

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Agribusiness, and Agrarian Law

Program Description

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Faculty Exchange Program (FEP), managed by the Foreign Agricultural Service, International Cooperation and Development, Food Industries Division, Professional Development Program (FAS/ICD/FID/PDP), was created in 1994 to bring qualified agricultural educators from progressive agricultural institutions of higher learning in Eurasia to the United States for 5 months to increase their knowledge of, and ability to teach, agricultural economics and marketing, agribusiness, and agrarian law in a market-based economy.

The goal of the program is to promote the development of sound agricultural policy and effective and competitive agricultural marketing and business systems in Eurasia. The objectives of the Faculty Exchange Program are to:

1. Increase the number of adults in Eurasia who understand the market economy by improving the quantity and quality of academic and adult education programs in agricultural economics and marketing, agribusiness, and agrarian law;
2. Develop the ability and confidence of participating faculty to evaluate and revise curriculum and courses through the application of basic principles of learning and curriculum development; and,
3. Establish enduring US-Eurasia institutional relationships that will catalyze and support curriculum development, course revision, and faculty strengthening in the areas of agricultural economics, agribusiness, and agrarian law.

Increasing the number of adults in Eurasia who understand how a market economy works, increasing the number of people who can teach and create educational materials on market economics, and increasing the number of people with the mind set to adapt to a market economy is critical to the

formulation and implementation of sound policy and the continuing development of a competitive market system in Eurasia. Long-term faculty development programs of this type can significantly assist the transition of Eurasian countries to a market economy.

This year the FEP is accepting applications for a 5-month program. We anticipate that the program will begin in July 2004. Individual candidate and university administrative interviews are tentatively planned to take place in March and April 2004.

Requirements:

- Applicants should be teaching at the university level and have a background in agricultural economics and marketing, agribusiness, or related areas.
- Applicants must be proficient in oral and written English. All aspects of the program will take place in English; interpreters will not be used.
- Applicants must be in good health and, if accepted, will be required to have a physical exam prior to traveling to the US.
- The applicant's university must be willing to continue to pay the salary of the participant while they take part in the program and to guarantee continued employment upon return of the participant.
- Upon completion of the US portion of the program, the applicant must be willing to return to their university to teach for a minimum of 2 years.

The FEP is not a degree-granting program. Rather it builds upon a participant's current academic knowledge, professional training, and experience so that they will be a more competent instructor of agricultural economics subjects in a market-based economy. It equips participants in revising and improving their current courses and in introducing new subjects to assist in the development of the agriculture and agribusiness sectors of the country. The FEP is intended to increase the validity and overall usefulness of a university's academic and adult education programs.

FEP participants will develop a deep conceptual understanding of how US agricultural markets, enterprises, and legal systems operate. The learning

experiences for FEP participants will be planned and conducted in collaboration with US agricultural colleges and conducted in English. These experiences will be tailored to participants' individual subject interests and training needs within the broad objectives of the program. Class work and classroom observation will be included. Each participant will be expected to observe and Astudy@ a minimum of three courses in subject areas that they wish to revise or introduce upon return to their home university. Each participant must be able to present and explain the curricula and teaching programs of their university and each participant must bring a copy of the university's curricula. Review, comparison, and revision of course curricula will be an important part of the program. Other activities will include one-on-one meetings with a supervising professor and small group discussions on a variety of subjects; exposure to teaching methodologies and assessment techniques used in the US higher education system; course and curricula revision and development for academic and adult education; study of, and visits to, private agribusiness enterprises and markets to understand and experience firsthand the principles and practices of management, marketing, and finance; and short internships or practical experiences with an agribusiness or other private or government entity involved in the US agricultural system. Each participant will also learn about the use of the Internet in distance education programs.

The FEP is results-oriented. Each participant is expected to develop or revise at least three course outlines for introduction upon return to their home institution at the end of the program. Participants will collect the background materials and information necessary to teach the new or revised courses during their stay in the US. We also expect each participant to develop and adapt ideas for change and redesign of curricula, teaching methods and materials, and adult and extension education.

Each year, participants are invited to submit articles for a non-peer-reviewed publication entitled Lessons in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, and

Agrarian Law. It is a compilation of papers from the FEP participants relating what they have learned while in the US and how these principles or practices could be adapted or applied in their own countries. The publication is distributed to universities in their respective countries to be used for reference or as a supplemental teaching tool in the classroom.

The FEP provides follow-up support to participants when they return to their home institutions. Funds are reserved for US university faculty visits to participants' universities to assist further in curricula reform and course development. Former participants have continued to maintain contact with the US universities where they were trained and US professors have continued to provide course outlines, critiques, and other valuable information by post, fax, and Internet. We are particularly interested in applicants from Eurasian universities interested in establishing long-term relationships with US universities. To participate in the FEP, the applicant and the applicant's university must be committed to reforming their educational programs, curricula, and course content in support of a sustained movement towards a market economy. The applicant's university must be willing to continue to pay the salary of the participant while they take part in the program and to guarantee continued employment upon return of the participant. The applicant must be willing to return to their institution to teach for a minimum of 2 years upon completion of the US portion of the program.

Applicants must be in good health and are required to have a physical exam prior to traveling to the US. If invited to participate in the FEP, the USDA will provide a form to be completed by a physician certifying that the participant is in good health. The USDA will provide emergency medical insurance only, which will not cover pre-existing or chronic medical conditions, medication, eyeglasses, or dental work. If there is a medical emergency, the participant is responsible for paying a percentage of any bill.

If selected to participate, FEP will pay round trip airfare to the US from the participant's country's capital city, program fees, book allowance, emergency

medical insurance, and a stipend to cover food, lodging, and incidental expenses for the duration of the program.

Participants are expected to work productively throughout the program and to concentrate fully on their agreed-upon objectives. Any unwillingness to do so can result in the early termination of the program.

Applicants should please complete the application in English. We will only accept applications for the program that are completed in English. (However, the applicant's rector or dean, vice rector or vice dean, and department head can complete and sign their sections in their native language, if desired, with an English translation attached. We have translated the program description and the application form into Russian so that people other than applicants, who may not speak English, will be able to understand what the Faculty Exchange Program is meant to achieve and what an universities responsibilities are if they choose to recommend a candidate for the program. We will not accept any applications for the program that are not completed in English.)

The applicant's training objectives and their university administration's expectations of them upon return should be discussed and agreed upon prior to the interviews.

For Bulgaria and Serbia, applications should be submitted to the USDA Agricultural Affairs Office at the addresses below by 23 January 2004. Interviews with applicants and their university administrators are tentatively scheduled to take place in February 2004. Final selection of participants will be made by a committee at the Foreign Agricultural Service, Food Industries Division, Professional Development Program in Washington, DC. The Office of Agricultural Affairs at the US Embassy in the applicant's country will notify those selected and assist in making arrangements for visas, airplane tickets, and other logistics.

For all other countries, applications should be submitted to the USDA Agricultural Affairs Office at the addresses below by 27 February 2004. Interviews with applicants and their university administrators are tentatively scheduled to take

place in March and April 2004. Final selection of participants will be made by a committee at the Foreign Agricultural Service, Food Industries Division, Professional Development Program in Washington, DC. The Office of Agricultural Affairs at the US Embassy in the applicant's country will notify those selected and assist in making arrangements for visas, airplane tickets, and other logistics.

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**ALL FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICANTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE
OF THE PROGRAMS' ENGLISH REQUIREMENT**

Please note that all applicants to the United States Department of Agriculture Faculty Exchange Program must complete their application in ENGLISH. We have translated the program description and the application form into Russian so that people other than applicants, who may not speak English, will be able to understand what the Faculty Exchange Program is meant to achieve and what an institutes' responsibilities are if they choose to recommend a candidate for the program. We will not accept any applications for the program that are not completed in English. Thank you for your attention to this English requirement.