



BRARGP FY 2003 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

CSREES solicits applications for an estimated \$3.0 million in grants for the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRARGP). **Applications must be received by close of business March 5, 2003 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time).**

The purpose of the BRARGP is to assist Federal regulatory agencies in making science-based decisions about the effects of introducing into the environment genetically modified organisms, including plants, microorganisms (including fungi, bacteria, and viruses), arthropods, fish, birds, mammals, and other animals excluding humans. Investigations of effects on both managed and natural environments are relevant.

New for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003:

As a result of the passage of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA), CSREES anticipates having twice the FY 2002 funds available to make BRARGP grants in FY 2003.

In accordance with the legislative authority in section 7210 of the FSRIA, "research designed to identify and develop appropriate management practices to minimize physical and biological risks associated with genetically engineered animals, plants, and microorganisms" will also be solicited by the BRARGP.

Applications may be submitted by any United States public or private research or educational institution or organization. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply, provided such organizations are necessary to conduct the project. Applications will be evaluated by a peer panel of scientists.

CSREES and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture jointly administer the BRARGP.

For information and forms, visit the BRARGP Homepage: <http://www.reeusda.gov/crgam/biotechrisk/biotech.htm>

For questions, please contact:

Dr. Deb Hamernik

National Program Leader

CSREES-PAS

U.S. Department of Agriculture

STOP 2220

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250-2220

Phone: 202-401-4202

Fax: 202-401-1602

E-mail: dhamernik@reeusda.gov