

# **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Agricultural Research Service**

### **Office of International Research Programs**

About 70 percent of all agricultural research is being conducted outside of the U.S. The Office of International Research Programs (OIRP) is organized to formally monitor and acquire foreign technology of interest to U.S. agriculture. This is done by seeking out and developing cooperative research programs with foreign counterparts in areas of high priority to U.S. agriculture. Programs are developed where there are common problems to be solved. All formal agreements are considered strategic alliances in which both partners benefit. These agreements are developed either as Memoranda of Understanding under Department of State, Science and Technology agreements with foreign countries, or as project based Specific Cooperative Agreements. OIRP insures these agreements clear State Department formalities and are consistent with the Office of Technology Transfer intellectual property policy. The agreements are designed to protect each parties Intellectual Property and where appropriate joint patenting is shared. The Office of Technology Transfer is responsible for the management of new patentable technology. These programs serve as a mechanism to acquire foreign technology through mutually advantageous agreements.

### **Office of Technology Transfer**

The Office of Technology Transfer is involved in the transfer of technology developed by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists and their partners. This is accomplished by developing technology management plans for all patents resulting from collaborative research including those with foreign scientists. These plans include marketing of new products and technology licenses. About 200 active technology licenses are now in effect. USDA scientists who make patentable inventions earn 25 percent of the royalties accruing from the licensing of their inventions.

This Agricultural Research Service program is one of the few in the Federal Government that is organized formally to monitor, acquire, and transfer foreign technology. It uses cooperative agreements to obtain access to such technology in a way that benefits both the U.S. and foreign partners.

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# **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Economic Research Service**

The Economic Research Service (ERS), originally established in 1961, under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 1627), was reestablished under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture as a USDA Bureau in 1981. The ERS is under the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE), which has oversight responsibilities for ERS, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

The ERS produces economic and other social science information as a service to the general public and to aid Congress and the Executive Branch in developing, administering, and evaluating agricultural and rural policies and programs. It monitors, analyzes, and forecasts United States and world agricultural production and demand for production resources, agricultural commodities, and food and fiber products. In addition, ERS produces economic and other social science information about the organization and institutions of the United States and world agricultural production and marketing systems, natural resources, and rural communities.

Information produced by ERS is made available to the general public through research monographs, situation and outlook reports, electronic data products, professional and trade journals, magazines (including Agricultural Outlook, National Food Review and Rural Development Perspectives), radio, television, direct computer and autofax access, and frequent participation of ERS staff at various public forums.

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# **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Foreign Agricultural Service**

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) serves the diverse interests of U.S. agriculture abroad and leads agricultural export efforts by working to enhance market access, build new markets, and maintain global competitiveness. FAS operates worldwide, with staff in more than 75 posts covering over 130 countries. The overseas staff is backed up by analysts, negotiators, and marketing specialists in Washington, D.C..

### **Agricultural Linkages**

FAS' International Cooperation and Development (ICD) program enhances U.S. agriculture's competitiveness by providing linkages to world resources and international organizations. These linkages produce new technologies vital to preserving the world's agricultural base and producing new and alternative products. ICD links U.S. agricultural technical expertise with that of many other nations.

### **Market Development**

FAS programs help U.S. exporters develop and maintain markets overseas for hundreds of products, from bulk commodities to consumer items. Promotional activities are carried out chiefly through the Foreign Market Development Cooperator and the Market Promotion programs in cooperation with nonprofit agricultural trade associations and firms which agree to plan, manage, and contribute resources for these activities. FAS also sponsors U.S. participation in trade shows and exhibitions, and assists U.S. exporters in launching products in overseas markets.

### **International Trade Policy**

FAS coordinates and directs USDA's efforts in international trade negotiations and programs, working closely with the U.S. Trade Representative's Office. FAS international trade policy experts help identify --and reduce -- barriers to U.S. agricultural exports.

U.S. agricultural exports are often subject to import duties and non-tariff trade restrictions. Intelligence sent to Washington from personnel overseas is used to map strategies for improving market access, pursuing U.S. rights under trade agreements, and developing programs and policies to make U.S. products more competitive.

### **Statistics and Market Information**

FAS collects global crop and livestock production data and import/export information to prepare production forecasts, assess export opportunities, and track policy changes affecting U.S. agricultural trade. These analyses are greatly relied upon by policymakers, program administrators, farmers, exporters, and others.

FAS publishes more than 140 commodity reports a year that describe world production, consumption, and trade in about 100 commodities. The agency also issues over 1,200 news releases a year on export programs, food aid, and other fast-breaking news vital to U.S. farmers and exporters.

### **Export Financing**

FAS provides U.S. agricultural exporters with financing support through credit guarantee programs. The programs protect U.S. exporters or U.S. financial institutions from risk if the importer's foreign bank fails to make payment, and are designed to help developing nations become commercial trade partners.

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service**  
**International Cooperation and Development Program Area**

The International Cooperation and Development Program coordinates USDA's international training and technical assistance programs; sponsors international research projects and scientific and technical exchanges with other nations on topics of interest to U.S. farmers and agri-businesses; conducts efforts to encourage private agri-business to get involved in development work overseas; and serves as USDA's liaison with international food and agriculture organizations.

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# **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **World Agricultural Outlook Board**

The World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) is the focal point for the Nation's economic intelligence related to domestic and international food and agriculture. It is responsible for coordinating and reviewing for clearance all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department of Agriculture. The Board's primary objective is to improve the consistency, objectivity, and reliability of outlook and situation material developed in the Department.

The Board's functions include: information dissemination; market surveillance; coordination of international and domestic agricultural developments; and coordination of weather, climate and remote sensing research and forecasting techniques.

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# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Forest Service

The Forest Service (FS) administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners, and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

The FS participates in international activities through agreements made by the Department of Agriculture, Department of State, or its Memoranda of Understanding. However, much of the FS activity concerning the monitoring and acquisition of foreign technology takes place through a less formal process involving individual scientists and engineers. They visit other countries that have significant forest resources or technology and by the normal process of technical interaction are able to absorb new information.

The technical arms of the FS include regional research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, the Institute of Tropical Forestry in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and the State and Private Forestry Branch with offices in Washington and regional centers. These organizations make field visits to other nations and enter into a number of international cooperative agreements directly. There is no formal process for publishing or otherwise disseminating foreign technical information other than the normal publication of trip reports or research papers. The Forest Service participates in the U.S. - Japan Cooperative Program in Natural Resources.

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