

REGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLINE

RRF Project W-106: Multistate Research Coordination

DURATION: October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2029

TITLE: Multistate Research Coordination, Western Region

OBJECTIVES:

1. To facilitate the planning and coordination of Regional Research.
2. To simplify accounting and disbursement of travel funds at each participating State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) for Regional Research planning and coordination.

PROCEDURES: An allotment of the RRF will be made at each participating station using appropriate CRIS forms to pay the necessary expenses of the directors serving as administrative advisers, members of technical committees, participating scientists, and other persons authorized by the designated administrative advisers at their Stations desiring to participate in meetings, including working groups and conferences. These meetings will be for the purpose of conferring on, coordinating and furthering research on specific problems of concern to two or more States. Administrative Advisers and Station Directors shall be guided by the policies at their own stations regarding travel and other expenses to be authorized. As a policy, the Chairperson of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD) will serve as Administrative Adviser and chair of this project. He/she may authorize special meetings as required.

JUSTIFICATION: Subsection 3c 3 of the Hatch Act (69 Stat. 67 1) authorizes the use of federal Regional Research Funds (RRF) for cooperative research in which two or more SAESs are cooperating to solve problems that concern the agriculture of more than one state. Section 4 further authorizes the use of appropriations to the States for planning, coordinating, and conducting cooperative research. The cooperative research is to be carried out under specific Regional research projects conducting cooperative research recommended by WAAESD, and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. In some instances, extended cooperation under formal research plans is unnecessary when conferences, working groups and like methods can bring researchers together for the exchange of experience and opinion, and for the coordination of State and Federal research.

Coordination of the research between the States and between projects requires interstate travel of Station scientists, administrative advisers, and scientists attending technical committee meetings, conferences, and work groups. This project allows SAES Directors to facilitate regional collaboration by the participating SAESs.

This project will serve as the administrative authority for conferences, work groups and like meetings for the purposes of facilitating efforts and conserving expenses; to better administer the RRF; and to better facilitate immediate cooperative actions on urgent research problems.

PRESENT STATUS: Funds for travel of technical committee representatives and Administrative Advisers who have formal, contributing roles on approved Regional Research projects will be made available from the RRF allotments made to the participating states. Representatives of other states who wish to attend the regional meetings must seek their support from other sources.

COOPERATING STATIONS: The seventeen Western State Agricultural Experiment Stations located in Alaska; American Samoa; Arizona; California; Colorado; Guam; Hawaii; Idaho; Micronesia; Montana; Nevada; New Mexico; Northern Mariana Islands; Oregon; Utah; Washington; and Wyoming will be the cooperating stations.

ORGANIZATION: Directors of the Western Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors will constitute the W-106 Technical Committee. The Chair of the Association will serve as Administrative Advisor as well as the Chair of the Technical Committee. The Executive Director of the Association will serve as Secretary of the Technical Committee.

DURATION: 30 years

APPROVAL: Richard C. Stennals 1/6/99
Chair, Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Date

George E. Corp 1-27-99
for Administrator, CSREES Date