

factors, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs.

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;
- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;
- The nature of the specific market constraint or opportunity involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;
- The extent to which the importer's contribution, in terms of handling and processing, enhances the potential outcome of the project;
- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties; and
- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

Highest priority for funding under this announcement will be given to meritorious proposals which target countries which meet either of the following criteria:

- Per capita income less than \$9,265 (the ceiling on upper middle income economies as determined by the World Bank [World Development Indicators 2001]); and population greater than 1 million. Proposals may address suitable regional groupings, for example, the islands of the Caribbean Basin; or
- U.S. market share of imports of the commodity identified in the proposal of 10 percent or less.

Agreements

Following approval of a proposal, CCC will enter into an agreement with the organization that submitted the proposal. Agreements will incorporate the details of each project as approved by FAS. Each agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of each project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for transportation of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the

agreement (organizations should endeavor to ship commodities within 6 months of effective date of agreement), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as required), compliance with the Fly America Act requirements (shipment on United States air carriers, as required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 90 days of expiration of the agreement. Evaluation reports should address all performance measures which were presented in the proposal.

Closing Date for Proposals

To be considered for participation in the QSP, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-18268 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Announcement of the 2003/2004 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Commodity Credit Corporation has published elsewhere in this issue a final rule establishing the "Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops" program to help open, retain, and expand markets for U.S. specialty crops.

DATES: Proposals will be accepted between July 18, 2003 and 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Proposals will be reviewed, and funding decisions will be made, as proposals are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave.,

SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, or telephone: (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To be considered for participation in the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Although entities interested in participating in the TASC program are not required to submit proposals in any specific format, all proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects as described in the final rule, published elsewhere in this issue, that establishes the program.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Revision and Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection—Emergency Farm Loan Program

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of currently approved information collections used in support of FSA's Emergency Loan Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 16, 2003 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Downs, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; Telephone (202) 720-0599; e-mail: janet_downs@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 764, Emergency Farm Loans.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0159.