

Panel Scientific and Technical Review Form
(Note: Review comments will be anonymous, but public.)

Proposal number: G-205

Short Proposal Title: **Rice in the Delta**

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

There is some disagreement from the reviewers. Two reviewers said that the objectives and hypotheses are very clearly stated. The third reviewer said that the objectives and hypotheses are discussed in different parts of the proposal, and are therefore not that clear.

Panel Summary:

Yes. They are clearly stated.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes. There is a clear diagram which explains the model.

Panel Summary:

Yes, it does.

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

On most levels, though plot sizes for the 4-paired plot system is not provided. Of most concern is the scale of the project, which is too large given our current understanding of the proposed actions and ability to accurately predict their outcomes.

Panel Summary:

Same as reviewers' comments.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

One reviewer said yes. But two were very concerned that such a large scale project is more in line with a full implementation project than a pilot/demonstration project.

Panel Summary:

The panel felt strongly that the scale of the project is much too large for a pilot/demonstration project.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, information about converting Delta farmland to rice cultivation can be extremely informative.

Panel Summary:

Same as reviewers' comments.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, the proposed monitoring plan is very good but would be improved if the detail of paired sample plot size, pesticide levels in the water released, and details on the size of the four paired plots were provided.

Panel Summary:

Yes, the panel was very pleased about the inclusion of an economic analysis. This analysis will be critical in assessing the viability of the project.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

One of the reviewers said yes, and all of the uses of the data are well described. The other two reviewers were concerned about the lack of description of how the data would be analyzed, and the lack of inclusion of collecting and analyzing pesticide levels in the discharge water.

Panel Summary:

The panel agrees that the data collection and management are well thought out, but lacks the analysis of pesticide levels in the water.

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Two of the reviewers said yes. The third reviewer said no, based on the size of the project. The reviewer doesn't think that it is realistic to get a commitment of 10,000 acres of private land conversion within three years.

Panel Summary:

The panel agrees that it is technically feasible except for the scale of the project.

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, the project team seems to be well equipped to execute this project.

Panel Summary:

Same as reviewers' comments.

5)Other comments

Section H. terms and conditions is missing from this proposal.

**Overall Evaluation
PANEL SUMMARY COMMENTS**

This proposal is very good if it is a pilot/demonstration project on limited acreage (such as three 500 acre sites). Delta farmers must demonstrate that growing rice is environmentally advantageous compared to cultivating corn. The economic feasibility must also be demonstrated before large scale adoption is realistic.

Summary Rating

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Your Rating: VERY GOOD