USING AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY RESEARCH AWARD

THE AWARD

The Using Agricultural Diversity Award assists local groups and institutions in South Asia to undertake applied research on the use of agricultural diversity to meet the needs of farm households and protect the environment. The award is intended to encourage research collaboration, exchanges and dissemination of information on practical means to enhance the sustainable use of agricultural diversity by farm households. It recognizes the role that cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural diversity including livestock, play in the livelihood strategies and food security of rural people.

ELIGIBILITY FIELDS OF STUDY

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

- Documentation of the varied uses of on-farm biodiversity in high biodiversity areas (e.g., pest control, drought tolerance, taste preferences, etc.);
- Understanding of men’s and women’s perceptions of the value of biodiversity;
- Identification of socio-cultural factors influencing the use of diversity;
- Application of participatory approaches to plant breeding, management and use of biodiversity;
- Informing policy of the role of farmer participation in on-farm conservation and enhancement of agricultural diversity.

ELIGIBILITY

The award is targeted toward local organizations. However, it seeks to enhance collaboration between the informal and the formal sector (plant breeding institutions, national germplasm banks, etc.). Collaborative proposals are encouraged.

VALUE

The Award will cover justifiable applied research expenses to a maximum of 350,000 Indian Rupees. The award cannot be used for long-term salaries, institutional support or for the purchase of vehicles and other major fixed assets.

DEADLINES

Awards will be announced mid-June.

APPLICATIONS

The Award is governed by a diverse Steering Committee comprised of experts from national, regional and grassroots organizations in India, Nepal and Bangladesh as well as representatives from the international community. It is administered jointly by the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRIST), Ahmedabad and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada).

Applicants should send a brief (3-4 page) description of the research topic 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
E-mail: UDRA@idrc.ca

The application should indicate:
- The Project title
- Name and full address of the principal researchers
- Description of the agricultural biodiversity in the region where the research is to be undertaken
- Research objectives and general workplan.