

are specified in the program solicitation:

- (a) Scientific merit of the proposal.
  - (1) Conceptual adequacy of hypothesis;
  - (2) Clarity and delineation of objectives;
  - (3) Adequacy of the description of the undertaking and suitability and feasibility of methodology;
  - (4) Demonstration of feasibility through preliminary data;
  - (5) Probability of success of project; and
  - (6) Novelty, uniqueness and originality.

(b) Qualifications of proposed project personnel and adequacy of facilities.

(1) Training and demonstrated awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the problem identified in the proposal, and performance record and/or potential for future accomplishments;

(2) Time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives;

(3) Institutional experience and competence in subject area; and

(4) Adequacy of available or obtainable support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation.

(c) Relevance of project to long-range improvements in and sustainability of United States agriculture or to one or more of the research purposes outlined in the first paragraph of this section.

(1) Scientific contribution of research in leading to important discoveries or significant breakthroughs in announced program areas; and

(2) Relevance of the research to agricultural, environmental, or social needs.

[56 FR 57952, Nov. 14, 1991. Redesignated at 60 FR 63368, Dec. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 45319, Aug. 29, 1996]

## **PART 3415—BIOTECHNOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENT RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM**

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 7 U.S.C. 5921.

SOURCE: 58 FR 65647, Dec. 15, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

### **Subpart A—General**

#### **§ 3415.1 Applicability of regulations.**

(a) The regulations of this part apply to research grants awarded under the authority of section 1668 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, (7 U.S.C. 5921). Grants awarded under this section will support biotechnology risk assessment research to help address concerns about the effects of introducing certain biotechnology products into the environment and to help regulators develop policies concerning the introduction of such products. Taking into consideration any determinations made through consultations with such entities as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, and the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee, the Administrators of CSREES and ARS shall determine and announce, through publication of a Notice in such publications as the FEDERAL REGISTER, professional trade journals, agency or program handbooks, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, or any other appropriate means, specific areas of research for which preproposals or proposals will be solicited and the extent that funds are available therefor.

(b) The regulations of this part do not apply to grants awarded by the Department of Agriculture under any other authority.