



Travel Grants Program

To reinforce the Center's efforts and resources in the promotion of inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development (ISARD) toward food security and poverty alleviation in the region, SEARCA will provide travel grants of up to a maximum of US\$1,200 to each qualified agriculture and agriculture-related professionals and social scientists including graduate students in Southeast Asia.

Objectives of the Grant

1. To provide opportunities to qualified Southeast Asian nationals to participate and present papers in ISARD-relevant scientific conferences and fora, locally or internationally.
2. To promote the dissemination of scientific knowledge/information vital to agriculture and rural development.
3. To provide the Grantee a venue to discuss with other scientists, researchers, university faculty and scholars, developments in their respective disciplines.
4. To facilitate linking, partnerships and active collaboration between SEARCA, or the applicant's home institution, with other development organizations and donors.
5. To produce articles or any publication out of the Grantee's presented paper, whenever appropriate and feasible.

Eligibility of Applicants

Applicants who will present scientific papers in international or local scientific fora are qualified for the Travel Grants. On a case to case basis, paper presentations may not be required if attendance to a conference is expected to result in establishing formal linkages, partnerships, collaborations and strong development impacts to the Center.

Priority 1. Priority shall be given to the following:

- SEARCA fellows (senior, adjunct and visiting fellows);
- SEARCA Graduate scholarship alumni;
- Researchers of SEARCA-implemented/coordinated projects;
- SFRT grantees;
- Proponents from the University Consortium (faculty, staff and graduate students);
- SEARCA ongoing scholars; and
- Faculty and staff of universities under the SEARCA Institutional Development Assistance Program.

Priority 2. Applicants who are citizens of Southeast Asian countries who are regular staff members of non-profit development-oriented institutions or graduate students of other agricultural universities in the Region may be considered if not enough qualified applications under Priority 1 have been received.

Priority will also be given to applicants who are based in, or originating from, the Southeast Asian region (Eligible Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam).

Selection Criteria

Subject Matter. The focus of the paper should be aligned with SEARCA's priority thrusts under the Tenth Five-Year plan (FY 2014/2015 - 2018/2019), as follows:

Social Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Development

- Participation of poor and vulnerable sectors of rural societies in food and agricultural value chains and agribusiness commodity systems;
- Food and nutrition security for poor and vulnerable sectors of rural societies ; and
- Productivity-enhancing innovations and modern technologies.

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

- Natural resource management;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation in agricultural and rural development; and
- Resilience of agricultural systems to climate impacts.

Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation

- Sub-regional cooperation in trade and investments; and
- Regional market, trade and economic integration.



Institutions and Governance

- Government policies, institutions and governance mechanisms and reforms for ISARD.

Conference Venue. Priority will be given to travel within the region. Grants for travel outside the region may be considered on a case to case basis depending on how well the paper satisfies the selection criteria and the objectives of the Travel Grants.

Concrete Returns to SEARCA. Other than simply acknowledging SEARCA in the paper/presentation, the grantee should be able to provide a version of the presentation/research that can be published as a journal article, monograph, or other format deemed appropriate by SEARCA. When possible, the grantee should be able to present in a seminar or a related forum sponsored/organized by SEARCA such as the SEARCA's Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS).

Re-applying Grantees. Previous applicants can re-apply, but must not have been awarded with a SEARCA Travel Grant in the last three (3) years.

General Schedule of Grant Cycle

Activity	1st Quarter Travel (Jan-Mar)	2nd Quarter Travel (Apr-Jun)	3rd Quarter Travel (Jul-Sep)	4th Quarter Travel (Oct-Dec)
Deadline of Application	7 December	7 March	7 June	7 September
Committee Evaluation	2nd week of December	2nd week of March	2nd week of June	2nd week of September
Issuance of Notification to Applicants on Outcome of Applications	3rd week of December	3rd week of March	3rd week of June	3rd week of September

Application Requirements

1. A letter expressing interest to avail of the grant, addressed to:
The Director
SEARCA
College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031
PHILIPPINES
2. A recommendation letter from the immediate head/supervisor/ major professor of the applicant, if applicable;
3. A two-page summary (single-spaced; 8.5x11 sheet) of the paper for presentation to the conference;
4. A copy of the conference organizer's letter of acceptance of the paper for presentation;
5. A copy of the conference program;
6. The estimated budget for participation;
7. A Proof/Copy of award of funding support from other organization(s) if travel is beyond Southeast Asia; and
8. The applicant's curriculum vitae.

For non-paper-presenters whose purpose is for establishing formal linkages, partnerships, collaborations or will bring strong development impacts to SEARCA and/or his/her mother institution, items 3 and 4 are no longer required. Applicants under this category must show concrete proof of recent and on-going negotiations, liaisons and/or invitations between the parties involved, and must be able to establish that a face-to-face meeting may likely result to opportunities for collaboration or mutually beneficial impacts.

Upon completion of travel, the grantee must submit a post-travel report within seven (7) days after the conference, highlighting observations, learning, and recommendations.

NOTE:

- Due to the high volume of applications received per quarter, only short-listed applicants will be notified.
- Applications sent via courier must be received on or before the deadline. Late and incomplete applications will not be processed.

For inquiries, please email:
The Research and Development Department (RDD)
SEARCA, College, Laguna 4031 Philippines
Email: travelgrants@searca.org