



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
VIRTUAL FELLOWS PROGRAM  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION – EB/TPP/ABT**



This project seeks a Virtual Fellow to serve with the **Office of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Textile Trade Affairs, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB/TPP/ABT)** as a **Consumer Risk Perception Research Consultant**.

**Fellow Location:** The Fellow will serve virtually and will not be physically located at the Department of State.

**Project Name:** Risk Perception and Decision-making on Food and Agriculture.

**Project Description:** EB's Office of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Textile Affairs seeks a Virtual Fellow in the social sciences to study public opinion related to technological advances in food, such as agricultural biotechnology ("GMOs", growth hormones, cloning, and chlorine-washes). Specifically, the Fellow will examine consumer perceptions of risk towards these technologies, analyze the effectiveness of current public messaging on, and study how corporate decisions respond to and/or influence public perceptions. The Fellow will coordinate with ABT on which methodology would be most effective in such a study.

**Program Requirements:** The precepts of the Virtual Fellows Program call for Fellows to have a high degree of administrative, professional, or technical knowledge/experience and a minimum of five years of professional experience that is directly applicable to the assigned task.

**Project-specific Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities:**

- Background in Social Sciences - - Ideally in sociology, economics, anthropology, or psychology;
- Must have experience in perception, risk, and/or consumer motivation.

**Clearance:** The Fellow must be a U.S. citizen and must receive a Public Trust determination prior to starting his/her service. The Virtual Fellows Program staff will work with the accepted candidate to obtain the Public Trust determination. (Note: A candidate is NOT required to have a Public Trust determination prior to applying for this project.)

**Remuneration:** The Virtual Fellow will be appointed to the federal civil service as an intermittent, unpaid consultant. The Department assumes no responsibility for providing any salary or benefits to the Fellow in connection with his/her participation in the Program.