

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2912

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program for partnerships between United States research organizations and those in developing countries for research on plant biotechnology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program for partnerships between United States research organizations and those in developing countries for research on plant biotechnology.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The National Science Foundation has made
6 important contributions to advance the knowledge
7 base for plant biotechnology.

1 (2) Plant biotechnology research has the poten-
2 tial to help developing countries increase food secu-
3 rity.

4 (3) Plant biotechnology research can be used to
5 improve the quality and nutritional content of food.

6 (4) Biotechnology offers the prospect of deliv-
7 ering vaccines to immunize against life-threatening
8 illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and
9 effective manner that overcomes the infrastructure
10 and cost limitations faced by traditional vaccination
11 methods in the developing world.

12 (5) Research partnerships between scientists in
13 the United States and developing countries will help
14 strengthen the capabilities of those countries to de-
15 velop and implement applications of plant bio-
16 technology.

17 (6) Research funding levels at the National
18 Science Foundation and elsewhere are obstacles to
19 the use of plant biotechnology to address problems
20 in the developing world.

21 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Science Foun-
23 dation shall establish a program to award grants to insti-
24 tutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of
25 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)),

1 nonprofit organizations, or consortia of such entities to es-
2 tablish research partnerships for supporting the develop-
3 ment of plant biotechnology targeted to the needs of the
4 developing world.

5 (b) PARTNERSHIPS.—

6 (1) DEVELOPING NATION PARTNERS.—In order
7 to be eligible to receive a grant under this section,
8 the grantee shall enter into a partnership with 1 or
9 more research institutions in 1 or more developing
10 nations.

11 (2) FOR-PROFIT PARTNERS.—Partnerships may
12 also include for-profit companies involved in plant
13 biotechnology.

14 (3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In making
15 awards under this section, the National Science
16 Foundation shall give special consideration to part-
17 nerships that include a Historically Black College or
18 University, a Hispanic serving institution, or a tribal
19 college or university.

20 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
21 tion shall be used for support of research activities in plant
22 biotechnology targeted to the needs of the developing
23 world. Such activities may include—

24 (1) basic genomic research on crops grown in
25 the developing world;

1 (2) development of plant biotechnologies that
2 will advance and expedite the development of im-
3 proved cultivars, including those that are pest-resist-
4 ant, produce increased yield, or increase tolerance to
5 stress;

6 (3) development of technologies to produce
7 pharmaceutical compounds such as vaccines and
8 medications in plants that can be grown in the de-
9 veloping world; and

10 (4) research on the impact of plant bio-
11 technology on the social, political, and economic con-
12 ditions in countries in the developing world.

13 (d) COMPETITIVE MERIT REVIEW.—Grants under
14 this Act shall be awarded on a merit-reviewed competitive
15 basis.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
18 tional Science Foundation \$6,000,000 for fiscal year
19 2002, \$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, and \$9,000,000
20 for fiscal year 2004 to carry out this Act.

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