Using Agricultural Diversity Research Award

The Award

The Using Agricultural Diversity Award assists groups and institutions in India, Nepal and Bangladesh to undertake applied research on the use of agricultural diversity to meet farmer needs. The award is intended to encourage research collaboration, exchanges and dissemination of information on practical means to widen the range of crop varietal choices available to farmers.

Eligible Fields of Study

Applications will be accepted for applied research on topics related to:

- Testing and developing participatory approaches and methods for enhancing the on-farm use of agricultural diversity.
- Collaboration among groups currently engaged in on-farm conservation and enhancement of agricultural diversity.
- Informing policy of the role of farmer participation in on-farm conservation and enhancement of agricultural diversity.

Program Areas

Awards will be given in three Program Areas. Applicants must indicate the program area for which they wish to be considered, and may not apply to more than two program areas in the same cycle of competition.

Research Program

The Award will be used to support activities that seek to:

- Improve the practice and extend awareness of participatory crop selection and breeding efforts/or,
- Enhance the dynamic nature of community level seedbanking and seed supply initiatives by increasing the range of crop varieties available to farmers so as to meet changing needs/or,
- Explore links between community seedbanks and national or regional genebanks in order to improve seed security/or.

Exchange Program

The Award will be used to facilitate systematic exchanges among groups in South Asia engaged in or concerned with the conservation and enhancement of agricultural diversity on farm. This could include field visits by individuals to project sites, joint diagnostic and monitoring exercises involving more than one institution, consultation with specialists regarding methodological issues or the design and development of collaborative research projects.

Documentation and Dissemination Program

The Award will be used to undertake activities which contribute to the documentation of particular experiences with using agricultural diversity on farm and for disseminating the results of institutional activities, with a special emphasis on informing policy of participatory approaches and methods involving the conservation and enhancement of on-farm diversity.
agricultural diversity. Preference will be given to dissemination activities that make use of the internet and other forms of electronic mass-communication.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following conditions for eligibility:

- Research is in one of the eligible fields of study;
- Provide evidence of affiliation with an institution or organization in the region in which the applied research will take place;
- Provide evidence of previous work in the field of agricultural diversity conservation and use.

The award is principally to cover applied research costs; it cannot be used for permanent salaries or for the purchase of vehicles and other major fixed assets.

Duration of Tenure

Award tenure corresponds to the period of proposed activities. In general, this will be not more than 24 months.

Value

The Award will cover justifiable applied research expenses to a maximum of Rs 350,000.

Deadlines

There are two cycles of competition. All supporting documentation must be complete before the application will be considered. The deadlines for receipt of applications for each cycle are:

October 1, 1996 (awards will be announced mid-January)
February 1, 1997 (awards will be announced mid-April)

Applications

The Award is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of individuals from a wide range of national, regional and grassroots organizations in India, Nepal and Bangladesh as well as representatives from donor agencies.

Applications should be sent to:

Prof. S. K. Sinha
Chair, Steering Committee
c/o International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
17 Jor Bagh
New Delhi, 110 003, India
Fax: 91-11-4622707
email: UDRA@idrc.ca

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Application Form
Using Agricultural Diversity Research Award

Name and Address:

Please submit all documents listed below. All documents must be received before applications are considered.

1. Summary of Research proposal (approximately 10 pages, not inclusive of bibliography) including:
   - project title and program area for which you wish to be considered
   - brief description of agricultural biodiversity in the region where the research is to be undertaken
   - explanation of how farmers perceive the use of agricultural biodiversity in their system of agriculture
   - research objectives
   - methodology
   - tentative schedule of field activities
   - ethical considerations
   - expected results and proposed monitoring mechanisms
   - potential use of results
   - possible beneficiaries of the research

2. Budget for proposed research
3. Application form (this page)
4. Curriculum vitae of principal investigator and co-investigator (if any)
5. Two references who will act as advisors (with full addresses)
6. Letter from institution confirming affiliation
7. Proof of citizenship or permanent residency