USDA Perspective on INFEWS and Related Opportunities

Drs. Michael Bowers and Rachel Melnick

USDA NIFA – Division of Global Climate Change
Fiscal Year 2016

• Our program are appropriated through 65+ lines in the annual agriculture appropriations bill
• We currently do not have a FY 2016 budget from congress, so our discussion is based upon the President’s requested budget
• Just like NSF, we might not know Congress’s decision until well into FY 2016
• NSF would like to have that amount or more for each of at least 5 years starting with FY16
USDA NIFA and IN-FEWS

• USDA NIFA intends on partnering with NSF for the IN-FEWS initiative

• How? Joint Solicitation, similar to previous programs Water Sustainability and Climate and EaSM

• What does this mean for you?
Other Opportunities on Food, Bioenergy, and Water

• Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
  – Funds Foundational Research on following the six Farm Bill priorities
  – Some of the program areas support integrated projects
    • Research, Extension, and Education
http://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is charged with funding research, education, and extension grants and integrated research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, forestry (both urban and agroforestry), aquaculture, rural communities and entrepreneurship, human nutrition, food safety, biotechnology, and conventional breeding.
AFRI Exploratory Research

• Applications still open for FY 2015
  – Letters of Intent due August 31st to exploratory@nifa.usda.gov
  – Applications due September 30th

• $100,000 for 1-2 years
  – Novel, proof-of concept projects with the potential to transform US agriculture
AFRI Exploratory Research

- New and emerging innovative ideas that have high potential impact;
- Application of new knowledge or new approaches to unsolved challenges that have high potential impact;
- Tools required to have a paradigm shift in the field; and/or
- Rapid response to natural disasters and similar unanticipated events.
Programs for FY 2016
AFRI Sustainable Bioenergy Challenge Area

- Support and advance ongoing research, education, and extension in the Sustainable Bioenergy
- Do date, regional projects that link research for sustainable biomass production, feedstocks for biofuels
- Research on enhanced value co-products; crop protection; land-use changes resulting from feedstock production and conversion; implications of the development of bioenergy delivery systems on water; and identification of socioeconomic impacts of biofuels in rural communities in order to enhance sustainable rural economies.
AFRI Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area

• Supports activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration in agricultural and forest production systems, and prepare the nation's agriculture and forests to adapt to variable climate

• Long-term outcome of is reducing the use of energy, nitrogen, and water, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions from practices, and water in the production of food, feed, fiber, and fuel and increase carbon sequestration
AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative

- Provides fellowships to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences:
  - Promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates
  - Doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.

Funded projects
AFRI Food Security Challenge Area

• The long-term goal of the AFRI Food Security Challenge Area is to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and the availability and accessibility of safe and nutritious food.
AFRI Foundational Program

The AFRI Foundational Program supports grants in the six AFRI priority areas:

• Plant health and production and plant products
• Animal health and production and animal products
• Food safety, nutrition, and health
• Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment
• Agriculture systems and technology
• Agriculture economics and rural communities

Exploratory Research Program is in this RFA

http://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-foundational-program
AFRI Water for Agriculture Challenge Area

- Develop management practices, technologies, and tools for farmers, ranchers, forest owners and managers, public decision makers, public and private managers, and citizens to improve water resource quantity and quality.

- Tackle critical water issues by developing both regional systems for the sustainable use and reuse, flow and management of water, and at the watershed and farm scales, water issues focused on production and environmental sustainability efforts.
Contact Information

• Michael Bowers, Acting Division Director for Global Climate Change, mbowers@nifa.usda.gov

• Rachel Melnick, National Program Leader, rmelnick@nifa.usda.gov
Questions?