

ASFA Trust Fund Proposal

(ongoing proposal – up for renewal)

Title: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ATTEND ASFA ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

- This proposal is reviewed each year by the Board to update the amount allocated.
- The current allocation for this year's Meeting is \$35,000.
- **The Board is asked to CONFIRM or update this sum for the 2006 Meeting**

1. Background information:

This proposal was first proposed at the 1997 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting (22-25 April, Poland). It was proposed by NOAA (USA). The Board agreed to using the ASFA Trust Fund to support attendance at the annual ASFA Advisory Board Meetings, by participants from economically developing countries or countries in transition to a market economy. The Board also agreed that the total allocated sum would be subject to review each year at the annual ASFA Advisory Board Meetings, and that FAO should decide on the eventual candidates to benefit from the funds (see 1997 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting Report, item 13.2 (7) and Annex-32).

The original proposal, agreed at the 1997 Meeting, was for \$6 000. The Board subsequently updated/increased the allocation as follows: year 1998 (\$10 000), year 1999 (\$15 000), year 2000 (no increase), year 2001 (\$25 000), year 2002 (\$30 000), year 2003 (\$30 000), year 2004 (\$35 000).

At the 1998 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting, the FAO ASFA Secretariat presented the "criteria" (item-2 below) that it had decided to use to assist it in assigning the funds (see 1998 ASFA Advisory Board Meet. Rep., item 13.2.2 and Annex-7)

2. CRITERIA (adopted by FAO for using ASFA Trust Fund to support attendance at ASFA Advisory Board Meetings)

2.1 Mandatory Requirement

Participants (i.e. existing ASFA Partners) eventually benefiting from this fund should be from economically developing countries and/or countries in transition to a market economy.

2.2 Other Considerations

- a) Participants in particular need of training and who could combine attendance at the Board Meeting with a short training session immediately following the Meeting may be favoured (this would require that the person attending the Board Meeting was also the same person responsible for preparing input). *Note: this item is usually only relevant when Meetings are held at FAO, Rome*
- b) Participants (not in need of training) should preferably be chosen from the "active" ASFA Partners (by active, we mean those Partners regularly submitting ASFA input).
- c) Participants from areas/regions with few ASFA centres may be favoured.
- d) Participants in a position to make interventions/contributions of particular relevance to the Agenda may be favoured.
- e) Participants who would reap particular benefit from attending the Meeting may be favoured.
- f) Participants who can partially contribute to funding their own participation may be favoured.

NOTE: item-2.1 above is a mandatory requirement for participants requesting funding. Items - a to f are not mandatory requirements nor are they listed in any order of importance. The FAO ASFA Secretariat will decide on the relative importance of these items on a case by case basis. FAO's decision will be final. However, at each ASFA Board Meeting the Board may decide on another criteria or mechanism for allocating the funds.