



United States Department of Agriculture

Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)

The CRADA is a joint research effort with at least one non-Federal partner that has some degree of research capacity and which commits funds and/or in-kind resources to a collaborative effort with an ARS scientist. Funds can only flow from the collaborator to ARS. The CRADA project is generally intended to create or optimize a commercial product, and it usually contemplates creating, securing, and licensing intellectual property related to the research effort. A CRADA partner may be an individual company, a group of companies, an association, a university, or any combination of the preceding. It may also include another Federal agency, but only if there is an additional partner which is not a Federal agency. The ARS actively seeks CRADAs with small and/or minority-owned businesses. There is no requirement to "compete" for CRADAs - ARS is free to choose any CRADA partner that meets the technology transfer needs of one of its in-house research projects.

A CRADA benefits the partner by:

- Providing confidential access to ARS research capacity which can lead to competitive advantages
- Providing access to ARS patent prosecution capacity
- Providing a source of new, patent-protected commercial products
- Providing the opportunity to negotiate for an exclusive patent license without giving notice in the Federal Register (and thereby inviting additional and perhaps competing license applications)
- Provides access to the ARS [ARP Network](#) which often leads to additional business opportunities to include access to global markets

A CRADA benefits ARS by:

- Augmenting resources available to ARS scientists
- Increasing the likelihood of licensing an ARS technology and thereby showing impact
- Increasing impact and Agency reputation by becoming highly relevant to individual stakeholders
- Contributing to economic development through new product development and perhaps job-creation at companies using the program to help build their businesses