



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Trade and Foreign
Agricultural
Affairs

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 1001
Washington, DC
20250-1066

October 1, 2025

Dear Assistance Agreement Recipient,

This letter is to inform you that due to the absence of a U.S. Government appropriation act the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is required to shut down most of its operations.

During the shutdown period, you may continue to work on FAS approved portions of your project to meet agreement requirements. When FAS approval or involvement is needed, you must suspend work. You may not initiate any new activities which FAS has not approved. Further, if continuing the project requires access to a USDA facility, USDA equipment, or USDA property, you must stop work immediately on that portion of your project.

USDA offices are closed, and FAS personnel will not be available. During the shutdown period, FAS personnel will not review reports, process payment requests, act upon amendment requests, or grant prior approval requests. All pending actions will be addressed when FAS personnel return.

If you experience an exigency imminently hazardous to the life or safety of your personnel, you are authorized to take such action as is required to mitigate that hazard, without awaiting FAS approval. FAS recognizes the negative impacts to programmatic activities caused by the shutdown, however severe or costly; please be mindful these impacts do not constitute a hazard. You should document such impacts or any other programmatic issues and inform FAS, regardless of the shutdown.

If you are required to stop work during the shutdown period, you should document this in your project records. If any allowable costs are incurred as a result of the work stoppage due to the shutdown, FAS will review once the shutdown ends.

For Fellowship program participants that require validation in SEVIS, this is an excepted responsibility that is expected to continue throughout the duration of the shutdown. Please contact Desiree Lawrence, desiree.lawrence@usda.gov, for assistance for Fellowship programs only.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Henderson
Acting Agency Grants Management Officer
USDA/ Foreign Agriculture Service