



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Cochran Fellowship Program FY2026

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1. Basic Information

1.1 Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Fellowship Programs, announces this funding opportunity to support the Cochran Fellowship Program by issuing a new award. This opportunity is available to State cooperative institutions or other colleges and universities in the United States, as defined at [7 U.S.C. § 3103](#). This program is intended to support applied research, extension, and education collaborations between U.S. researchers and their foreign counterparts from selected emerging market economies.

Benefits to the United States:

- This program makes America more prosperous by increasing American agricultural exports to new or expanded overseas markets.

1.2 Federal Agency Name

United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA/FAS)

1.3 Funding Opportunity Title

Cochran Fellowship Program FY2026

1.4 Announcement Type

New Announcement

1.5 Funding Opportunity Number

USDA-FAS-10962-0700-109-26-0001

1.6 Assistance Listing Number

10.962 Cochran Fellowship Program-International Training-Foreign Participant

1.7 Funding Details

<u>Total Available Federal Funding:</u>	\$1,050,000.00
<u>Anticipated Number of Awards:</u>	7
<u>Total Available Funding per Award:</u>	up to \$150,000

USDA/FAS reserves the right to make additional awards under this opportunity if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made, consistent with agency policy and guidance. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions.

1.8 Key Dates

Deadline for Question Submission: June 15, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: August 14, 2026 at 11:59pm Eastern Daylight Time

1.9 Agency Contact Information

For all inquiries, contact:

Name: Desiree Lawrence

Email Address: Desiree.Lawrence@usda.gov

Phone Number: 202-690-0947

Hours of Operation: 8:00am – 4:30pm Eastern Daylight Time

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible Applicants

State cooperative institutions or other colleges and universities in the United States, as defined at [7 U.S.C. § 3103](#).

All applicants must have an active registration in the U.S. Government System for Award Management (www.sam.gov) before the application submission deadline of the announcement. Applicants with inactive, expired, pending, or excluded listings will be deemed ineligible. Exceptions, waivers, or extensions will not be considered. More information about SAM.gov registration can be found in [Section 9](#), Other Information.

2.2 Substantial Compliance

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and must meet the eligibility requirements described above to be considered eligible. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within seven calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section 4, Application Contents and Format, of this solicitation or they will be deemed ineligible for funding consideration.

2.3 Evidence of Eligibility

Applicants are responsible for including documentation, if necessary, establishing that they meet the stated eligibility requirements when it is not immediately obvious. Applicants should not presume that USDA/FAS is sufficiently familiar with their organization, and USDA/FAS will not make assumptions as to the nature of the applicant's organization.

2.4 Funding Restrictions

Generally, funds may not be used in any manner that is prohibited by applicable regulations, including [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) and [2 C.F.R. Part 400](#). Awards issued pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity may only be used for the purpose set forth in the award, consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Capital expenses, such as the purchase of equipment, not entirely attributable to this award, must be pro-rated.

For example, agreement funds and other support may not be used for matching contributions for other federal grants or cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. Federal employees are prohibited from acting as an agent of the applicant in any capacity (paid or unpaid) on any proposal submitted under this program. Also, federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity.

Compensation for personal services: Employees, consultants, or other personnel, including those of subrecipients, and regardless of the method of engagement, may not exceed the pro-rata equivalent of ES-III on the Executive Schedule (for 2026, \$209,600 per year, \$806.15 per day, or \$100.77 per hour). Non-monetizable fringe benefits, such as health insurance coverage, are not included in this ceiling.

In general, costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective but not readily assignable to specific awards, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved, are considered indirect costs. These may include facilities not specific to individual projects, enterprise-wide services such as IT, and enterprise management. For cooperative agreements with nonprofit institutions, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs, per [Sec. 704](#) of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026.

If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks, activities, or cost items, that portion of the application will be deemed ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

2.5 Multiple Applications

An individual applicant may submit more than one application in response to this NOFO and may be offered more than one award.

2.6 Cost Share/Match Requirement

Cost sharing is not required, but encouraged.

3. Program Description

The Cochran Fellowship Program supports the development of new or expanded overseas markets for U.S. agricultural products by educating trading partners on the benefits of utilizing American agricultural products and how they can implement science-based trade policies in their own countries. Since 1984, the U.S. Congress has made funds available to the Cochran Fellowship Program for training agriculturalists from middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators working in agricultural trade and policy, agribusiness development, management, animal, plant, and food sciences, extension services, agricultural marketing, and many other areas. Individuals selected for Cochran trainings come from both the public and private sectors. All training occurs in the United States. Training programs are designed and organized in conjunction with U.S. universities, USDA and other government agencies, agribusinesses, and consultants. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. Since its start in 1984, the Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S.-based training for over 19,250 international participants from 127 countries worldwide.

Training Topic Descriptions:

Please see appendix for full Training Topic Descriptions

- [Genetic Engineering Risk Assessment, Regulation, and Policy - Indonesia](#)

- [Feed Industry Market Development for U.S. Genetically Engineered Corn and Soy - Thailand](#)
- [Promotion of U.S. Food Products - Egypt](#)
- [Overview of U.S. Softwood Species - Vietnam](#)
- [Promotion of U.S. Poultry – Uzbekistan](#)
- [Advancing Regulatory Approaches for Genetic Engineering of Plants – Morocco & Tunisia](#)
- [Genome Editing - Egypt](#)

3.1 Authorizing Statutes and Regulations

Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, P.L. 101-624, as amended, [7 U.S.C. § 3293](#).

3.2 Type of Assistance Instrument

USDA/FAS anticipates that a Cooperative Agreement will be funded pursuant to this funding opportunity.

This type of agreement includes statutory limitations related to indirect costs.

4. Application Contents and Format

4.1 Complete Application Package

A complete application package must include:

- [Standard Form SF-424](#), Application for Federal Assistance, showing the Unique Entity ID, and signed by the applicant.
- [Standard Form SF-424A](#), Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs, showing the budget categorization. Applicants are advised to consult [2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart E](#) for guidance on proper categorization of cost items. An improper categorization will not itself be grounds for a determination of ineligibility but may delay approval and/or adversely impact the application’s scoring.
- A detailed budget narrative, in which cost items are clearly identified, correspond to the appropriate cost category, and are quantified and described in sufficient detail to enable USDA/FAS to independently determine that the proposed costs are reasonable and allowable for the project and consistent with applicable regulations.
 - Indirect costs capped at 10% for cooperative agreements with nonprofit institutions per Sec. 704 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026.
 - The applicant should not budget for the participants’ international flights to and from the United States.
- A detailed project narrative or plan of operation including the following requirements:
 - The name of the institution applying to host the participants.
 - Name of the Statement of Work the institution is applying.
 - The proposed place(s) of performance within the United States.
 - The applicant’s proposed approach to achieve the objective of the program listed in the appendix. The description should include but not be limited to topics to be covered, possible field visits, and other activities. The applicant should also include a proposed agenda.

- A description of how the award, including the logistical elements (e.g. domestic travel arrangements, accommodation booking, site visits, plan to introduce U.S. businesses or envisioned coordination with U.S. cooperators), will be administered and the role of the university faculty and support staff.
- A summary of relevant institutional capabilities for teaching international participants about applicable topics association in the Statement of Work.
- A brief description of the expertise and international experience of the applicant. This may include further information about the applicant's field and foreign experience.
- An overview of the applicant's qualifications in international training and/or adult education, understanding of the cultural context and needs of the trainees, and knowledge of relevant agricultural, market, and/or trade conditions within the participants' country or a similar location. Including steps that will be taken for cultural relevancy for participants of varying backgrounds and religions, for instance dietary restrictions.
- If necessary, other appropriate collaborating experts should be identified to meet any of the objectives which the applicant cannot address.
- The skills or knowledge expected to be acquired by the participants at the end of the program.
- Means of flexibility to account for potential program changes and the ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances; this should include information on how unforeseen problems that can arise will be addressed.
- Plan for evaluating and implementing the individual action plans produced by the participants to achieve individual learning outcomes to achieve the purpose of the training program, as detailed in Section 8.6.
- Application following designated format:
 - Clearly outline all aspects of the program plan – what is planned, how this will be conducted, and the anticipated results;
 - Be written in English and free of excessive grammatical and spelling errors; and
 - Cite source information and/or provide an explanation of the analysis undertaken.

4.2 Specific Application Formats

Applicants should ensure they are using active, i.e. non-expired, versions of standard forms. The use of an expired standard form will not itself be grounds for a determination of ineligibility but may delay processing of an applicant selected for award.

There are no page limitations and formatting requirements (including, but not limited to, font and font size, margins, paper size, and color limitations) for applications.

4.3 Electronic Signatures

Consistent with the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN Act), USDA/FAS uses and accepts electronic signatures for application and award documents. USDA/FAS will neither solicit nor send physical copies of documents.

4.4 Proprietary Information

Applicants should generally refrain from including the details of proprietary information in applications. In cases where, in the applicant's judgement, the inclusion of proprietary information is essential to application review and scoring, the applicant should clearly indicate information it wishes to designate as proprietary.

4.5 Other Application Information

Successful applicants must submit the following information after USDA/FAS notification of our intent to make a Federal award, but prior to a Federal award, if the applicant request for funding or the intended award amount is over \$100,000:

- [Grants.gov Lobbying Form](#)
- [Standard Form SF-LLL](#), Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable to the applicant

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

5.1 Address to Request Application Package

This Notice of Funding Opportunity contains all information required to submit a complete application package.

5.2 Unique Entity ID and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant must:

- (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application;
- (ii) Provide a valid unique entity ID in its application; and
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active registration in SAM with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal agency.

5.3 Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted through the ezFedGrants system at <https://grants.fms.usda.gov/> USDA-managed computer systems require applicants to have an identity-proofed account through the [login.gov](#) platform and, in some cases, may require at least two persons. Identity-proofing and subsequent registration with any USDA-managed computer system may take several days, and applicants who do not already have system access should begin the registration process immediately, even if they are unsure they will apply to this funding opportunity.

Applicants who require assistance with any USDA-managed computer system must reach out to the agency contact listed in Section 1, Agency Contact Information, prior to the application submission deadline date in Section 5.4, Submission Dates and Times. USDA/FAS strongly encourages applicants reach out at least 5 business days in advance of the application submission deadline to ensure resolution prior to the application submission deadline date. Applicants should provide as much detail as possible to facilitate resolution of the issue. USDA/FAS will make a reasonable effort to resolve the issue and in rare cases may offer alternative avenues for application submission. If applicants do not contact USDA/FAS prior to the application submission deadline date and submit an application package through an alternative method, their application will be deemed ineligible.

5.4 Submission Dates and Times

Application Submission Deadline: August 14, 2026, at 11:59pm EDT (UTC -04:00)

Applications received after this time will NOT be accepted. Applicants are advised to make their submissions 1-2 days before this deadline in case of computer problems.

5.5 Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable.

6. Application Review Information

6.1 Eligibility Threshold Review

USDA/FAS will conduct an eligibility threshold review of all applications submitted to determine that:

- The applicant is eligible, as defined in Section 2, Eligibility;
- The application was submitted by the application submission deadline date and time as specified in Section 5, Submission Requirements; and
- The applicant submitted a complete application, including all required forms and documents as defined in Section 4.1, Complete Application Package.

An application that does not include all documentation required by this notice of funding opportunity at the time of application, including documentation required in SAM.gov, will be deemed ineligible.

If an applicant is determined to be ineligible, USDA/FAS will notify the applicant prior to commencing with evaluation of applications, usually within 5 business days of the Application Submission Deadline. An applicant that feels such a determination was made in error may request reconsideration, highlighting evidence supporting their claim, by email to the program officer(s) listed in Section 1, Agency Contact Information, within 3 business days of notification. If USDA/FAS determines an error occurred during the application submission and/or eligibility review process, the application will rejoin the group of eligible participants and continue to the merit review process.

Applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in the application.

6.2 Review Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated by the extent and quality to which they demonstrate that they have the capabilities, staff, resources, and equipment to successfully perform the project as described in the following factors. Scoring will also be based on the applicant's ability to clearly articulate and detail its capacity to address the following factors in its proposal.

Expertise (30 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which applicants demonstrate they have the background as well as experience and knowledge of relevant agricultural conditions within the participants' country(ies).

Experience (10 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which applicants demonstrate experience in implementing international training and adult education programming.

Training Plan (30 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which the training program plan fulfills specific training objectives and is relevant to the participants' backgrounds as identified in the appendix including appropriate site visits and meetings.

Quality Assurance Plan (10 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which they provide a Quality Assurance Plan to ensure that quality of the training is being maintained throughout the duration of the program. Additionally, the quality assurance plan must demonstrate the applicant's ability to sustain training quality when there are unforeseen circumstances or requested changes to the Training Plan.

Budget (15 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, and adequacy of the proposed budget to accomplish the project. The Budget will be evaluated on cost savings, where available, and the inclusion of a budget narrative for each line item.

Overall Quality (5 points)

Applications will be evaluated on comprehensiveness, completeness, and correct spelling and grammar.

6.3 Review and Selection Process

The agency will convene a review panel to review the eligible applications against the evaluation criteria described above. USDA/FAS documents that reviewers, whatever their affiliation, are free from a conflict of interest that would affect their assessment of an applicant, whether positively or negatively.

The reviewers will ensure that the applicant can deliver the programs/activities described in the announcement based on the applicant's project narrative and assign a score and provide summary comments based on the evaluation criteria identified above. The review panel will make a recommendation list to the selecting official, who is not a member of the panel.

The selecting official may select applications out of rank order in consideration of strategic program priorities. Selection determinations are final and cannot be appealed.

Prior to selection, the agency may contact the highest-ranking applicants to seek clarification and to discuss programmatic aspects of the application. If an application includes a subaward, USDA/FAS may request to speak with all parties included in the application to ensure sufficient planning and coordination has taken place prior to making an award.

6.4 Risk Review

Prior to making a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency is required by [2 C.F.R. 200.206](#), [31 U.S.C. § 3321](#), and [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#) to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing a Federal award; (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

Prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$350,000, the federal agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov ([41 U.S.C. § 2313](#)).

- An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.
- Before making decisions in the risk review required by [2 C.F.R. 200.206](#), the Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov.

7. Award Notices

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application/award by email. Notification to successful applicants is not authorization to proceed, and such notification should be construed as provisional until an award document has been signed by authorized officials of USDA/FAS and the recipient.

Award documents will be transmitted by email to the individuals or offices who submitted them, or to those persons or offices that USDA/FAS believes, to the best of its information, are proper. The applicant is recommended to ensure that the agency is provided with the correct point(s) of contact.

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

8.1 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All successful applicants for all grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with the applicable General Terms and Conditions, which can be found at https://fas.usda.gov/grants/general_terms_and_conditions. The applicant is presumed to have read, understood, and accepted these terms when accepting a USDA/FAS award. USDA/FAS will specify in the terms and conditions of all final awards all termination provisions that apply, including terminations for all reasons specified in [2 C.F.R. § 200.340\(a\)](#). Applicants with questions about the applicable terms should contact the program officer(s) listed in Section 1, Agency Contact Information.

Before accepting an award, the applicant should carefully read all award documents for instructions on administering the award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities of Federal Awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as

any Special Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.

8.2 Reporting

Financial Reporting

Financial Reports, using form [SF-425](#), Federal Financial Report (FFR), must be submitted within 120 days after the end date of the period of performance pursuant to [2 C.F.R. § 200.328\(d\)](#).

Performance Reporting

A final performance progress report must be submitted no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance. The recipient may use any appropriate format for performance progress reports, provided the report includes:

- a) A comparison of actual accomplishments to the established goals for the period;
- b) The reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and
- c) Additional pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.

Recipients are encouraged to include photographs and other supplemental material in the performance report.

Financial and Performance reports must be submitted through the ezFedGrants system at <https://grants.fms.usda.gov/>. USDA/FAS may authorize alternative means of submission for recipients who demonstrate a bona fide need.

Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

Applicants must ensure that they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the subaward and executive total compensation reporting requirements established at [2 C.F.R. Part 170](#), should they be selected for funding.

Closeout

No later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance or after an amendment has been issued to close out a USDA/FAS financial assistance agreement, whichever comes first, recipients must submit a final financial report and final progress report detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance. After final reports have been reviewed and approved by the agency, and any residual amount due to the recipient or due to be returned to the agency is disbursed, the award is subject to closeout. Acceptance of final reports by USDA/FAS constitutes a closeout of the award with no further notice or obligation to either party. This acceptance will indicate the period of performance has expired, and any remaining funds will be deobligated. Records must be retained for a minimum of three years after the final reports are submitted.

8.3 Monitoring

USDA/FAS, through its authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such assistance as may be required. During site visits, USDA/FAS will review recipients' files related to the program.

As part of any monitoring and program evaluation activities, recipients must permit USDA/FAS, upon reasonable notice, to review assistance agreement-related records and to interview the organization's staff and other knowledgeable persons regarding the program, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to agency requests for information relating to the program.

8.4 Conflict of Interest

The Applicant's Conflict of Interest (COI) Point of Contact as defined in USDA/FAS Conflict of Interest Policy must notify the USDA/FAS contact identified in Section 1, Agency Contact Information, of this solicitation of any actual or potential conflict of interest that they are aware of that may provide the applicant with an unfair competitive advantage in competing for USDA/FAS financial assistance awards within 10 calendar days of becoming aware of the conflict of interest. Examples of an unfair competitive advantage include but are not limited to situations in which an USDA/FAS employee reviewed and commented on or drafted all or part of an applicant's application. Note that USDA/FAS does not generally consider receiving information from an USDA/FAS employee limited to whether the applicant or the applicant's proposed project is eligible to compete for funding to confer an unfair competitive advantage. In addition, assistance agreements made under this solicitation will include a term and condition notifying recipients of their COI disclosure obligations and responsibilities under the award including the need to have systems in place to address, resolve and disclose COIs to USDA/FAS.

8.5 Mandatory Disclosures

As required by [2 C.F.R. § 200.113](#), non-federal entities or applicants for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#) including suspension and debarment.

8.6 Performance Expectations

Before travel, the participants will develop individual action plans with the recipient pertaining to the objectives above, with the expectation that the recipient will aim to meet these individual learning needs during implementation and in conjunction with the program objective. USDA/FAS will provide a standard, individual action plan template for the recipient to utilize. Individual action plans shall be evaluated by the recipient to ensure that they are realistic, achievable within the timeframe given, reasonable in cost and complexity, and within the learning objectives of the program. Prior to participants' arrival and after the recipient's review of the individual action plans, the recipient shall provide an overview for USDA/FAS approval on the individual action plans and the recipient's plan to meet participants' needs.

After the program, the recipient shall include in their final report details on the implementation of individual action plans, report on progress, and, to the extent practicable, provide any additional follow-up necessary towards accomplishing participants' individual action plans.

Translation services under this award are not necessary. The duration of the training program is envisioned as being 1-2 weeks but is to be proposed by the applicant.

USDA/FAS will be entirely responsible for the recruitment of the Participants. In addition, USDA/FAS will provide the participants with:

1. J-1 compliant Emergency Medical Insurance
2. DS-2019/J-1 visa support for participants and related SEVIS requirements

USDA/FAS will also inform the recipient of the recruitment timeline and final determination on the participants, including their respective business backgrounds.

Host Institution shall provide the participants with:

1. Ground transportation
2. Airfare for travel within the U.S. and per diem allowance
3. Secure and guaranteed lodging during the entire program

Post-Award Performance Expectations:

1. Provide digital copies of the training highlights to each participant and to USDA/FAS.
2. Ensure that each participant completes a Training Program Evaluation (which will be provided by USDA/FAS).
3. Ensure development of an individual action plan by each participant. The recipient shall provide a copy of each participant's action plan to USDA/FAS.
4. Provide a pre-training questionnaire to determine participants' baseline knowledge of the learning objectives.
5. Provide post-training questionnaire to determine the knowledge gained in each of the learning objectives.
6. Provide an analysis of the pre- and post-training questionnaire.
7. Provide all transportation within the United States, from the point of arrival to the point of departure.
 - a. The recipient is not responsible for international airfare of participants.
 - b. Please include baggage fees for any domestic flights.
8. Provide hotel lodging in single occupancy, for all participants.
9. Offer appropriate cross-cultural activities for the purposes of sharing language, culture, or history in accordance with J-1 Visa requirements.
10. All meetings with Federal Government offices or officials must be initiated by USDA/FAS.

9. Other Information

9.1 Extensions

Extensions to this program are permitted, subject to approval.

9.2 No Awards

USDA/FAS reserves the right to make no awards under this competition.

9.3 SAM.gov Registration Instructions

Organizations applying for this funding opportunity must have an active SAM.gov registration. If you have never done business with the Federal Government, you will need to register your organization in SAM.gov. If you do not have a SAM.gov account, then you must create an

account using login.gov¹ to complete your SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov registration is FREE. The process for entity registrations includes several steps and validations and is not complete until the registration is shown as Active. Please review the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for details on this process.

If you have done business with the Federal Government previously, you can check your entity status using your government issued UEI to determine if your registration is active. SAM.gov requires you renew your registration every 365 days to keep it active.

Please note that SAM.gov registration is different than obtaining a UEI only. Obtaining an UEI only validates your organization's legal business name and address. Please review the [Frequently Asked Question](#) on the difference for additional details.

Organizations should ensure that their SAM.gov registration includes a current e-Business (EBiz) point of contact, name and email address. The EBiz point of contact is critical for Grants.gov registration and system functionality.

Contact the [Federal Service Desk](#) for help with your SAM.gov account, to resolve issues or to chat with a help desk agent: (866) 606-8220. The Federal Service desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm ET.

9.4 Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations may apply for an award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at, and subject to the protections and requirements of, [7 C.F.R. Part 16](#) and any applicable constitutional and statutory requirements, including [42 U.S.C. § 2000bb](#) et seq. USDA/FAS will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate for or against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, motives, or affiliation, or lack thereof, or on the basis of conduct that would not be considered grounds to favor or disfavor a similarly situated secular organization.

A faith-based organization that participates in this program will retain its independence from the Government and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom and conscience protections in federal law. Religious accommodations may also be sought under many of these religious freedom and conscience protection laws.

A faith-based organization may not use direct Federal financial assistance from USDA/FAS to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities except when consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and any other applicable requirements. An organization receiving Federal financial assistance also may not, in providing services funded by USDA/FAS, or in their outreach activities related to such services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

¹ Login.gov is a secure sign in service used by the public to sign into Federal Agency systems including SAM.gov and Grants.gov. For help with login.gov accounts, visit [http://login.gov/help](https://login.gov/help).

Appendix

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service

Genetic Engineering Risk Assessment, Regulation, and Policy Indonesia

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program on Genetic Engineering (GE) Risk Assessment, Regulation, and Policy for up to twelve Participants from Indonesia. These Participants will be policymakers from Indonesian government agencies that regulate agricultural GE, including the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the National Quarantine Agency, the National Agency of Drug and Food Control, and the Coordinating Ministry for Food Affairs' GE regulation working group.

This program should provide training on the U.S. government framework for developing policy, regulation, and risk assessment processes for GE products. The program should enable Indonesian policymakers to develop a coordinated streamlined approach to the food and feed safety risk assessment of GE products. The training should include meetings with regulatory and research agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) developing GE agricultural products. [NOTE: all meeting requests with U.S. Regulatory Agencies will be coordinated by the Cochran Fellowship Program]. The objective of this program is to make America more prosperous by enabling Indonesian policymakers to streamline food and feed safety risk assessments for GE agricultural products, thereby expanding market access for imports of U.S. GE corn and soy products. The goal of the program is to increase the Participants' capacity for agricultural research, extension, teaching, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The applicant shall ensure that the Participants develop competencies in the following areas:

- U.S. GE policy and regulatory system
 - Role of regulatory agencies in the development of the national policy
 - Regulation of new and emerging GE, including gene-editing
 - Learning how to set up protocols for a regulatory framework
 - International policies and standards – CODEX, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Intellectual Property Rights
- U.S. risk management of GE
 - Roles of government agencies in risk assessment
 - Role of research institutions in assessing the biosafety of GE products
 - Strategies for streamlining risk assessment processes

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2- week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Feed Market Development for U.S. Genetically Engineered Corn and Soy
Thailand**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program on Feed Market Development for U.S. Genetically Engineered (GE) Corn and Soy for up to twelve Participants from Thailand's feed ingredients industry.

The program should expose Thailand's key feed importers and millers to U.S. GE feed ingredients such as corn and soy, which has great potential for expansion into Thailand's feed ingredients market. As Thailand's livestock industry grows, and the demand for meat and poultry products increase, the opportunity for U.S. feed ingredients will rise. Currently, due to the limitation of arable land and water, Thailand cannot produce enough feed ingredients and relies on imports such as soybean (for protein), corn/corn distiller's dry grains (DDGS) (for energy) and hay (for protein and fiber).

This training program on Feed Market Development for U.S. GE Corn and Soy in Thailand should include attendance of a livestock exposition and visits with suppliers/producers of feed ingredients. The Participants should learn about U.S. feed production and how to navigate and manage price risk in the U.S. commodity market. The objective of this program is to make America more prosperous by showing Thai Participants the quality, safety, and feed value of GE U.S. corn and soy to increase exports of these products to Thailand. The goal of this training program is to enhance Thailand's capacity for participation in international trade and increase the Participants' capacity for agricultural research, extension, teaching, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The applicant shall ensure that Participants develop competencies in the following areas:

- Storage, pest control, transportation of U.S. feed ingredients
- Proper handling and processing of U.S. feed ingredients
- Cultivation and processing of soybean (for protein), corn/corn DDGS (for energy) and alfalfa (for protein and fiber), sunflower seed meal, whey powder, and sorghum
- Quality control and safety assurance measures for U.S. GE derived feed ingredients
- Classification and grading standards
- U.S. regulations to ensure safety of GE corn and soy in livestock feed Animal nutrition and feeding methods
- U.S. commodity markets and price risk management
- Requirements for importing U.S. feed ingredients to South Thailand
- Import opportunities for U.S. feed ingredients into Thailand

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive two-week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Promotion of U.S. Food Products
Egypt**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for up to twelve Participants from Egypt. The Participants are representatives from the Egyptian government and private sector with a vested interest in U.S. food products and food safety.

The Promotion of U.S. Food Products program should provide the Participants with an in-depth understanding of the U.S. regulatory system and internationally recognized science-based food safety measures that facilitate international trade. The training program should connect Participants with U.S. farmers, ranchers, food processors and distributors to demonstrate the strength of U.S. food production and highlight opportunities for increasing U.S. exports of beef, dairy, fish products, tree nuts, and other consumer-oriented products to Egypt. The training program should include visits to a port of entry, a food processing facility, a meat plant, a fish processing facility, a dairy processing facility, and a laboratory that carries food safety tests. Participants, if possible, should meet with the U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Dairy Export Council, Western United States Agricultural Trade Association, U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council, Food Export Association of the Midwest, and the Almond Board of California or American Pistachio Growers, as well as U.S. agribusinesses currently exporting or interested in exporting food products to Egypt. Additional meetings with U.S. producer cooperatives, U.S. regulatory agencies (i.e., Food and Drug Administration & Food Safety & Inspection Service), associations, and companies are also encouraged to demonstrate how the private sector and the government work in partnership to ensure the safety and quality of U.S. food products.

This training program should incorporate participation in a high-visibility food safety forum, such as the Chicago Food Safety Summit, to provide Participants with exposure to food safety professionals representing the entire U.S. supply chain, foster connections, enhance attendees' understanding of U.S. food safety solutions and market insights, and to create opportunities to facilitate the export of U.S. food and beverage products.

The objective of the program is to make America more prosperous by training Participants on U.S. food safety regulation, thereby building confidence in the safety of U.S. food products exported to Egypt. The goal of this program is to expand market access for U.S. food products in Egypt and to increase the Participants' capacity for extension, teaching, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer shall ensure that the Participants increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- Understanding U.S. food safety regulations
 - Standards (Codex, SPS regulations, ISO 17025)
 - Traceability requirements
 - Risk analysis/management
 - Overview of food safety laws and implementation; and roles of regulatory authorities (FDA, APHIS, EPA, FSIS, NOAA)
 - Regulatory measures on biosafety
 - U.S. Maximum Residue Limit programs
 - Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) implementation, with emphasis on Preventive Controls & Food Traceability rule
- Understanding food safety and implementation
 - Food controls, HACCP (design and implementation), microbiology
 - Distribution chain; food safety during transport and storage
 - Qualitative and quantitative methods to assess risk
 - Food quality and handling
 - Monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination
 - Certification and equivalence of SPS
 - Good manufacturing practices, good agricultural practices & good laboratory practices
 - Microbiological, chemical analysis
 - Food safety audits
- Understanding food safety in relationship to import and export procedures
 - Pre-registration and post-registration
 - U.S. regulation compliance to include legislative frameworks.
 - Facilitate dialogue between U.S. and Egyptian regulatory agencies.
 - Participant overview of current food safety requirement and conditions in Egypt.
 - Educate Egyptian government officials on U.S. export procedures and documentation requirements.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This approximately two-week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Overview of U.S. Softwood Species
Vietnam**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

This Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for up to twelve Participants from Vietnam for an Overview of U.S. Softwood Species. The Participants should be representatives of Vietnams building industry, including architects, construction companies, and suppliers of building materials,

The training should provide participants with an understanding of the U.S. softwood industry, covering grading and treating of wood, sawmill operations, and export regulations. The program should also include visits to sawmills, a wood treatment plant, lumber export warehouses as well as tours of construction sites and outdoor facilities that demonstrate a range of uses for U.S. softwood that are applicable for construction in Vietnam. In addition, the Participants should attend the International Mass Timber Conference scheduled for March 2027 in Portland, Oregon. The program should increase the Participants' awareness of the availability, quality, and reliability of U.S. softwood species and introduce them to the different species of softwoods, their applications, and how the products are graded, cut, and measured.

The objective of this program is to make America more prosperous by improving the Vietnamese Participants' understanding of U.S. softwood applications for, opening opportunities to expand U.S. softwood exports to Vietnam. The goal of this program is to increase Vietnam's capacity for extension, teaching, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The applicant shall ensure that Participants develop competencies in the following areas:

- The species of U.S. softwood that can be used for construction, construction details, and furniture manufacturing.
 - Their characteristics and applications.
 - Their supply and availability, including seasonal variations in pricing and availability.
- U.S. standards of wood classification, quality control, certification, and grading in the construction industry.
- American forestry and processing of lumber.
- Overview of U.S. softwoods used for construction and wood construction design
 - Wood framing systems.
 - Low- and high-income wood construction processes and design.
 - Uses and characteristics of engineered wood for construction.
 - Pressure treatment on preservative treatment and standard wood structure design.
 - Prefabricated timber dwellings (e.g., bungalows).
 - Mass timber construction
- Softwood applications for interior design.

- Factory management in wood construction and production.

The program should also include meetings with the Softwood Export Council.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive two-week training program should be implemented before September 30, 2027.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Promotion of U.S. Poultry
Uzbekistan**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for up to twelve Participants from Uzbekistan representing the public sector with a vested interest in poultry management. Participant specializations may be in animal health, veterinary sciences, food safety, and/or trade regulation.

This program on Promotion of U.S. Poultry to Uzbekistan should provide training on U.S. poultry sector management, food safety priorities, and international food safety standards to assist Participants in building science-based food safety management systems in Uzbekistan. The training should showcase the U.S. food safety system for poultry products, touching on disease management, quality control, risk assessments, traceability and documentation, processing, and labelling and certifying. The Participants should have opportunities to visit poultry farms, slaughterhouses, and processing plants to see examples of poultry disease management, processes and management for food safety and quality control, and the supply chain from farm to retail distribution. The Participants, if possible, should meet with various U.S. Government entities and industry leaders, including USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, to discuss emerging poultry disease issues in the U.S., the framework of regulations and compliance in the industry, the role of private and government veterinarians, and disease management and emergency response procedures.

The program's objective is to make America more prosperous by increasing exports of U.S. poultry products to Uzbekistan through product promotion and by encouraging the Uzbeki government to reduce trade barriers to U.S. poultry by adopting U.S. science-based food safety standards. The goal of the program is to increase the Participants' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and teaching.

The host institutions shall propose the place(s) of performance. USDA/FAS will be entirely responsible for the recruitment of the Participants, and the Participants will be selected after the closure of this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The trainer should ensure that the Participants increase their knowledge in the following areas:

- Trade, food safety laws and regulations, and roles of government agencies and associations in the U.S. poultry industry
 - U.S. inspection and regulatory mechanisms that oversee poultry product exports to demonstrate the robustness of the U.S. food safety, sanitary, and phytosanitary measures.

- Disease prevention programs – government policies, strategies, and practices for disease control and prevention, including vaccination programs, and animal welfare measures.
- How the government manages veterinarians and the role they play in the poultry sector.
- The structure of U.S. poultry associations and the role they play in export of high-quality poultry products.
- Relationship between government and producer associations, and their communication on food safety in the poultry sector.
- Marketing and branding strategies as they relate to communicating the quality and safety of U.S. poultry products.
- Farm management and food safety practices
 - Processes and machinery used in poultry production and processing, and how it ensures food safety requirements are met.
 - Quality control standards in practice, biosecurity measures at farms, and the importance of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).
 - Responsible handling (processing and disposing) of waste and byproducts.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The consecutive 2-week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Advancing Regulatory Approaches for Genetic Engineering of Plants
Morocco & Tunisia**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program for a total of 12 Participants from Morocco (6), and Tunisia (6) that will include government regulators and other policymakers.

The program should assist the governments of Morocco and Tunisia in the development of science-based, risk-proportionate genetic engineering (GE) regulations and policies. The program should provide Participants with an overview of public and private developments in GE, biosafety considerations, and the U.S. science-based, risk-proportionate approach for regulating GE. The program should focus on the regulation of genetically engineered plants, particularly genetically engineered U.S. soybeans, corn, and distiller's dry grains (DDGs). This consecutive two-week training should include visits to U.S. GE companies, and meetings with U.S. government regulatory and research agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). [NOTE: all meeting requests with U.S. Regulatory Agencies will be coordinated by the Cochran Fellowship Program].

The objective of the program is to make America more prosperous by encouraging Moroccan and Tunisian government officials to adopt the United States' science-based regulatory approach to genetic engineering, which will expand market access for U.S. corn, soy, and DDG exports to their countries. The goal of this program is to increase these countries' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The training will ensure that the Participants develop competencies in the following areas:

- Overview of modern GE
 - Newest genetic engineering processes and applications with a focus on GE soybeans, corn, and DDGs.
 - Laws that govern GE and biosafety in the United States.
- GE policies and regulatory framework in a national and global context
 - Learning how to set up protocols for regulatory framework.
 - Understanding day-to-day responsibilities of legal guidelines.
 - International policies and standards – CODEX, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Intellectual Property Rights
- Risk management of GE
 - Methodologies for risk assessment and risk management for GE products in food, animal feed, and the environment.
- GE communication

- Communication skills and strategies for promoting GE products to the public, to enhance consumer acceptance.
- Methods for organizing consensus among industry, government, and NGO stakeholders for acceptance of GE.
- Effective use of modern modes of communication to disperse information to industry, government, stakeholders, and the public.
- GE Benefits
 - Growing population pressure, limited farmlands, and scarce water resources for irrigation all contribute to a growing threat food security.
 - The program should address the advantages of agricultural GE, including positive effects on crops yields, GE's impact on biodiversity and the environment and the direct socio-economic benefits to farmers.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2-week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Genome Editing
Egypt**

TRAINING TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Cochran Fellowship Program is requesting the design and delivery of a training program to strengthen Egypt's capacity to develop a transparent, science-based regulatory framework for genome-edited agricultural products. The program will host a total of twelve Participants from Egyptian academia and research institutions.

The program should support the development of science-based regulatory exemptions for genome-edited food and animal feed in Egypt by drawing on the United States' regulatory model, which balances innovation, safety, and public trust. Products of genome editing with no foreign DNA should be recognized under an equivalent regulatory framework as food crops produced by conventional plant breeding methods. By promoting the benefits of a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, the project will enable Egypt to responsibly harness genome editing for agricultural applications, while ensuring public health and environmental safety. The program should provide participants with an overview of public and private developments in genome editing and the U.S. science-based, risk-proportionate approach for regulating genome editing.

This consecutive two-week training should include visits to U.S. genetic engineering companies, genetic transformation laboratories, genome editing development companies, and meetings with industry leaders and U.S. government regulatory and research agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The initiative will build local Egyptian research related to genome-edited products. The program will also expand the Participants' understanding of risk assessment, product approval processes, and post-market surveillance. [NOTE: all meeting requests with U.S. Regulatory Agencies will be coordinated by Cochran Fellowship Program staff].

The host institution shall propose the place(s) of performance. USDA/FAS will be entirely responsible for the recruitment of the participants, and the participants will be selected after the closure of this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

The objective of the program is to make America more prosperous by establishing a mechanism that streamlines trade for commercialized U.S. genome-edited products, which will reduce barriers to trade, foster innovation, and open new markets for U.S. farmers, food manufacturers, and exporters in Egypt. The goal of this program is to increase the participants' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The training will ensure that the Participants develop competencies in the following areas:

- Overview of modern biotechnology
 - Newest genetic engineering methods and applications with a focus on GE corn and DDGs.
 - Laws that govern biotechnology and biosafety in the United States.
- Genome editing
 - Understanding genome editing methods and innovations
 - Distinction between genetically engineered and genome-edited products
 - Roles and applications in crop development and protection
 - Improving nutritional and functional characteristics of crops
- Understanding genome editing policies and regulatory systems
- Role of regulatory agencies in the development of national policy
- Regulation of genome-edited products
- Current risk assessment approaches for environmental, food and feed safety
- Understanding public perception of genome-edited products
 - Public health and safety issues
- Communication and public awareness and acceptance
- Marketing of genome-edited products
- Economic and trade implications

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This consecutive 2-week training should be implemented before September 30, 2027.