USDA-NIFA Programs for Insular Areas

RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSULAR AREAS (RIIA)

RIIA are administered by the USDA's Division of Community and Education. The program is authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (section 7501 of Public Law 107171), which amended the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), by providing for a program of resident instruction grants for insular areas (7 U.S.C. 3363).

It is a competitive grants program with awards made to one or more individuals in eligible institutions of higher education in Insular Areas (Insular Area Institutions) or consortia of such eligible institutions, to carry out teaching and education programs in the food and agricultural sciences. It is designed to promote and strengthen the ability of Insular Area Institutions to carry out teaching and education programs within a broadly defined area of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines.

PROGRAM GOALS:

- *Strengthen institutional educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, in order to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international education needs in the food and agricultural sciences;*
- *Attract and support undergraduate and graduate students in order to educate them in identified areas of national need in the food and agriculture sciences;*
- *Facilitate cooperative initiatives between two or more insular area eligible institutions, or between those institutions and units of State Government or organizations in the private sector, to maximize the development and use of resources such as faculty, facilities, and equipment to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs;*
- *Conduct undergraduate scholarship programs to assist in meeting national needs for training food and agricultural scientists.*

Funding History

2005:	2 Awards	$468,454	2009:	1 Award	$760,748
2006:	2 Awards	$469,189	2010:	1 Award	$857,162
2007:	1 Award	$466,932	2011:	1 Award	$861,233
2008:	1 Award	$709,604	2012:	1 Award	$861,079

DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS (DEG)

DEG GRANTS are administered by the USDA's Division of Community and Education. The program is administered under the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 3362, to strengthen the capacity of Insular Area institutions to carry out distance education programs in the food and agricultural sciences.

It is a competitive grants program with awards made to one or more individuals in eligible institutions of higher education in Insular Areas (Insular Area Institutions) or consortia of such eligible institutions, to carry out teaching and distance education programs in the food and agricultural sciences. It is designed to promote and strengthen the ability of Insular Area Institutions to carry out teaching and education programs within a broadly defined area of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines.

PROGRAM GOAL:

- *Strengthen the capacity of Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas to carry out resident instruction, curriculum, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences, through distance education technology.*

Funding History

2010:	1 Award	$718,002
2011:	3 Awards	$716,599
2012:	1 Awards	$717,945

Insular Areas:

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Guam
American Samoa
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Republic of Palau
Virgin Islands of the United States

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
www.nifa.usda.gov
@USDA_NIFA

FACTSHEET

NIFA

BACKGROUND

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA) addresses many challenges facing the nation through exemplary agricultural science. NIFA works with the best and brightest scientists at universities and colleges throughout the United States and around the world to find innovative solutions to issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and communities. With a timely, integrated approach and collaboration with other federal science agencies, NIFA also serves as a vital contributor to federal science policy decision-making.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SCIENCE

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT NIFA integrates research, education, and Extension to ensure that groundbreaking research discoveries go beyond the laboratory and make their way into the classroom and to communities where people can put the knowledge into practice and improve their lives.

RESEARCH provides answers to complex issues facing our nation and the world.

EDUCATION strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers, and citizens.

EXTENSION takes knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it most.

PRIORITY SCIENCE AREAS

FOOD SECURITY AND HUNGER

NIFA supports science to boost domestic agricultural production, improve capacity to meet the growing global food demand, and foster innovation in fighting hunger and food insecurity in vulnerable populations.

CLIMATE CHANGE

NIFA-funded projects help producers adapt to changing weather patterns and sustain economic vitality while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural and forest production systems.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

NIFA contributes to the President's goal of energy independence with a portfolio of grant programs to develop optimum biomass, forests, and crops for bioenergy production; and produce value-added, bio-based industrial products.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

NIFA-supported programs ensure that nutritious foods are affordable and available and that individuals and families are able to make informed, science-based decisions about their health and well-being.

FOOD SAFETY

NIFA food safety programs work to provide a safer food supply and reduce the incidence of food-borne illness by addressing the causes of microbial contamination and anti-microbial resistance, educating consumer and food safety professionals, and developing enhanced food processing technologies.

LEADERSHIP

Sonny Ramaswamy, *Director*

EMPLOYEES

Approximately 350

STRUCTURE

INSTITUTE OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- *Enhancing food security through productive and sustainable agricultural systems*

INSTITUTE OF BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT

- *Ensuring energy independence through clean, biobased energy systems*
- *Ensuring sustainable and adaptive agro-ecosystems in response to variable climates*

INSTITUTE OF FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

- *Ensuring a safe food supply*
- *Improving citizens' health through nutrition*
- *Reducing childhood obesity*
- *Improving food quality*

INSTITUTE OF YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY

- *Enabling vibrant and resilient communities*
- *Preparing the next generation of scientists*
- *Enhancing science capacity in minority-serving institutions*
- *Enhancing youth and family development*

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- *Enhancing the global awareness of American students, faculty, and staff*
- *Sharing benefits of international science through research and Extension*

BUDGET

Total FY12	$1,358,887,000
Research and Education	710,342,000
Extension	475,183,000
Integrated	21,482,000
Mandatory	151,880,000

PARTNER LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

Total	109
1862 Land-Grant Universities	57
1890 Land-Grant Universities	18
1994 Land-Grant Universities	34