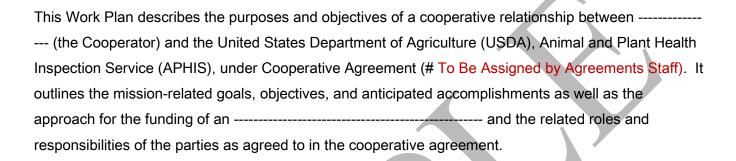
WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (CA) BETWEEN APHIS AND -----(July 14, 2011)



I. What relevant need or problem within APHIS' mission area as authorized by a law of the United States requires a solution? How does the need or problem align with the mission area and strategic goals of APHIS?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) is responsible for regulating the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and environmental release) of genetically engineered (GE) organisms. The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced through Genetic Engineering which are Plant Pests or which there is Reason to Believe are Plant Pests," provide that any person may submit a petition to APHIS seeking a determination that a regulated GE organism does not pose a plant pest risk and should therefore not be regulated. These regulations describe the information that must be included in the petition. APHIS must respond to petitioners who request a determination of the regulated status of genetically engineered organisms, including genetically engineered crop plants.

If a petition for nonregulated status is submitted, APHIS must determine whether the genetically engineered organism is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. A GE organism is no longer subject to the regulatory requirements of 7 CFR part 340 when APHIS determines that

it is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk.

APHIS will select an environmental consulting firm that has significant experience in preparing complex NEPA documents, and successfully meets the request for this proposal. Funding for the preparation of the document will be provided by the Cooperator. There will be no direct interaction between the Cooperator and the consulting firm regarding matters covered in this Cooperative Agreement, namely, the preparation of the document, except as coordinated and supervised by APHIS for the purpose of providing tangible scientific and technical information to complete the document.

Completion of this project is in line with the USDA Strategic Plan, Objective 3.2; "Enhance America's ability to develop and trade agricultural products derived from new technologies."

Moreover, pursuant to both 7 USC 7752(a) and 7 USC § 2279g, APHIS is authorized to use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship with a state or other cooperator to carry out programs to protect the nation's animal and plant resources; which is the core of APHIS' mission area.

II. What results or benefits will be derived from the cooperative effort?

APHIS will use funds provided by the Cooperator to select an experienced environmental consulting firm who will assist APHIS in preparing the document. APHIS will use the document in reference to its decision making on the Cooperator's petition requesting a deregulation of non-regulated status under 7 CFR part 340 for -------

III. What is the plan of action or approach to the work?

APHIS will

- Maintain direct control over the contracting relationship and the resulting document.
 APHIS is not obligated to share documents with the Cooperator unless the documents are eligible to be shard under the Freedom of Information Act or as part of the public comment process required in APHIS' NEPA implementing regulations. APHIS will share information with the Cooperator in a timely manner that is consistent with sharing information with the public.
- Provide updates to the Cooperator as the following milestones are completed:
 - An outline is completed by the contractor
 - A schedule and timeframe for completing the draft document has been received
 - A detailed description of alternatives to be analyzed in the draft document
 - The delivery, for APHIS review and approval, of each section of the draft document as they are developed
 - A complete draft document for APHIS review and approval

- A final version of draft document that addresses all APHIS' issues, concerns, and comments and is ready for publication and public comment.
- Ensure that the time elapsed from awarding the contract for the preparation of the
 document to submitting a final document to APHIS which APHIS considers appropriate
 and complete shall be no more than (time period) from the date the contract is awarded.
- Provide all necessary FTE staff time for an Authorized Departmental Officers
 Designated Representative (ADODR) and other APHIS personnel for managing funds
 and other oversight as needed.

The Cooperator will

- Provide funds to APHIS to cover the full and complete preparation of the document in advance of the contract award from APHIS to the consulting firm. The estimated cost of the preparation of the document is \$\$\$, which shall be provided in its entirety as agreed to with APHIS.
- Provide technical data, if additional data is needed, in a timely manner to facilitate the
 preparation of the document both to APHIS and/or to the contractor as APHIS so
 directs.
- As requested by APHIS, provide input on technical questions raised during preparation
 of the document both to APHIS and/or to the contractor as APHIS so directs.
- At no time have contact with the environmental consulting firm selected by APHIS to prepare the document, except as arranged and facilitated by the ADODR for the purpose of providing scientific and technical information needed to complete the document.

Financial Plan Cooperative Agreement APHIS and Cooperators

Total costs:	
complete increase or unforeseen	stimate; cost of contract for the full and preparation ofmay decrease due to, among other things, or unanticipated changes to the scope
or the docum	nent as a result of comments received.