliminate off-the-top, NRSP funding in the final proposal.

NRSP-6: The U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm

WAAESD:

- Recommendation: Decrease funding to \$50,000 per year to be consistent with previous actions by SAES directors. This is possibly the last year of funding at the current level of \$150,000.
- Concerns about material distribution.
 - Foreign average units exceeded most states average units except Iowa, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin.
 - None of the top three potato producing states (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, respectively) are in the top 5 with units.
 - The need is not as great for potato-growing states as it is for non-potato-growing states.
 - Is this a missed opportunity by potato-growing states?
 - Begin to work with industry to support projects/germplasm that benefits the industry
 - If germplasm isn't being used now, is this a missed opportunity by industry or the gene bank?
 - Benefits to industry may also bring additional funding opportunities
 - Ensure use of cutting edge breeding strategies (molecular breeding)
- Function as quarantine facility for imported material is vital
- Is it possible for a university to take this over? Would another entity take it over if it doesn't receive the requested amount of funding? There should be a contingency plan in place if project is unable to maintain the gene bank at \$50,000 to avoid losing genetic material.
- Mid-term review
 - The statement that they are doing well and don't need to/can't find alternative funding comes off abrasive.
 - A substantial effort needs to be made to secure alternative funding to leverage NRSP funds further (ROI should be greater than 4:1 or 5:1).

SAAESD:

- What is the value for the South?
- Useful presentation and project, but needs more communication back to us.
- We don't grow potatoes in our state, so probably not very important
- This is a germplasm project similar to regional germplasm projects. Discussion was then, why isn't this part of a regional project.
- This has off the top funding for 27 years as NRSP6 and for 45? Years as IR-1 (not sure if that is a total of 45 years over both sources)
- At what point does a project move to minimal OTT funding or terminated? Questions about whether or not the budget should be reduced
- There was no clear consensus about whether to continue this project or not.

NCRA:

- Directors understand the high importance and functionality of the potato genebank, but long-term issues over the current business model continue to exist, despite multiple conversations with the technical lead and ARS.
- The program is too important to lose, but the business model needs to change and the NRSP-RC is working on alternative options.

NERA:

- NRSP6 supports the national potato germplasm center in Wisconsin.
- The NRSP provides unique services and has received decades of off-the-top funding support.
- The budget request for the project is “the status quo funding level” at \$150k/year, and no transition plan was included. The technical team expressed that they were comfortable with the current NRSP arrangement and are requesting the same.
- ESS voted to decrease NRSP6 funding to \$135k in 2019.
- NRSP6 is the strongest case for the need for alternative sources of funding.
- A transition plan to sunset the project is critical and should be required for submission by NRSP6 team.
- NERA recommendation on NRSP6 renewal: Approve renewal of NRSP6 with the caveat that the total 5-year budget be reduced by 50% and a clear message shared with NRSP6 to develop a transition plan to reduce or eliminate off-the-top, NRSP funding.

NRSP-9: National Animal Nutrition Program

WAAESD:

- Recommendation: Fully fund
- Desperately needed by the industry. Updates to nutrition guides are essential
- Funds are highly leveraged by industry dollars.
- Livestock industry benefits from the work done. Continuing industry support at an increasing level would be good going forward.

SAAESD:

- Recommendation: Fully fund
- Doing a good job

NCRA:

- No specific NCRA feedback given on this project.

NERA:

- NRSP9 supports animal nutrition research, focused on the expansion of databases related to animal nutrient requirements.
- NRSP9 interface with the National Academies of Science in the development of the widely-used database is critical.
- Years 1, 2, and 5 budget requests are level at \$199k/year.

- Year 3 includes a budget increase to support mid-term review.
- Year 4 includes an increase to support a national animal nutrition summit in Washington, DC.
- 2020 is the second renewal cycle for NRSP9 (project was initiated in 2010.)
- National Animal Nutrition Program is truly research support, and shows heavy leverage of the off-the-top funding – meeting the expectations of an NRSP.
- NRSP9 should draft a transition plan away from off-the-top funding, whether short or long term.
- NERA recommendation on NRSP9 renewal: Approve renewal of NRSP9 with the caveat that the total 5-year budget be reduced by 50% and a clear message shared with NRSP9 to develop a transition plan to reduce or eliminate off-the-top, NRSP funding.