
S. 1150 (P.L. 105-185)
Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reauthorization Act of 1998

Jefferson legislative language shown below was included in larger ag research bill passed by Congress in June, 1998

Sec. 405. THOMAS JEFFERSON INITIATIVE FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION.

(a) **INITIATIVE REQUIRED.**— The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for a research initiative (to be known at the “Thomas Jefferson Initiative for Crop Diversification”) for the purpose of conducting research and development, in cooperation with other public and private entities, on the production and marketing of new and nontraditional crops needed to strengthen and diversify the agricultural production base of the United States.

(b) **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS.**— The initiative shall include research and education efforts regarding new and nontraditional crops designed —

- (1) to identify and overcome agronomic barriers to profitable production;
- (2) to identify and overcome other production and marketing barriers; and
- (3) to develop processing and utilization technologies for new and nontraditional crop.

(c) **PURPOSES.**— The purposes of the initiative are —

- (1) to develop a focused program of research and development at the regional and national level to overcome barriers to development of —
 - (A) new crop opportunities for farmers and
 - (B) related value-added enterprise development in rural communities; and
- (2) to ensure a broad-base effort encompassing research, education, market development, and support of entrepreneurial activity leading to increased agricultural diversification.

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF INITIATIVE.**— The Secretary shall coordinate the initiative through a nonprofit center or institute that will coordinate research and education programs in cooperation with other public and private entities. The Secretary shall administer research and education grants made under this section.

(e) **REGIONAL EMPHASIS.**—

- (1) **REQUIRED.**— The Secretary shall support development of multi-state regional efforts in crop diversification.
- (2) **SITE-SPECIFIC CROP DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.**— Of funding made available to carry out the initiative, not less than 50 percent shall be used for regional efforts centered at colleges and universities in order to facilitate site-specific crop development efforts.

(f) **ELIGIBLE GRANTEE.**— The Secretary may award funds under this section to colleges or universities, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, or individuals.

(g) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

- (1) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**— Grants awarded through the initiative shall be selected on a competitive basis.
- (2) **PRIVATE BUSINESSES.**— The recipient of a grant may use a portion of the grant funds for standard contracts with private businesses, such as for test processing of a new or nontraditional crop.
- (3) **TERMS.**— The term of a grant awarded through the initiative may not exceed five years.
- (4) **MATCHING FUNDS.**— The Secretary shall require the recipient of a grant awarded through the initiative to contribute an amount of funds from non-federal sources at least equal to the amount provided by the Federal Government.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**— There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for each of the fiscal years 1999 to 2002.