January 10, 2002

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-02-003

TO: Vegetable and Flower Seed Producer Groups
    All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
    All Reinsured Companies

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

SUBJECT: Request for Input from Vegetable and Flower Seed Producer Groups

BACKGROUND:

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) intends to obtain input from producer groups before entering into contracts for research and development to increase participation in areas or for agricultural commodities that may be underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. RMA believes this input is critical in determining the need and direction of research and potential development.

ACTION:

RMA requests input from groups or individuals representing vegetable and flower seed producers so that their needs, concerns, and other input may be considered before it enters into a contract for the research and possible development of risk management strategies or products for producers of this commodity. Of particular interest is any input that would help RMA determine the extent that producers want RMA to pursue such research and potential development of risk management strategies or products. RMA is also interested in receiving specific suggestions and concerns regarding the structure, scope, and limitations producers and producer groups want to be considered for such strategies or products. Anyone who is aware of insurance protection that is generally available from private companies to cover the risks that would likely be covered by recommended risk management strategies or products, is encouraged to advise RMA accordingly as indicated below.
Please provide your input to Josephine Scott by February 8, 2002, to assure its consideration. Ms. Scott may be reached by e-mail at "Josephine_Scott@rm.fcic.usda.gov," by fax at (816) 926-7343, or at the following postal address:

Attention: Josephine Scott  
Research and Evaluation Division  
Risk Management Agency  
P. O. Box 419293, Stop 0813  
Kansas City, Missouri  64141-6293

Listed below are organizations that are being provided this Informational Memorandum. Anyone who is aware of other persons or organizations representing vegetable and flower seed producers is encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Ms. Scott how to contact them.

Agratech Seeds Inc., McCordsville, IN  
Agripro Seed Inc., Shawnee Mission, KS  
Alaska Seed Growers Association, Palmer, AK  
Arkansas Seed Dealers Association, Fisher, AR  
Arkansas Seed Growers Association, Wilson, AR  
Burrell’s Seeds, Rocky Ford, CO  
Cal-West Seeds, Woodland, CA  
Chesmore Seed company, St. Joseph, MO  
Fontanelle Hybrids Seed Co., Nickerson, NE  
Garst Seed Co, Slater, IA  
Golden Harvest Seeds Inc., Bloomington, IL  
Harris Seeds, Rochester, NY  
Holmes Seed Company, Canton, OH  
Indiana Seed Trade Association, Remington, IN  
Missouri Seed Improvement Association, Columbia, MO  
Montana Seed Trade Association, Townsend, MT  
Mycogen Seeds, St. Paul, MN  
New York Seed Improvement Cooperative, Inc., Ithaca, NY  
Rispens Seeds Inc., Beecher, IL  
Rupp Seeds, Inc., Wauseon, OH  
Stauffer Seeds, Aurora, NE  
Utah Seed Council, Salt Lake City, UT  
Washington-North Idaho Seed Association, Ritzville, WA  
Winstrip, Inc., North Carolina

DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is effective until the disposal date, March 31, 2002.