Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Foundational Program - Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (BNRE): Agroecosystem Management

Opp ID: 149652 | Research | Last edited on 25 Apr 2015

- Full Details

Website
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html

Sponsor
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Sponsor ID: A1451

Amount
Upper $500,000 USD

Total Program Funds: Approximately $13 million

Standard Grants must not exceed $500,000 total (including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 5 years.

Applicant Type
Academic Institution
Commercial
Government
New Faculty/New Investigator
Nonprofit
Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional
Small Business
Citizenship or Residency
United States
Activity location
United States

Abstract
This Program Area Priority seeks projects that develop and evaluate innovative agro-ecosystem management practices and systems for their potential to enhance ecosystem services. The Agroecosystem Management Program encourages high-risk/high reward projects that demonstrate a transformative approach to the problem (not an incremental improvement over current practices) while also making a case for feasibility. Applicants must address one of the following:
- The connection of biodiversity to production system functionality, productivity, socioeconomic viability, sustainability and the production of other ecosystem services. Biodiversity is defined here in a broad context to include genetic diversity, crop and/or landscape diversity over space and/or time, and/or species diversity in both the managed and unmanaged components of the agro-ecosystem. The focus can be at the field, farm or landscape level, however, the relevance of the project to management practices and systems must be made very clear.
New approaches that significantly increase the output and/or value of at least three ecosystem services each compared with the current management system for the region. Applicants are expected to select ecosystem services from at least two categories (provisioning, regulating, supporting or cultural). The approach may be genetic, management, technology or a combination.

Research outcomes will model promising agricultural systems that have balanced human social needs with natural systems to produce more food in more sustainable ways, and contribute to use-inspired foundational research that adds to the understanding of sustainable production of agroecosystems while retaining needed ecosystems services. Sustainability implies the interactions among--societal, economic, and environmental dimensions working across disciplines, looking long term across multiple scales, understanding responses in terms of resilience and adaptation, and on the synergies among responses. This program anticipates funding projects that reflect diverse spatial and temporal scales across geographic diversity.

CFDA 10.310

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: 1) State Agricultural Experiment Stations; 2) colleges and universities (including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher); 3) university research foundations; 4) other research institutions and organizations; 5) Federal agencies, 6) national laboratories; 7) private organizations or corporations; 8) individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents; and 9) any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified in 1) through 8). Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.

Anticipated Deadline: June 10, 2016