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Date: August 30, 2018
Appraiser: Valerie S. Terray
Agency: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service
Subject: DAA-0166-2018-0050

INTRODUCTION

Schedule Overview

Foreign Agricultural Service Trade Programs

Administrative History

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security.

FAS has a global network of 93 offices covering 171 countries. These offices are staffed by agricultural attachés and locally hired agricultural experts who monitor U.S. agriculture around the world. FAS staff identify problems, provide practical solutions, and work to advance opportunities for U.S. agriculture and support U.S. foreign policy around the globe. FAS has four main services and programs that supports the mission of the agency which include: trade policy, market development and export assistance, foreign agricultural market data and analysis, and food security to assist developing countries.

The Emerging Markets Program (EMP) helps U.S. organizations promote exports of U.S. agricultural products to countries that have -- or are developing -- market-oriented economies and that have the potential to be viable commercial markets. Through the EMP, FAS provides cost-share funding for technical assistance activities such as feasibility studies, market research, sectorial assessments, orientation visits, specialized training and business workshops. The EMP supports exports of generic U.S. agricultural commodities and products, meaning projects that endorse or promote branded products or specific companies are not eligible.

The Quality Sample Program (QSP) enables potential customers around the world to discover the quality and benefits of U.S. agricultural products. The program focuses on processors and manufacturers rather than consumers, and QSP projects should benefit an entire industry or commodity rather than a specific company or product. Projects should focus on developing a new market or promoting a new use for the U.S. product. QSP participants obtain commodity samples, export them and provide the recipient with guidance on how to use the samples. When a project is finished, USDA reimburses the participant for the costs of procuring and transporting

the sample. Although all program participants are required to provide technical assistance to the recipients of their commodity samples, the costs for this assistance are not reimbursable.

The Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program provides funding to U.S. organizations for projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Eligible activities include seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, pest and disease research, and pre-clearance programs. Eligible crops include all cultivated plants and their products produced in the United States except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar and tobacco. The TASC program is intended to benefit an entire industry or commodity rather than a specific company or brand. U.S. non-profit, for-profit and government entities are all eligible to apply. Proposals may target individual countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries.

Overall Recommendation

I recommend approval of the attached schedule.

APPRAISAL

Item 0001: Emerging Markets Program (EMP)

Records in support of the Emerging Markets Program to include: program agreements, program amendments, approval letters, compliance correspondence, reimbursement claims, evaluations, performance reports, and financial reports.

Proposed Disposition: Temporary.

Appropriateness of Proposed Disposition: Appropriate.

Appraisal Justification:

*Has little or no research value. These records are administrative in nature and do not document agency policies or procedures.

* Does not document significant actions of Federal officials.

Adequacy of Proposed Retention Period(s): Adequate from the standpoint of legal rights and accountability.

Media Neutrality: Approved.

Item 0002: Quality Sample Program (QSP)

Records in support of the Quality Sample Program to include: program agreements, program amendments, approval letters, compliance correspondence, reimbursement claims, evaluations, performance reports, and financial reports.

Proposed Disposition: Temporary.

Appropriateness of Proposed Disposition: Appropriate.

Appraisal Justification:

*Has little or no research value. These records are administrative in nature and do not document agency policies or procedures.

* Does not document significant actions of Federal officials.

Adequacy of Proposed Retention Period(s): Adequate from the standpoint of legal rights and accountability.

Media Neutrality: Approved.

Item 0003: Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)

Records in support of the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program to include: program agreements, program amendments, approval letters, compliance correspondence, reimbursement claims, evaluations, performance reports, and financial reports.

Proposed Disposition: Temporary.

Appropriateness of Proposed Disposition: Appropriate.

Appraisal Justification:

*Has little or no research value. These records are administrative in nature and do not document agency policies or procedures.

* Does not document significant actions of Federal officials.

Adequacy of Proposed Retention Period(s): Adequate from the standpoint of legal rights and accountability.

Media Neutrality: Approved.



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