

Recommended Award: Proposal Number: 2004-04244, Dubcovsky, Wheat conference planning
Fund Amount (\$): \$12,000; Duration (Months): 12; Start Date: August 1, 2004.

REVIEWER 1.

This proposal represents the next stage in a well developed public project to apply genomics to wheat breeding programs, building on an IFAFS project and a previous community organizing proposal. Wheat is obviously among the most important agricultural species, so a conference aimed at moving research to the field is certainly germane.

The PIs are well respected researchers and should have no problem running a quality meeting. The invitation list covers most of the wheat programs in the US (an interesting exception is Steve Jones at Washington State, perhaps the most vocal proponent of publicly funded plant breeding in the country). It doesn't appear that the commodity groups will be represented at the proposed meeting; I suggest that at least several representatives of the growers and millers groups be included. The inclusion of international participants is a good idea.

The wheat community appears to be further ahead of most other commodities in actually applying publicly developed genomics resources to public cultivar development programs. This is an admirable situation, and one that should be followed by other major crops. This conference (and presumably a future CAP grant) will further that effort.

The main organizational plan is in place, the project clearly links genomics research with breeders, and the potential for a successful meeting seems very high.

REVIEWER 2.

This proposal for conference planning related to 2005 CAP in wheat genomics is excellent and should receive highest priority for NRI support. This proposal recognizes that wheat genomics is at a critical juncture and "jumping the gap" to application is an enormous challenge facing wheat scientists. The application of genomics technologies to wheat improvement via MAS is complicated by the large number of breeding programs and the diverse needs, ranging from hard wheat to soft, to durum, winter and spring.

This diversity in programs is also a major strength, in that successful adoption of genomic technologies could have a huge impact in US agriculture. This planning project should receive high priority due to the challenge of bringing this large and diverse group of scientists together for planning. This is an ideal use for these funds and has a high likelihood of success.

I rate this proposal as excellent. There is probably no greater need in crop genomics today, than in planning and coordinating genomic applications wheat. The technology platforms are starting to come in place, yet strategies for applications must involve the breeders and stakeholders. Corn and soybean groups are quite homogeneous compared to the diverse and different needs of wheat breeders across the country.

REVIEWER 3.

Overview: This proposal requests funds for a conference to plan for a coordinated agricultural project on wheat translational genomics. The conference is planned for August 16-17, 2004 in Denver, Colorado.

Comments: Growers, public breeders and industry representatives have previously met to identify priority areas of wheat research. The current request would help develop a scientific plan and timeline to address these priorities. The results of this conference would lead to a 2005 CAP on wheat translational genomics.

This proposal clearly meets all of the guidelines for conference applications. Most impressive was the evidence of scientific exchange and collaboration. Prior to the conference, a questionnaire will be sent to all conference attendants. This will aid in identifying additional topics of importance. The conference will then update participants on current wheat research and will develop strategies to address previously identified priorities. The results of the conference will be available in a final report that will be sent to all participants and posted on the web.

Evaluation: Excellent