

(b) Past Export Performance (20)

The 6-year average share (1998–2003) of the value of exports promoted by the applicant compared to

- The applicant's 6-year average share (1998–2003) of all Cooperator marketing plan expenditures plus a 6-year average share (1997–2002) of MAP expenditures and a 6-year average share (1997–2002) 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 (1998–2003) of the total value of world trade of the commodities promoted by the applicant compared to

- The applicant's 6-year average share (1998–2003) of all Cooperator marketing plan expenditures plus a 6-year average share (1997–2002) of MAP expenditures and a 6-year average share (1997–2002) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office.

(d) Future Demand Expansion Goals (10)

- The projected total dollar value of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2009 compared to

- The applicant's requested funding level.

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

- The actual dollar value share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2002 compared to

- The applicant's past projected share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2002, as specified in the 1999

Cooperator Program application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended funding levels for each applicant are converted to percentages 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 10, 2003. 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 10, 2003, 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 in Washington, DC on January 8, 2003.

Kenneth J. Roberts,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Foreign Agricultural Service****Section 108 Foreign Currency Program**

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service invites proposals from interested parties to use Tunisian dinars acquired by the United States for activities to expand markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and for technical assistance activities.

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 Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will make available Tunisian dinars to provide assistance in market development and agricultural technical assistance activities. These foreign currencies were acquired by USDA pursuant to agreements made under Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, (Pub. L. 480).

Title I, Pub. L. 480 authorizes the U.S. government to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities to foreign governments on concessional terms. Between 1986 and 1991, the U.S. entered into various Title I, Pub. L. 480 agreements with foreign governments, on terms which allowed repayment to the United States in local currencies. Pub. L. 480 authorizes the U.S. government to use these foreign currencies to implement market

development and agricultural technical assistance activities.

This announcement supersedes all previous announcements regarding this program. On January 8, 2002, FAS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 862–864) inviting proposals to use currencies of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia for market development projects and technical assistance activities. The currencies of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka, which were available under the previous announcements, are no longer available.

FAS must disburse local currencies to program participants, usually through the disbursing officer in the U.S. embassy in the country of origin. That is, FAS may not convert the local currency to any other currency prior to disbursement. It is the responsibility of the recipient to arrange for receiving and using the foreign currencies made available, or converting the funds to other currencies. Applicants should note that Tunisian currency may not be readily convertible.

Proposal Process

This notice is complemented by concurrent notices announcing five other foreign market development programs administered by FAS, including the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) Program, the Emerging Markets Program, the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program, and the Quality Samples Program. The MAP and Cooperator Program notices detail a Unified Export Strategy (UES) application process which provides a means for interested applicants to submit a consolidated and strategically coordinated single proposal that incorporates funding requests for any or all of these programs. Some applicants to the section 108 foreign currency program, particularly those who are applying for funding under more than one program, may wish to use the UES application process. The Internet-based UES application, including step-by-step instructions for its use, is located at the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html>. Other applicants, particularly those who are applying for funding only under the section 108 foreign currency program, should follow the application procedures contained in this notice. Interested applicants that are unsure of how to apply are urged to contact the Marketing Operations Staff at the address or phone number above.

FAS recommends that proposals to participate in the section 108 foreign