

Government Funding for International Programs Declining

By Jim Rudbeck
 Director, International Programs, National Renderers Association



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has allocated \$90 million to 65 U.S. trade organizations for export promotion activities in fiscal year 2002 (which begins October 1, 2001). The National Renderers Association's (NRA's) allocation for the Market Access Program (MAP) is \$265,904, four percent less than this year. Overall resources under the MAP program were also reduced four percent.

The USDA/FAS budgets for the traditional Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and

under the FMD program, a reduction of 2.9 percent from this year. NRA has been a participant in this program since its inception in the mid-1950s. Today, it primarily funds the association's three overseas offices in London, Hong Kong, and Mexico City, and consultants in Turkey, China, and Korea. Under the MAP program that originated in 1992, funds are used to target market expansion activities such as Dr. Yu Yu's Chinese team visits to the United States, Neville Chandler's Student Ambassador Program in Turkey, and Alberto Celis' nutrition and product safety seminars

"sample," i.e., the feeds in the rendering industry case, used to develop either a new market or to introduce new products into existing markets. We congratulate Dr. Yu for finding creative ways to use the variety of government programs available to promote our products.

NRA's budget under the Section 108 program will be \$50,000 for next year. This is our first under this program thanks to the initiative of Celis, Latin America regional director. Under this program, the association is permitted to use foreign currencies that have built up to the credit of the U.S. government as a result of the PL480 foreign aid programs. In our case, they will be Costa Rican Colones. Celis developed two activities to be funded under section 108; one will be an aqua-feeds seminar targeted at Honduras and Panama, the other, a continuation of the highly successful nutrition/feed safety seminar series in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

For the first time, NRA has been allocated \$35,000 under the Emerging Markets Program (EMP) for demonstration aqua-feed trials in China.

In competing for these increasingly limited federal funds, NRA is at a distinct disadvantage to those organizations, such as the soybean, grains, and cattle sector, that can use producer "check off" funds for their industry matching requirements. As an industry, we have stepped up our contributions, but we have yet to reach the industry wide average of 100 percent. ❖

Table 1. Government Program Funding for the Rendering Industry

Programs	1997/98	October/September			2001/02
		1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	
FMD	\$1,151,012	\$1,123,589	\$1,009,044	\$998,170	*\$969,279
MAP	286,967	324,051	257,508	276,805	265,904
Cochran	-	-	6,100	28,000	0
QSP	-	-	9,000	16,000	28,000
Section 108	-	-	-	-	50,000
EMP	-	-	-	-	35,000
Total Programs	1,437,979	1,447,640	1,281,652	1,334,975	1,348,183
Industry Contributions	586,503	594,167	903,506	**	**

* Provisional, depends on final FAS budget

** Fiscal year has not ended

MAP have been flat for the past several years, yet the number of groups competing for these limited funds has been increasing. Thus, in order to keep the rendering industry's overseas programs from declining, the NRA has had to seek out funding from additional program sources such as the Cochran Leadership Program and the newly created Quality Samples, Section 108, and Emerging Markets programs.

For fiscal year 2002, NRA has been provisionally allocated \$969,279

throughout Latin America.

Under the Quality Samples Program (QSP), the association has been awarded \$28,000 for fiscal year 2002. This is for an activity that Yu, regional director for Asia, proposed to demonstrate the value of meat and bone meal, poultry by-product meal, and protein blends to the Thai aquaculture industry as alternatives to fish meal. Last year, Yu also used this program for yellow grease feed trials in the Philippines. Under this FAS program, the government pays for the