

# Cochran Fellowship Program



## COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN FY2019:

### **Africa & Middle East:**

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

### **Asia:**

Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam

### **Eastern Europe & Eurasia:**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

### **Latin America & Caribbean:**

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, St. Vincent

## OVERVIEW

Since 1984, U.S. Congress has made funds available to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cochran Fellowship Program to provide short-term training to Fellows from middle-income and emerging market countries in order to expose agricultural officials and industry representatives to U.S. agriculture products and policies, helping facilitate lasting, global relationships. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Global Programs, Fellowship Programs and has implemented U.S.-based trainings for over 18,900 international participants from 126 countries worldwide.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Cochran Fellowship Program supports the 2019-2022 FAS Strategic Plan Goal 2, Objective 2.2 by creating a trade-enabling environment for U.S. agriculture through international exchanges. The Cochran Fellowship Program provides training to:

- Assist eligible countries to develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations; and
- Strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the U.S.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

Cochran fellows spend 2-3 weeks in the U.S. receiving customized training on an agriculture-related topic. Cochran training topics are announced annually and customized in accordance with candidate interviews and recommendations of the respective USDA/FAS Foreign Agricultural Affairs/Agricultural Trade Offices overseas. During the training program, fellows meet with professionals in their fields, participate in industry visits, experience on-the-job training, attend university courses and seminars, tour agricultural trade shows and expos, or participate in a combination of the above. All training occurs in the United States and reflects the philosophy that participants should be provided with sound technical knowledge and the opportunity to test and practice new skills in practical situations.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Candidates who apply will be evaluated, interviewed, and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Fellows must be a citizen of an eligible country.
2. Fellows are required to be proficient in the oral and written usage of the English language.
3. Fellows represent the public, private, or academic sectors and work in agribusinesses, government departments, universities, and other agricultural organizations.
4. Fellows are senior or mid-level specialists and administrators working in agricultural trade, policy, agribusiness, management, animal, plant, food sciences, extension services, agricultural marketing, and many other agricultural disciplines.
5. Fellows must be in good physical and mental health. A thorough physical exam is required by a licensed doctor prior to traveling to the United States.

**FOR FURTHER  
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## CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. FAS works with FAS overseas Posts to help identify potential fellows to participate in the Cochran Fellowship Program.
2. Candidates identified as potential fellows are required to complete an application and agree to the training terms and conditions.
3. Submitted applications are reviewed by FAS staff.
4. Cochran staff coordinate with FAS overseas Posts to schedule in-country interviews.
5. FAS staff select finalists after interviewing candidates.

## HOST INSTITUTION SELECTION PROCEDURE

The opportunities to host Cochran Fellowship Programs are announced annually to U.S. universities (including Minority Serving Institutions), USDA, and other eligible organizations. Institutions interested in hosting a Cochran Fellowship Program submit proposals with a detailed training plan. Cochran program managers select implementing partners on the basis of technical expertise, suitability, and experience. Training programs are designed, facilitated, and implemented in partnership with U.S. universities, government agencies, agribusinesses, non-profit organizations, and private consultants.

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Cochran Fellowship Program staff finalize training schedules in collaboration with the training provider. Trainings are dependent upon on (1) seasonal variances and growing seasons; (2) trainer availability; and (3) schedules at training sites.

## EVALUATION

Cochran fellows submit written evaluations and action plans at the end of each training. These documents are used to measure training impact and feedback on the quality of the training program.