



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

July 16, 2014

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-14-029**

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers  
All Risk Management Agency Field Office  
All Other Interested Parties

Risk  
Management  
Agency

FROM: Tim B. Witt /s/ *Tim B. Witt*  
Deputy Administrator

Beacon Facility  
Mail Stop 0801  
PO Box 419205  
Kansas City,  
MO 64141-6205

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent for Research and Development of A Biomass Sorghum and Sweet Sorghum Program

**BACKGROUND:**

Section 522(c)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) allows the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to conduct activities or enter into contracts to carry out research and development. Section 522(c)(2)(B) of the Act requires that RMA consult with groups representing producers of agricultural commodities that would be served by the policies that are the subject of research and development efforts. RMA is planning to pursue research to develop a policy for biomass sorghum and sweet sorghum. Section 522(c)(11)(A) of the Act provides, "The Corporation shall offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with qualified entities to carry out research and development regarding a policy to insure biomass sorghum (and sweet sorghum) that is grown expressly for the purposes of producing a feedstock for renewable biofuel, renewable electricity, or biobased products".

**ACTION:**

RMA plans to issue a solicitation for a contract for the research and development of a crop insurance product for biomass sorghum and other sweet sorghum. RMA is seeking any preparatory input from interested parties about the level of interest from the industry, availability of private insurance products covering biomass sorghum and sweet sorghum, or any other relevant issues that should be considered when carrying out the research and development for any potential program development for biomass sorghum and sweet sorghum crop residues.

Please address correspondence concerning biomass sorghum research by **August 18, 2014** to Quintrell Hollis, Product Design Branch at [quintrell.hollis@rma.usda.gov](mailto:quintrell.hollis@rma.usda.gov) or mail to:

USDA/RMA/APDD  
Beacon Facility, Stop 0813  
PO Box 419205  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

December 31, 2014.