

- 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 shipment 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 American 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

All proposals must be submitted in duplicate and received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 11, 2002, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932-S, 14th and 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 at Washington, DC on December 31, 2001.

Mary T. Chambliss,

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

[FR Doc. 02-434 Filed 1-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-035N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will meet January 22-25, 2002. This meeting replaces the NACMCF meeting originally scheduled for September 17-20, 2001. The original meeting was postponed because of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The meeting is open to the public. The committee will discuss *Salmonella* performance standards in meat and poultry products; *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in blade-tenderized, non-intact beef; the evaluation of hot holding temperatures; Codex "Discussion Paper on Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures," and the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting date and post it to its Internet web page.

DATES: The full Committee will meet on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 23, 24, and 25, 2002; subcommittee meetings will be held on January 22 and 23, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Send an original and two copies of comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Docket Room: Docket #01-035N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments should contact Brenda Halbrook (202) 690-6600, Fax (202) 690-6337, e-mail address: brenda.halbrook@dchqexs1.hqnet.usda.gov, or mailing address: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health and Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Halbrook, by January 7, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established on March 18, 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for food, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal 1988. The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/programs/nacmcf_chart.htm.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense. Dr. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, is the Committee Chair, Janice F.

Oliver, Deputy Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, is the Co-Chair, and Brenda Halbrook, FSIS, is the Executive Secretary.

At the January 22–25, 2002, meeting announced in this document, the Committee will

- Discuss *Salmonella* performance standards in meat and poultry products;
- Discuss *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in blade-tenderized, non-intact beef;
- Discuss the evaluation of hot holding temperatures;
- Discuss the Codex “Discussion Paper on Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures,” and
- Discuss the scientific basis for establishing safety-based “use by” date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce the meeting and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect, or would be of interest to, our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720–5704.

Margaret O’K Glavin,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02–499 Filed 1–4–02; 11:35 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

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 certain foreign currencies 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 use available currencies of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia, to provide assistance in market development and agricultural technical assistance activities. This use of foreign currencies is commonly referred to as the “section 108 foreign currency program.” 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 February 12, 2001, FAS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 9818–9820) inviting proposals to use currencies of Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Tunisia for market development projects and technical assistance activities. The currencies of Costa Rica, which were available under the previous announcements, are no longer available. The currencies of Sri Lanka have been added to the list.

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. Activities funded with section 108 currencies are not limited to the country where the currency originated. 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. At the time of this announcement, approximately 28 million Dominican Republic pesos; 210 million Jamaica dollars; 12 million Tunisia dinars; and 1.7 million Sri Lanka rupees are available.

Proposal Process

This notice is complemented by concurrent notices announcing four 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, and the Quality Samples Program (QSP). 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 currency program contain, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Organizational information, including:

- Organization’s name, address, Chief Executive Officer (or designee), and Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- Type of organization, e.g., corporation, non-profit organization;