2. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Principal investigators and key personnel must demonstrate competency to implement and complete a project, provide fiscal accountability, prepare project reports and demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers and other interested parties. Principal investigators may be employed by a variety of institutions and organizations (see below).

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

The lead institution may be state agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations or corporations; individuals; or group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in this paragraph from within the Western region. It is not required that all members of the project team be affiliated with the above-listed institutions or be located within the Western region, only the lead principal investigator. There may be a limit on the number of projects in which one university can be the lead over a three year period in order to encourage broader participation of the region’s LGUs.

Partnership among Western Region land grant institutions and small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, or other colleges and universities is encouraged.

COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS

USDA requires successful applicants to demonstrate 25% auditable cost-share (i.e., a minimum of 20% cost share of the total project cost). For example, if the total project cost is $125,000, then $100,000 may be requested and $25,000 must be provided as cost share. Grantees may provide cost-share through in-kind contributions, including faculty salaries, facilities or from state, local, non-profit or private matching funds. No federal funds may be used as matching funds.

Unrecovered indirect charges: Unrecovered indirect charges (i.e., the difference between the University negotiated federal rate and the 25% Total Direct Cost rate) may be used as part of the cost-share for research and integrated projects.

The matching requirement does not apply to fundamental research. Fundamental research means research that increases knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and has the potential for broad application. It should also have an effect on agriculture, food, nutrition, or the environment.

Up to 100% match is strongly recommended for demonstration or pilot projects. The amount of non-federal funding will be considered in the review process.
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Quarterly reports (2-pages) and annual reports are required from all successful applicants and must be submitted in writing to the SGW. For multi-year projects, in addition to quarterly reports, an acceptable annual report is required for continuation of funds.

Annual reports also must be presented at a yearly SGW Principal Investigators symposium or National Sun Grant Conference (NSGC).

It is important to disseminate information from SGW funded projects. At least one product of significance, i.e., Experiment Station report, Extension bulletin or white paper is required for all funded projects. Ideally, at least one peer-reviewed article would result for each year of SGW funded research. Investigators must acknowledge USDA and SGW in all publications and presentations.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Each proposal must include a budget item for PI travel to the annual symposium (or NSGC) for presentation of results. The participation of at least one PI in an annual meeting event is required. The meeting locations are not yet defined for 2013 or 2014 but the symposium would be within the Western Region. The national conference may or may not be held in the region. We recommend budgeting between $1,250 and $1,500 per person attending.