

(c) Chairman

The Joint Commission shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from among the three individuals designated by the Secretary as members under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Delegation of responsibilities to Joint Commission; transfer and use of appropriated funds

The Secretaries may delegate to the Joint Commission one or more of their responsibilities under this subchapter, and transfer to the Joint Commission funds appropriated to carry out the purposes of this subchapter as they deem appropriate to achieve the purposes of this subchapter, and the Joint Commission is authorized to carry out such functions and expend such funds to achieve the purposes of the subchapter.

(e) Duties

The Joint Commission shall—

- (1) develop a plan establishing goals, time-tables, and tasks to be undertaken in carrying out the purposes of this subchapter;
- (2) establish broad policy for implementing the plan carrying out the purposes of this subchapter;
- (3) establish criteria for evaluating and awarding contracts for research, development, and demonstration projects; and
- (4) review and advise the Secretaries with respect to grants, contracts, and other project expenditures.

(f) Administrative support services

The Secretaries are authorized to provide without reimbursement such administrative support services, including the detail of staff personnel not to exceed a total of five persons from each Department, as the Joint Commission may need to carry out its functions.

(g) Advice of scientific, engineering and business communities

To the maximum extent possible, the Secretaries and the Joint Commission shall seek the advice of the scientific, engineering and business communities with respect to the activities carried out under this subchapter. The Secretaries and the Commission shall specifically seek the advice of persons with expertise in appropriate fields of agricultural research in land grant colleges and other universities, in State agricultural experiment stations, and in other appropriate organizations; and, persons with expertise in manufacturing and commerce involving rubber and other critical agricultural materials in private enterprise and other appropriate organizations.

(Pub. L. 95-592, §4, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2530; Pub. L. 98-284, §4, May 16, 1984, 98 Stat. 181; Pub. L. 104-127, title VIII, §881(a), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1175.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsecs. (g), (h). Pub. L. 104-127 redesignated subsec. (h) as (g), and struck out former subsec. (g) which read as follows: “One year after November 4, 1978, and each year thereafter, the Joint Commission shall provide to the Congress a report on the implementation of the subchapter. Such report shall (1) rec-

ommend specific directions for further research, development, and other work, and (2) recommend funding levels for various elements of the overall project.”

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-284, §4(a), substituted “Research and Development of Critical Agricultural Materials” for “Guayule Research and Commercialization”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-284, §4(b), struck out provision mandating that two of the designees of the Secretary of Commerce be Federal Cochairmen of Regional Commissions engaged in the support of native latex research, development, demonstration, or commercialization activities, inserted provisions for the appointment of a representative of the Department of State, a representative of the Department of Defense, and a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and inserted provisions that each of the members of the Joint Commission be an individual who, on behalf of the Department or agency which such individual represents, is engaged in the support of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization activities involving native latex and the production of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-284, §4(c), substituted “The Joint Commission shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from among the three individuals designated by the Secretary as members under subsection (b) of this section” for “The Joint Commission shall be headed by a Chairman. The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate one of the two members from his Department to serve as Joint Commission Chairman during the first two-year period following November 4, 1978, and the Secretary of Commerce shall designate one of the two members from his Department as Joint Commission Chairman during the second two-year period following November 4, 1978. And the same process of designating Joint Commission Chairmen shall be followed in ensuing years”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 98-284, §4(d), substituted “manufacturing and commerce involving rubber and other critical agricultural materials” for “rubber manufacturing and commerce”.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 178c. Research and development program by Secretary of Agriculture**(a) Designation of Department as lead agency**

The Department of Agriculture shall be the lead agency in carrying out this subchapter.

(b) Scope of program

The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct, sponsor, promote, and coordinate basic and applied research, technology development, and technology transfer leading to effective and economical methods for large-scale culturing of plantations and the extraction of latex from *Parthenium* or other hydrocarbon-containing

plants, and for the development of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance. Such research shall include, but not be limited to—

(1) carrying out extensive seed collections from wild plants in Texas, Mexico, and other areas and borrowing or purchasing seeds from other sources;

(2) developing a stockpile of *Parthenium* seeds, such stockpile to be appropriately classified and stored at a suitable facility;

(3) accelerating present plant breeding, genetics, and selection programs for the purpose of improving and increasing latex yields, expanding insect and disease resistance, broadening the ranges of drought and cold resistance of the *Parthenium* plant, and providing a system of regional research trials for enhancing and increasing the supply of foundation seed for certified seed production;

(4) establishing a system of large-scale experimental plantings (aggregating ten thousand acres or more) to provide shrub for feedstock to process in the developmental rubber processing facility described in paragraph (7);

(5) carrying out specific studies on the effects of irrigation on plant growth and latex yield and survival potential;

(6) developing equipment needed to carry out nursery operations, planting, cultivating, harvesting, transporting the crop, and other necessary agricultural activities;

(7) accelerating the refinement of present extraction and processing technologies and future extraction technologies, including the development and construction of a developmental rubber processing facility for the extraction and production of test quantities of guayule natural rubber;

(8) establishing and maintaining a bank of all pertinent research data on native latex including extant United States Government publications and records from the emergency rubber project. Such data shall be made available to other Federal and State agencies and private persons who are interested or involved in native latex research, development, or manufacture; and

(9) studying the economic feasibility of developing other native agricultural crops (in addition to *Parthenium* and other hydrocarbon-containing plants) that would supply critical agricultural materials for strategic and industrial purposes, carrying out demonstration projects to promote the development or commercialization of such crops (including projects designed to expand domestic or foreign markets for such crops), and, to the extent appropriate, carrying out research activities with respect to such crops in the manner specified in paragraphs (1) through (8).

(c) Office of Critical Agricultural Materials

The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish within the Department of Agriculture an Office of Critical Agricultural Materials, as a central location where such Department can address research and development with respect to agricultural crops that have the potential of producing critical materials for strategic and industrial purposes.

(d) Authority of Secretary in carrying out demonstration project

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in carrying out a demonstration project referred to in subsection (b)(9) of this section, the Secretary may—

(1) enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with, or provide a grant to, any person, or public or private agency or organization, to participate in, carry out, support, or stimulate such project;

(2) make available for purposes of clause (1) agricultural commodities or the products thereof acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under price support operations conducted by the Corporation; or

(3) use any funds appropriated pursuant to section 178n(a) of this title, or any funds provided by any person, or public or private agency or organization, to carry out such project or reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for agricultural commodities or products that are utilized in connection with such project.

(Pub. L. 95-592, § 5, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2531; Pub. L. 98-284, § 5, May 16, 1984, 98 Stat. 182; Pub. L. 99-198, title XIV, § 1439, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1559; Pub. L. 102-237, title X, § 1005(1), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1894.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 102-237 substituted “industrial purposes,” for “industrial purposes.,”.

1985—Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1439(a), extended research program to carrying out demonstration projects to promote the development or commercialization of native agricultural crops, including projects designed to expand domestic or foreign markets for such crops.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1439(b), added subsec. (d). 1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(1), added subsec. (a).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(1), designated existing provisions as subsec. (b) and in first sentence of subsec. (b) as so designated inserted provision relating to development of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance.

Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(2), redesignated cls. (a) and (b) as pars. (1) and (2) of subsec. (b).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(2), (3), redesignated cl. (c) as par. (3) of subsec. (b) and substituted “accelerating present plant breeding, genetics, and selection programs for the purpose of improving and increasing latex yields, expanding insect and disease resistance, broadening the ranges of drought and cold resistance of the *Parthenium* plant, and providing a system of regional research trials for enhancing and increasing the supply of foundation seed for certified seed production” for “carrying out breeding and selection programs for the purpose of improving latex yields, expanding insect and disease resistance, and broadening the ranges of drought and cold tolerance of the *Parthenium* plant”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(2), (4), redesignated cl. (d) as par. (4) of subsec. (b) and substituted “establishing a system of large-scale experimental plantings (aggregating ten thousand acres or more) to provide shrub for feedstock to process in the developmental rubber processing facility described in paragraph (7)” for “establishing a system of experimental plantings in arid and semiarid regions of the United States having suitable climatic and soil conditions for the culture of *Parthenium*”.

Subsec. (b)(5), (6). Pub. L. 98-284, § 5(2), redesignated cls. (e) and (f) as pars. (5) and (6), respectively, of subsec. (b).

Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 98-284, §5(2), (5), redesignated cl. (g) as par. (7) of subsec. (b) and substituted "accelerating the refinement of present extraction and processing technologies and future extraction technologies, including the development and construction of a developmental rubber processing facility for the extraction and production of test quantities of guayule natural rubber;" for "further refining present extraction technologies and future extraction technologies, including technologies which utilize solar energy; and".

Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 98-284, §5(2), redesignated cl. (h) as par. (8) of subsec. (b).

Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 98-284, §5(7), added par. (9).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-284, §5(8), added subsec. (c).

§ 178d. Research and development program by Secretary of Commerce

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized and directed to initiate and carry out research, technology development, technology transfer, and demonstration projects to test and demonstrate the economic feasibility of the manufacture and commercialization of natural rubber from Parthenium or other hydrocarbon-containing plants or the manufacture and commercialization of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance. Such research shall include but not be limited to—

(a) conducting research and development on extraction and processing techniques;

(b) economic analysis of the production of native latex, including usable byproducts;

(c) studying the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the commercial development of native latex;

(d) evaluating the commercial marketability of Parthenium and rubber derived from other hydrocarbon-containing plants;

(e) further refining present extraction and manufacturing technologies and future extraction and manufacturing technologies, including technologies which utilize solar energy;

(f) developing pertinent material and records on manufacturing of natural rubber which shall be available to other Federal and State agencies and private persons who are interested in or involved in natural rubber development, or manufacture; and

(g) to the extent appropriate, carrying out research activities with respect to native agricultural crops (other than Parthenium and other hydrocarbon-containing plants) that would supply critical agricultural materials for strategic and industrial purposes, in the manner specified in clauses (a) through (f).

(Pub. L. 95-592, §6, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2531; Pub. L. 98-284, §6, May 16, 1984, 98 Stat. 183.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-284, §6(1), (2), inserted in provisions preceding cl. (a) reference to the manufacture and commercialization of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance, and struck out "may be carried out through the Regional Commissions or otherwise and" after "Such research".

Cl. (g). Pub. L. 98-284, §6(5), added cl. (g).

§ 178e. Cooperative projects with Mexico, Australia, and Israel

The Secretaries, in consultation with the Secretary of State, are authorized and encouraged

to enter into cooperative projects with the Government of Mexico, the Government of Australia, and the Government of Israel in order to accomplish appropriate aspects of the research and development provided for in this subchapter. Such cooperative projects should include, but not be limited to, projects to determine the economic feasibility of extraction and processing of latex and other critical agricultural materials produced in the United States.

(Pub. L. 95-592, §7, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2532; Pub. L. 98-284, §7, May 16, 1984, 98 Stat. 183.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-284 inserted ", the Government of Australia, and the Government of Israel", and substituted "extraction and processing of latex and other critical agricultural materials produced in the United States" for "latex extraction and processing".

§ 178f. Assistance from States and public agencies; contracts and agreements

The Secretaries are authorized to accept financial or other assistance from any State or public agency to aid in carrying out the provisions of this subchapter and to enter into contracts with respect to such assistance and to enter into agreements with any State or public agency for the purpose of demonstrating, transferring, or applying results of research or methods of economic development relating to native latex or to other critical agricultural materials.

(Pub. L. 95-592, §8, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2532; Pub. L. 98-284, §8, May 16, 1984, 98 Stat. 183.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-284 inserted "or to other critical agricultural materials".

§ 178g. Powers of Secretary of Agriculture

In carrying out the provisions of this subchapter, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to—

(a) make grants to States, education institutions, scientific organizations, and Indian tribes as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 450), and enter into contracts with such institutions and organizations and with industrial or engineering firms;

(b) acquire the services of biologists, agronomists, foresters, geneticists, chemists, engineers, economists, and other personnel by contract or otherwise;

(c) utilize the facilities of Federal and State scientific laboratories;

(d) establish and operate necessary facilities and plantations to carry out the continuous research, testing, development, and programing necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subchapter;

(e) acquire secret processes, technical data, inventions, patent applications, patents, licenses, land and interest in land (including water rights), facilities, and other property or rights by purchase, license, lease, or donation;

(f) assemble and maintain pertinent and current literature and publications, patents and licenses, land and interests in land;

(g) cause onsite inspections to be made of promising projects, domestic or foreign, and,