



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Foreign
Agricultural
Service**

**Washington, D.C.
20250**

COCHRAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

Since 1984, the U.S. Congress has made funds available for training agriculturalists from middle income countries and emerging market countries. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators concerned with agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy and marketing from the public and private sectors. All training occurs in the United States. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, International Cooperation and Development, Food Industries Division (USDA/FAS/ICD/FID). Since its start in 1984, the Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S.- based training for over 6,860 international participants from 70 countries worldwide.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Program objectives are to provide high quality training resulting in knowledge and skills that will:

- (1) assist eligible countries to develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food needs of their domestic populations; and
- (2) strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.

CRITERIA FOR COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

Countries that meet the following requirements are eligible to participate in the program:

- A. The country's principal agricultural exports do not compete significantly with U.S. agricultural commodities and products in international trade.
- B. A country, or significant segments therein, that has developed economically to a point where it no longer qualifies for bilateral foreign assistance from the United States because its per capita income level exceeds the eligibility requirement of such assistance programs.
- C. A country that has never qualified for bilateral foreign aid assistance from the United States, but with respect to which an ongoing relationship with the United States, including technical assistance and training, would provide mutual benefits to such country and the United States.
- D. A country that has recently begun the transformation of its system of government from a non-representative type to a representative democracy and that is encouraging democratic institution building and cultural values.
- E. Any country that (1) is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country; and (2) has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities.
- F. The country has economic ties with the United States.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN 2000

AFRICA

Cote d'Ivoire
Senegal
Ghana
Nigeria
Uganda
Kenya
Tanzania
South Africa
Tunisia/Algeria
Mozambique
Morocco
Zimbabwe
Botswana

ASIA

China
Indonesia
Malaysia
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam
India
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

NON EU EUROPE

Bosnia
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia
Poland
Slovakia
Slovenia
Romania
Turkey
Albania

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Barbados/West Indies	Guatemala	Jamaica
Brazil	Mexico	Dominican Republic
Chile	Panama	
Colombia	Trinidad & Tobago	
Costa Rica	Venezuela	

NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Armenia	Kazakstan	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan
Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
	Russia	Uzbekistan

TRAINING FOCUS

The Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) offers short-term training opportunities, most ranging from 2 weeks to 3 months, depending on the objectives of the program. Participants meet with professionals in their fields, participate in field observations and industry visits, experience on-the-job training, attend university courses and seminars, or participate in a combination of the above. No training, however, will be approved which directly enhances a country's ability to export goods in competition with the United States. CFP works closely with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and U.S. agricultural trade and market development associations to identify potential areas of training for countries participating in the Cochran Fellowship Program. Every effort is made to match U.S. agricultural interests with those of the recipient countries.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Each training program reflects a philosophy that training should provide participants with sound technical knowledge and the opportunity to test and practice new skills and knowledge in practical situations. Therefore, most programs offer a mixture of technical instruction, practical field observations, and "hands-on" experience. Programs are specially designed in accordance with the training objectives discussed during interviews with candidates and the recommendations of the respective USDA/FAS Foreign Agricultural Affairs Officer.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

The Cochran Fellowship Program is open to the staff of agribusinesses, government departments, universities, and other agricultural organizations. In their own countries, applicants may be managers, technicians, scientists, professors, administrators, and/or policy makers.

All participants must be in good health, and the Cochran Fellowship Program strongly advises a thorough physical exam prior to traveling to the United States. Participants proficient in the oral and written usage of the English language are preferred.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- 1) Program Announcement -- After receiving a program announcement cable from USDA/ICD/FID, the FAS Foreign Agricultural Affairs Officer will notify the appropriate parties in order to solicit nominations.
- 2) Applications -- Applications, complete and in English (preferably typed), should be submitted to the FAS Officer who will conduct an initial screening of applications to determine the appropriateness of the proposed study programs and the fulfillment of program requirements. The application must include a detailed description of the training request.
- 3) Interviews -- A final pool of applicants will be selected as candidates for the 1997 program by the FAS Officer and will be interviewed during country visits by Cochran Fellowship Program staff.
- 4) Committee Selection -- Final approval of candidates will be made by a USDA committee, chaired by the Cochran Fellowship Program Director, on the basis of candidates qualifications, FAS Officer recommendations, an interview, and country specific training needs.
- 5) Award Announcement -- The Program Director of the Cochran Fellowship Program will notify the FAS Officer of the recipients by cable. The FAS Officer will notify individual recipients.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training will take place as soon as the appropriate training program can be arranged. The Cochran Fellowship Program Officer selects training sites on the basis of (1) seasonal variances and growing seasons, (2) trainer availability, and (3) schedules at training sites.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The Cochran Fellowship Program does not fund international travel to and from the participating country, except in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

EVALUATION

Program participants are expected to submit either an oral or written evaluation to their Cochran Fellowship Program Officer upon completion of their programs.

FOLLOW-UP

Each year, the Cochran Fellowship Program objectives are successfully met as a result of sustained contact and correspondence between hosts and participants after the training program is completed. The Cochran Fellowship Program strongly encourages this type of relationship in order to extend the training benefits to all involved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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