

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REI) FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES

To Participate in the

Dry Grain Pulses Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) (Award No. EDH-A-00-07-00005-00)

All U.S. university scientists with interest in preparing a proposal to serve as a “Lead University” on a research, training and outreach project in response to the Request for Proposals from the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP are required to submit an “Expression of Interest.”

The Expression of Interest forms received by the Management Office will be posted on the RFP page of the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP’s web page (www.pulsecrsp.msu.edu). The purpose of making public this information is to inform Host Country institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America as well as other U.S. scientists of a U.S. university’s intentions, so that they may contact the potential “Lead” university regarding possible opportunities for collaboration.

The expectation of the Management Office is that shared “Expressions of Interests” by both Host Country institutions and U.S. universities will facilitate the bringing together of globally and disciplinarily disparate scientists with shared interests in specific Topical Areas as identified in the Request for Proposals (www.pulsecrsp.msu.edu) to collaborate in multidisciplinary projects to strengthen bean and cowpea value-chains.

Please note that submission of an Expression of Interest does not obligate a U.S. university to submit a proposal nor to serve as a “Lead” university on a project that might be proposed.

The completed Expression of Interest form should be sent as an attachment to an email to dgpcrsp@msu.edu on or before Friday, October 19, 2007.

Please contact the Management Office if you have questions regarding the Request for Proposals for the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP.

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**EXPRESSIONS OF U.S UNIVERSITY INTEREST FORM
Dry Grain Pulses CRSP**

Name of U.S. University: _____

Interested Scientist(s): _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

A. Pulse crop of research interest:

Beans Cowpeas Other Pulse (specify): _____

B. Identify Topical Areas of interest for possible collaboration in research and institutional capacity building, including degree training. (*check all that apply*)

| |
|---|
| <p>A. To reduce bean and cowpea production costs and risks for enhanced profitability and competitiveness.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Genetic Improvement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Integrated Crop Management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Mitigating Effects of Low Soil Fertility/Drought</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Grain Quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Sustainable Seed Systems</p> |
| <p>B. To increase the utilization of bean and cowpea grain, food products and ingredients so as to expand market opportunities and improve community health and nutrition.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Health and Nutritional Attributes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Consumer Attitudes and Preferences</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Influencing Decision Makers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Urban Consumer Access to Value-added Pulse Foods</p> |
| <p>C. To improve the performance and sustainability of bean and cowpea value-chains, especially for the benefit of women.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Understanding constraints to smallholder pulse farmer participation in markets and trade</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Identifying "weak links"/constraints in the functionality of dry grain pulse value-chains</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Identifying strategic public sector interventions to alleviate constraints or market failures</p> |
| <p>D. To increase the capacity, effectiveness and sustainability of agriculture research institutions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Building and promoting partnerships with key stakeholders</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Strengthening regional dry grain pulse commodity research networks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Training young scientists in the use of modern tools for research, management and outreach</p> |

C. Identify Countries of interest for possible collaboration through the Dry Grain Pulses CRSP (*check no more than five countries*)

Africa: Angola , Burkina Faso , Burundi , Democratic Republic of Congo , Ghana , Mali , Malawi , Mozambique , Niger , Nigeria , Rwanda , Senegal , Tanzania , Zambia , or Other (specify): _____.

Latin America: Bolivia , Ecuador , El Salvador , Guatemala , Haiti , Honduras

Nicaragua , or Other (specify): _____.