



U.S. Wheat & Barley  
Scab Initiative

## FY10 USWBSI Recommended Funding Process

### ***Summary of the Process used by the USWBSI to Generate a Comprehensive Research Plan and Budget Recommendation for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10)***

Each year, the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative is charged with the task of developing a comprehensive research plan and budget recommendation that is aimed at achieving its primary mission: develop as quickly as possible effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium head blight (scab), including the reduction of mycotoxins, to the producers, processors, and consumers of wheat and barley. The entire process followed to develop this research plan and budget is a product of deliberations overseen and approved by the USWBSI Steering Committee (SC). The composition of the SC is designed to give voice to all stakeholders in the operation of the USWBSI.

This year's review process was completed on December 9, immediately following the final session the 2009 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum. The USWBSI Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) orchestrated this process in close consultation with the Executive Committee (EC) and the Chairs of both the Research Area and Coordinated Project Committees. A split process was used again this year: 1) A call for development, submission and review of Coordinated Project pre-proposals; 2) submission and review of Individual Pre-Proposals; and 3) submission and review of Year 2 documentation for Research Area related projects funded in FY09.

**Development, Submission and Review of Coordinated Project (CP) Pre-Proposals:** The development of FY10 pre-proposals by the six Coordinated Projects listed below began with each CP holding a planning meeting to discuss and develop their research plans for the next two years:

- Commodity-Based Coordinated Projects
  - Barley (BAR-CP)
  - Durum DUR-CP)
  - Hard Winter Wheat (HWW-CP)
- Variety Development and Host Resistance Regional Nursery-based Coordinated Projects:
  - Spring Wheat (VDHR-SPR)
  - Northern Winter Wheat (VDHR-NWW)
  - Southern Winter Wheat (VDHR-SWW)

Following the official Call for Pre-Proposals that went out June 29, 2009, PIs interested in participating in a coordinated project submitted letters of intent (LOI) to the Coordinated Project Committees (CPC). The LOIs were then reviewed by the CP committees for relevancy and appropriateness, and PIs with accepted LOIs were asked to submit a proposed research project (PRP). A summary of the PRPs submitted to each of the CP projects is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Summary of Proposed Research Projects submitted to each of the six Coordinated Projects.

<b>Coordinated Projects</b>	<b># of PRPs</b>	<b># of PIs</b>	<b># of Inst.</b>
BAR-CP	13	10	7
DUR-CP	6	5	2
HWW-CP	12	11	5
VDHR-SPR	13	9	4
VDHR-NWW	12	7	7
VDHR-SWW	6	6	6

The CPCs then reviewed the Proposed Research Projects submitted to their CP and classified each into one of three categories: 1) recommended for funding within the “working cap”, 2) recommended for funding but not within the working cap, and 3) not recommended for funding. The working caps were derived from a process that involved the entire SC. For the “in-cap” category, the CPCs and RACs identified their highest priority PRP and adjusted their individual award totals so their collective sum was equal to or less than the working cap. For the second category, the CPCs identified PRP they judged worthy of funding but none-the-less omitted from “in-cap” category. Proposed Research Projects in that category were assigned unique rankings (1 to n) by the CPCs. The CPCs evaluated all PRPs in the context of the USWBSI’s Research Priorities and Program Descriptions which are reviewed on an annual basis.

The CPCs then merged the PRPs into a coordinated pre-proposal and submitted it for review by an EC appointed Review Panel (RP), and also by the Executive Committee with its nine members.

**Submission and Review of Individual Pre-Proposals:** The USWBSI also received 10 individual pre-proposals from 10 PIs at eight different institutions. The review of these 10 pre-proposals was conducted by the Executive Committee with input from individual EC appointed reviewers.

**Submission and Review of Year 2 Documentation for FY09 Funded Projects:** In FY09, two-year based research projects were funded under the following Research Areas:

- FHB Management
- Food Safety, Toxicology and Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain;
- Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance; and
- Pathogen Biology and Genetics

The year 2 documentation for the individual research area included 50 research projects by 37 PIs at 19 institutions including 18 Land Grant Universities and the USDA-ARS. The review for the second year funding of the FY09 Research Area based projects was handled by the relevant Research Area Committees, and the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee (EC) is charged with developing a draft of a comprehensive research plan and budget that is scientifically sound and minimizes imbalances among the tremendous range of geographical, commodity, institutional, business sector, and disciplinary interests held by the stakeholders who have made the USWBSI possible. After consultation with the Coordinated Project and Research Area Leaders on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the EC constructed a comprehensive recommendation composed of 120 projects from 80 PIs. The

sum of all recommended award amounts is exactly equal to the \$5,040,912 that was anticipated to be available to USDA-ARS for collaborative scab research for FY10.

On the afternoon of December 9, the EC plan and budget was presented to the Steering Committee (SC) for its consideration. The SC was briefed on the details of the entire process and allowed to study the EC's draft of the comprehensive plan and budget. Subsequently, a motion to endorse the EC's draft plan was passed by a unanimous vote of the SC. The draft plan consequently became the official USWBSI comprehensive research plan and budget recommendation for FY10. This plan is currently being translated into individual USDA-ARS **Grant Applications**, which will be submitted en masse as the USWBSI's *recommendation* for how USDA-ARS could allocate the resources awarded it by the U.S. Congress.