

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
Office of Capacity Building and Development
U.S.-China Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program

Opportunities for U.S. Teams of Experts to Visit China

A. Program Description

Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

The Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program (SCEP) was established in 1978 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under a cooperative agreement with the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). This NOFO is for U.S. teams of up to six SCEP participants to visit China for 14 days (13 nights) to facilitate the mutual exchange/sharing of knowledge and technology in agriculture. The program's primary objectives are to promote U.S. agricultural priorities, encourage long-term cooperation, create a positive atmosphere for trade, and enhance overall relationships between the U.S. and the China.

USDA will accept one team for each of the four topics listed below (i.e. a total of four separate teams). Organizations may submit multiple proposals (limited to one proposal per topic) if interested in more than one of the topics identified below:

- a) Risk Analysis of Animal Health and Food Safety in One Health Approach
- b) Cooperation on Emerging Diseases on Province/State Level between the United States and China
- c) Plant Variety Protection and Germplasm Exchange for Improved Food Security
- d) Dairy Food Processing and Value Chain

Additional specific information of each opportunity is provided in Annex A.

SCEP is a cost share program between USDA and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA):

- Teams may consist of up to six persons (5 technical experts + 1 required interpreter).
- Each U.S. team is responsible for providing its own interpreter; a designated team interpreter is a requirement.
- Each participant is responsible for possessing a valid passport and obtaining a Chinese visa to participate in the SCEP program.
- USDA will reimburse up to \$12,000 per team to cover only international airfare, visa processing, and transportation to/from U.S. airport. SCEP does not cover salary/benefits.
- MOA is the host in country for each U.S. team.

- China's MOA will provide in-kind in-country program related expenses, including lodging, domestic transportation, meals, and cultural activities.
- U.S. teams will not receive direct funds from MOA. U.S. team participants will be responsible for personal miscellaneous expenses (e.g., phone calls, room service, laundry service). Organizations applying to SCEP should obtain, as applicable, internal approvals to accept in-kind contributions prior to submitting an application.
- The selected U.S. teams will coordinate with the FAS SCEP Program Manager to develop and design the multi-city program agenda in China that will initiate or strengthen linkages between our academic, public, and private institutions.

Issued By

Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Trade and Scientific Exchanges Division

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number and Title

10.614 - Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program with China

Notice of Funding Opportunity Title

2018 U.S.-China Scientific Cooperation Exchange Program: Opportunities for U.S. Teams of Experts to Visit China

NOFO Number: USDA-FAS-10614-0700-10.-18-0001
 USDA-FAS-10614-0700-10.-18-0002
 USDA-FAS-10614-0700-10.-18-0003
 USDA-FAS-10614-0700-10.-18-0004

Authorizing Authority for Program

The legislative authority for SCEP may be found in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 enacted as Title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977; and 7 U.S.C. 3291, Chapter 64, Subchapter VIII, International Research, Extension, and Teaching, as amended on February 01, 2010.

Appropriation Authority for Program

Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, PL 115-123

Program Type: One time

B. Federal Award Information

Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions

Available Funding for the NOFO: up to \$12,000.00 per award

Projected number of Awards: 4

Number of Project Budget Periods: 1

Projected First Budget Period: 06/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

Period of Performance: 6 months

***Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s):** 06/01/2018

***Projected Period of Performance End Date(s):** 12/31/2018

** The proposed timeframe for implementing training programs is June – December 2018. Actual program dates are dependent on: (1) seasonal variances and growing season; (2) availability of MOA to host each team; and, (3) participant availability.*

Extensions are allowable, please see *Section H. Additional Information* to see how to requests one should the need arise.

Pre-Award costs: Not allowable

Cost Share or Match requirements: None

Funding Instrument: FAS reserves the right to select the appropriate funding instrument for an award. Available authorizations for this opportunity include: 7 USC 3318b, 7 USC 3319a, and 7 USC 3291a. FAS will enter into a cost reimbursable agreement under 7 USC 3319a with institutions of higher learning, a procurement contract with private sector institutions, or other funding mechanism depending on the nature of the implementing partner.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants: Proposals may be received from academic institutions such as universities and colleges, including community colleges, accredited in and having a campus located in the United States, acting on behalf of their institutions. U.S. non-profit research organizations, including research laboratories, professional societies, or similar organizations in the United States that are directly associated with education, extension, research, or capacity building activities; private organizations; Federal and State agencies; or consortia led by the eligible organizations listed here are also eligible. A proposal from a consortium of organizations must be submitted as a single proposal with one U.S. organization serving as the lead and all other organizations as team members.

Eligibility Criteria: The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a U.S. citizen and hold a position at an eligible U.S. institution. FAS especially encourages proposals from smaller academic institutions, Minority Serving Institutions (in particular American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Asian American, and African American institutions). FAS also encourages proposals from researchers early in their career, extension agents, and women who hold positions at an eligible institution.

All applicants must have an active registration in the SAM database at www.sam.gov – pending or expired registrants are not eligible. This requirement must be met by the closing date of the announcement and will not be waived. Please contact the program officer listed if you have questions about this requirement.

In addition to obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM, you must also obtain Level 2 eAuthentication to apply for this funding opportunity in ezFedGrants (eFG). You must submit an online form requesting access. Normally you will receive an email within 24 hours of your submission, if your request is approved. After this occurs, you will need to schedule an appointment with an LRA. Once you meet with the LRA, your Level 2 eAuthentication should be granted within 2 to 3 days after that meeting. See Section D of this NOFO for detailed information.

Other Submission Requirements and Information

- The Principal Investigator (PI) – also the designated team lead – must be identified in the proposal and is the designated point of contact for the entire team.
- The PI should communicate all requests through the FAS SCEP Program Manager (and not directly to MOA) unless otherwise discussed and approved.
- The PI will provide the FAS SCEP Program Manager scans of each team participant’s passport personal page 60 days prior to commencement of the program.
- The PI will provide the FAS SCEP Program Manager with existing contacts and recommended meetings for consultation and approval at least 60 days prior to commencement of the program.
- The PI is required to identify all team members and the potential dates for their SCEP trip within 2 months of their notification of selection.
- The PI will notify the FAS SCEP Program Manager immediately upon purchase of international airfare tickets. Flight itineraries will be shared with MOA to arrange airport pickup and drop off.
- The PI will immediately notify the FAS SCEP Program Manager of any requested program modifications including but not limited to changes in arrival/departure dates.
- No changes/additions to the team roster are permitted 4 weeks prior to travel.
- All meetings and the final itinerary will be confirmed by China’s MOA in advance. As guests of the Chinese Central government, U.S. participants will **not** engage in outside meetings or activities not contained in the approved itinerary; unless otherwise agreed to by all parties in advance.
- U.S. team composition should consist of members with individual expertise, but as a whole possess a broad spectrum of knowledge on the SCEP topic; including aspects of policy, technical, research, regulator, analyst, etc.
- The PI is the U.S. Team Lead. All team participants will defer to the PI (i.e. having two Team Leads will confuse the Chinese hosts).
- U.S. teams must have a team interpreter. U.S. teams can either hire one professional interpreter or include two native Mandarin speakers (e.g. faculty, graduate student) knowledgeable on the topic to provide interpretation services. Note: Only one can be the designated team interpreter.

- U.S. teams are required to provide a brief bio – in both English and Chinese – for each participant 60 days prior to departing the U.S. Bios will be used by MOA in arranging meetings.
- All team participants must be U.S. citizens; the only exception is the one designated interpreter (if there are two native Mandarin speakers, one must be a U.S. citizen).
- Each member of the team is responsible for arranging their international airfare to and from China.
- Each member of the team is responsible for securing emergency medical health (or travel) insurance.
- The FAS SCEP Program Manager will have two mandatory conference calls with each U.S. team; before the start of the program and after the conclusion of the program.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE): Not allowable

D. Application and Submission Information

Key Dates and Times: n/a

Application Start Date: 03/14/2018

Application Submission Deadline: 04/18/2018 at 11:59 PM [EST]

Anticipated Funding Selection Date: 05/04/2018

Anticipated Award Date: 06/01/2018

Other Key Dates: n/a

Address to Request Application Package

Applications will be processed through the ezFedGrants portal at <https://grants.fms.usda.gov> – prospective applicants are encouraged to register for this portal. Applicants that are unable to access the ezFedGrants portal should contact the program manager for alternative submission instructions. Note that if selected, registration is a requirement of performance.

If the applicant does not have access to ezFedGrants, applications may be submitted to David.White@fas.usda.gov and SCEPproposals@fas.usda.gov. Requests for short-term deadline extensions will be accepted upon a formal request to the FAS SCEP Program Manager referenced above; without such a request, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. No paper or fax submissions will be reviewed.

Content and Form of Application Submission

Institutions may submit proposals to host more than one group of SCEP teams. Institutions interested in hosting one or more teams should submit a proposal following the guidelines and include the following components:

- Complete SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
 - Complete a proposed budget using Standard Form 424A.
 - Proposals should not exceed 12 pages; not including SF424 and SF424A.
 - The application must be specific to collaboration between the United States and China.
- **Cover Page (1 page):**
 - *Title:* The scientific exchange topic.
 - *Organization Name:* Name of U.S. organization
 - *Collaborating Foreign Country:* List “People’s Republic of China.”
 - *Type of Project:* List “Short-term Scientific Exchange.”
 - *U.S. PI:* Include the name, title, institution, mailing address, telephone, and email.
 - *Proposed Exchange Dates:* Indicate the proposed start date and end date for the U.S. team’s visit to China. Dates must be cleared by USDA and MOA prior to arranging and finalizing flights to China.
 - *Executive Summary:* In a paragraph, succinctly describe the issue or research problem and the main objectives. Highlight the proposed scientific exchange’s benefit to both the United States and China.
- **Program Description/Outline (3-4 pages)**
 - *Problem Statement:* Describe the scientific or technical issue. Indicate the status of any current activities on this topic with China, including the contacts and institutions. Indicate whether any similar activities on this topic have been conducted in China by your institution, possible synergies, and provide the title and date of the activity.
 - *Objectives:* List the objectives that support the broader goals as identified at the beginning of this announcement.
 - *Benefits to U.S. Agriculture, Fish, or Forestry:* Proposals must indicate a strong benefit to U.S. agriculture or forestry and how it may impact trade. Include plans for disseminating or using the results of the scientific exchange with China. Identify and, if possible, quantify benefits expected from the scientific cooperation.
- **Work Plan (3-4 pages)**
 - *General Plan:* This section should explain how you plan to accomplish your objectives via the proposed site visits.
 - *Dates of Visit:* Proposed dates of visits, including seasonal, geographic, and other considerations.
 - *Itinerary/Schedule:* Proposed schedule including possible field visits, meetings, and other activities and how those visits will help the team accomplish the stated objectives. See Annex B Example China SCEP Itinerary.
 - *Evaluation Plan:* An evaluation plan that defines measurement criteria, including qualitative and quantitative measures (include baseline data when possible), describe data collection methods that will be employed, and describe how the data will be analyzed. The evaluation plan should also include possible unintended effects.
- **Budget (1 page)**
 - A Budget Narrative is required; see next section, “Funding Restrictions”.

- The Budget must itemize all expenses.
- All line items should be described in sufficient detail that would enable FAS to determine the costs are reasonable and allowable for the project per federal regulations.
- **Team Roster and Brief Bios (2-3 pages)**
 - Identify the PI and all other team members. Explain each team member's role.
 - Provide brief biographical information for each team member summarizing any relevant experience and expertise working in the topic.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

The link below provides information on 2 CFR §25.110. Please read.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=1&SID=7a45f973880240465cd255471f1380ef&ty=HTML&h=L&mc=true&n=pt2.1.25&r=PART>

FAS is using ezFedGrants to post NOFO's and issue agreements, which is an electronic grants management system. Applicant(s) with electronic access are to submit their applications electronically through:

<https://grants.fms.usda.gov>

Before you can apply, you must have a DUNS number, be registered in SAM, and have access to the ezFedGrants website). **Applicants are encouraged to register early. The registration process can take approximately four weeks to be completed. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines.**

DUNS number. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at the following website: <http://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html>. The DUNS number must be included in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the Standard Forms (SF)-424 forms submitted as part of this application.

System for Award Management. In addition to having a DUNS number, applicants applying electronically through ezFedGrants must register with SAM. Step-by-step instructions for registering with SAM can be found here: www.sam.gov

Failure to register with SAM will result in your application being rejected during the submissions process.

ezFedGrants System Access and Electronic Signature

Level 2 eAuthentication. The next step in the registration process is to obtain a Level 2 eAuthentication account that will allow access to the ezFedGrants system. Instructions

for getting a Level 2 eAuthentication account can be obtained by emailing GrantorHelpdesk@fas.usda.gov.

You may also request Level 2 eAuthentication online at:
<https://www.eauth.usda.gov/MainPages/index.aspx>

If you experience any issues with self-registration or have eAuthentication-related questions, please contact the eAuthenticationHelpDesk for assistance:
By phone: 1-800-457-3642 or email eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov

Requesting a role in ezFedGrants.

After obtaining eAuthentication, users will need a role in the system. Descriptions of the roles available and instructions on how to request a role can be obtained by emailing GrantorHelpdesk@fas.usda.gov.

You may also go into the link below for instructions on requesting eFG access. The document is called “External Portal Access Request Submission”.

https://www2.nfc.usda.gov/FSS/Training/Online/ezFedGrants/access_user_roles.php

Electronic Signature. Applications submitted through ezFedGrants constitute a submission as electronically signed applications. When you submit the application through ezFedGrants, the name of your Signatory Official on file will be inserted into the signature line of the application.

If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions please email the Helpdesk at GrantorHelpdesk@fas.usda.gov.

The Federal awarding agency may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to E.O. 12372.

Funding Restrictions: This will be a cost reimbursable agreement issued under 7 U.S.C. 3319a. University indirect costs for cost reimbursable agreements are limited to 10% of direct costs.

Allowable Costs: To help in this review, and expedite the award process, budgets must include a detailed budget narrative explaining all line item costs. The categories listed below are examples of some of the more common items found in project budgets. All items should be described in sufficient detail that would enable FAS to determine that costs are reasonable and allowable for the project per federal regulations.

1. Travel: For international travel, provide the information used in calculating the estimated cost, such as the destination, number of travelers, and estimated cost per trip.

There are several restrictions associated with traveling on federal funds. In most cases, airfare must be purchased in economy class from a U.S. carrier.

2. Indirect Costs: Indirect Costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs (7 USC 3319a).

Unallowable Costs: General purpose equipment (no particular scientific, technical, or programmatic purpose) and scientific equipment exceeding \$5,000 or more; entertainment; capital improvements; thank you gifts, and other expenses not directly related to the project are not allowed.

Management and Administration (M&A) Costs: Not allowable

Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs: By statute, indirect costs for cost reimbursable agreements cannot exceed 10% of direct costs.

Other Submission Requirements: All applications must be submitted electronically as indicated above.

E. Application Review Information

Application Evaluation Criteria

Prior to making a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore application evaluation criteria may include the following risk based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing federal award; (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

Technical Expertise and Experience (40 points)

The PI and team participants must have appropriate technical background. The PI and team participants' experience and knowledge of relevant agricultural conditions within China and the U.S. will be considered as appropriate. Also taken into account is the PI's experience with previous program collaborations with Chinese government, institutions, or organizations.

Overall Program (35 points)

The overall program plan and design should be relevant to the specified objectives and participants' backgrounds. Quality of proposal, well-defined problem, clear objectives, evidence of creativity and innovation, suitability of investigators and institutions, likelihood objectives can be achieved. The program plan should be thorough, well thought out, and will achieve the desired post-program deliverables. Relevant resources should be identified. Additional resources/organizations should be identified as

appropriate. Requested site visits and meetings should be meaningful to the content of the program.

Budget (10 points)

The proposed budget should be appropriate for the number of participants and length of the program. The budget should include appropriate cost savings where available and narrative should accompany each line item.

Relevance to U.S. Agriculture (5 points)

Addresses important U.S. agricultural or forestry problems, potential usefulness of research results, potential for knowledge, and technology transfer.

Potential for Furthering International Cooperation (5 points)

Expected contributions and mutual benefits from collaboration.

Quality (5 points)

The overall proposal will be reviewed for overall quality, ensuring that proposal is comprehensive, well thought-out and contains correct spelling and grammar.

Review and Selection Process

After review by appropriate offices, it is expected that all applicants will be notified within three weeks after the closing date for applications.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Notice of Award

Notice of award will be given to the institution via email. This email is not an authorization to begin performance. The notice of Federal award signed by the grants officer (or equivalent) is the authorizing document through electronic means. It should also indicate if there are any pass-through obligations that successful applicants are required to meet upon receiving award funds, including specific timeline requirements.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All successful applicants for all grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions, which are available online at:

https://www.fas.usda.gov/grants/general_terms_and_conditions/default.asp

The applicable Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions will be for the last year specified at that URL, unless the application is to continue an award first awarded in an earlier year. In that event, the terms and conditions that apply will be those in effect for the year in which the award was originally made. Before accepting the award the Recipient should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under Federal Awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in

this NOFO as well as any Special Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.

Reporting

Federal Financial Reporting Requirements. The Federal Financial Reporting Form (FFR), as known as the SF-425, is available online at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html#sortby=1>

At the top of the website select **FORMS**, and from the drop down box select **POST AWARD REPORTING FORMS**.

Program Performance Reporting Requirements.

The PI is responsible for submitting a **Final Report** to the FAS SCEP Program Manager. The Final Report must be submitted within 90 days of the program completion date. The report should:

- Summarize the activities, accomplishments, and any problems encountered;
- Provide a summary of any preliminary research results (i.e. after the data has been analyzed) to USDA/FAS (and public domain). Open data is an important USG and USDA initiative (it's one of the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist's main priorities).

Close Out Reporting Requirements. Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, or after an amendment has been issued to close out a grant, whichever comes first, recipients must submit a final FFR and final progress report detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance. If applicable, an inventory of all construction projects that used funds from this program has to be reported using the Real Property Status Report (Standard Form SF 429) available at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html#sortby=1>

After these reports have been reviewed and approved by OCBD, a close-out notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be de-obligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for three years from the date of the final FFR. The recipient is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawn down but remain as unliquidated on recipient financial records.

G. Awarding Agency Contact Information

Contact and Resource Information

For all questions, contact:

David White, International Program Specialist

Hours of operation: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

Telephone: (202) 720-0858

E-mail address: david.white@fas.usda.gov
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1031

H. Additional Information

1. Extensions

Extensions to this program are allowed. Applicants may request a no-cost extension in order to complete all project activities. The request must be submitted 60 days prior to the expiration of the performance period. Requests for extensions are subject to approval by FAS.

2. Prior Approval

The Recipient shall not, without the prior written approval of the FAS Program Manager, request reimbursement, incur costs or obligate funds for any purpose pertaining to the operation of the project, program, or activities prior to the approved Budget Period/Performance Period. If pre-award costs are allowable, the Recipient must request prior approval before actually beginning any work.

3. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs are not allowed.

4. Budget Revisions

a. Transfers of funds between direct cost categories in the approved budget when such cumulative transfers among those direct cost categories exceed ten percent of the total budget approved in this Award require prior written approval by the FAS Program Manager.

b. The Recipient is not authorized at any time to transfer amounts budgeted for direct costs to the indirect costs line item or vice versa, without prior written approval of the FAS Program Manager.

5. Post-award program income

In the event program income becomes available to the recipient post-award, it is the recipient's responsibility to notify the FAS Program Manager to explain how that development occurred, as part of their request for guidance and/or approval. The Grants Officer will review approval requests for program income on a case-by-case basis; approval is not automatic. Consistent with the policy and processes outlined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, pertinent guidance and options, as determined by the type of recipient and circumstances involved, may be approved by the Grant Officer. If approval is granted, an award modification will be issued with an explanatory note in the remarks section of the face page concerning guidance and/or options pertaining to the recipient's approved request. All instances of program income shall be listed in the progress and financial reports.

Annex A

A. Risk Analysis of Animal Health and Food Safety in One Health Approach

The objectives of this program are to (1) share current knowledge and methodologies in One Health including risk analysis of animal health, preventative biosecurity on the farm, and regionalization; and, (2) explore opportunities for future ongoing U.S.-China between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the People's Republic of Agriculture collaboration. The One Health concept recognizes that the health of humans is connected to the health of animals and the environment. A One Health approach in agriculture is important in producing wholesome and nutritious foods and safeguarding the health and welfare of food-producing animals. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach (e.g. veterinary services, food processing industries, agricultural organizations, veterinary research institutions) to address potential or existing risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. Risk analysis is a key component in domestic disease control – from both a food safety and animal health perspective – for making the most informed decisions to reduce the risks to humans, plants and animals; especially in the context of today's integrated global international trade. Application of risk analysis skills improve countries' ability to mitigate disease risks and reallocate limited resources through risk analysis, surveillance, and disease modeling. The main focus of this topic is to obtain a better understanding of China's application of One Health – in particular risk analysis, surveillance, and disease modeling – and to establish connections between officials in the U.S. and China.

B. Cooperation on Emerging Diseases on Province/State Level between the United States and China

The objectives of this program are to (1) share current knowledge and methodologies in surveillance, detection, and reporting of emerging diseases; and, (2) explore opportunities for future ongoing cooperation at the province/state level between the United States and China. The inter-linkage between human and animal populations, environmental change, and global connectivity and movement has increased the risk of disease transmission between animals and humans. Approximately 75% of infectious diseases originate from animals and are zoonotic. Of growing concern are adverse synergistic interactions between emerging diseases and other infectious and non-infectious conditions leading to the development of novel syndemics. Many emerging diseases are zoonotic - an animal reservoir incubates the organism which is transmitted into human populations. Efforts related to the early detection of and response to emerging zoonotic disease outbreaks are important in protecting public health, economic, and development concerns. The speed with which especially dangerous pathogens can emerge and spread underscores the need for comprehensive surveillance, detection, and response capacities. Surveillance efforts can involve the collection of wildlife, livestock, and human samples that overlap in both space and time. The focus of this program is to establish connections between local state/province officials in order to share knowledge and methodologies for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of newly emerging disease. Specifically, to better understand each countries' capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnoses, and reporting; capacity to respond to infectious disease; and, current risk-based safety and security practices.

C. Plant Variety Protection and Germplasm Exchange for Improved Food Security

The objectives of this program are to (1) share current processes and policies for plant variety protection (PVP), intellectual property, and germplasm for new plant seed varieties; and, (2) explore opportunities for increasing bilateral trade of horticulture products and exchange of germplasm between the United States and China. Seed is the vehicle for many forms of innovation; e.g. improvement in germplasm, genetic and agronomic traits. Sustainably supporting the needs of an increasing population requires ongoing innovation in agricultural cropping systems, including seeds, that supports improved productivity. Effective intellectual property protection through PVP or patents is an important driver of innovation and a key enabler for investment in breeding and the development of new varieties of plants. Government measures and increased public and private investment in the seed sector are long-term requirements if agriculture is to meet the challenge of food security. The program will include visits to government organizations and companies to exchange and discuss in-depth on China's patent protection system, intellectual property enforcement, investment in the development of new technology, and the incentives for research and development activities. The main objective is to obtain a better understanding of China's PVP and intellectual property rights and explore opportunities for increased germplasm exchange and bilateral trade for new plant varieties.

D. Dairy Food Processing and Value Chain

The objectives of this program are to (1) share current practices and policies in dairy food processing, the dairy value chain, and marketing of dairy food products; and, (2) explore opportunities for increasing bilateral trade of dairy food products between the United States and China. Provinces of China and states of the United States are highly complementary in the field of agriculture, with broad prospects for cooperation. The dairy value chain transforms production of raw milk into products for intermediate or final consumption by applying labor, machinery, energy, and scientific knowledge. Rapidly rising living standards has resulted in increased demand and rapid growth in the dairy industry in China; which presents an immense opportunity for U.S.-China cooperation in agriculture and trade. This program will allow the participants to understand agricultural cooperation on trade in dairy products on the provincial and state levels.

The team aims to obtain a better understanding of the following –

- the food processing and distribution sector, including the ability of the sector to meet changing consumer demands,
- how competition is reshaping the food chain as food firms seek new marketing opportunities, streamline operations and marketing channels, and respond to consumer preferences, and
- the effect of government interventions to facilitate response to consumer preferences.

Annex B Example SCEPT itinerary in China

Date/Place	Time	Activities
Beijing		
July 23 Saturday		Arrival in Beijing.
July 24 Sunday	All day	Free Time/Visit to the Great Wall
July 25 Monday	Morning	Meeting with Ministry of Agriculture
	Afternoon	Meeting with U.S. Embassy
July 26 Tuesday	Morning	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
	Afternoon	Ministry of Environmental Protection
Haikou		
July 27 Wednesday		Take flight to Haikou and transfer to Danzhou city
July 28 Thursday	Morning	Provincial Department of Agriculture
	Afternoon	Haikou University
July 29 Friday	All day	Visit Tropical Crops Genetic Resources Institute
Wuhan		
July 30 Saturday		Fly to Wuhan
July 31 Sunday	All day	Free Time/Cultural Activities
August 1 Monday	Morning	Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences Fruit and Tea Institute
	Afternoon	China Academy of Agricultural Sciences Research Institute
August 2 Tuesday	All day	Hubei Agricultural & Forestry University
Beijing		
August 3 Wednesday	Morning	Travel to Beijing
August 4 Thursday	8:00-10:00	Program review and evaluation
	10:30-18:00	Free Time/Visit to the Forbidden City
August 5 Friday		Depart from Beijing