

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**119–22**

**OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Page 416, strike lines 9 through 17, and insert the following:

1 **SEC. 7113. TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL**  
2 **RESEARCH.**

3 Section 1447B of the National Agricultural Research,  
4 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
5 3222b–2) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 1447B. TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL RESEARCH.**

7 “(a) GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
8 SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AT INSULAR  
9 AREA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

10 “(1) PURPOSE.—It is the intent of Congress to  
11 assist the land-grant colleges and universities in the  
12 insular areas in efforts to—

13 “(A) acquire, alter, or repair facilities or  
14 relevant equipment necessary for conducting ag-  
15 ricultural research; and

16 “(B) support tropical and subtropical agri-  
17 cultural research, including pest and disease re-  
18 search.

1           “(2) METHOD OF AWARDING GRANTS.—Grants  
2           awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be made  
3           in such amounts and under such terms and condi-  
4           tions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry  
5           out the purposes of this subsection.

6           “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may pro-  
7           mulgate such rules and regulations as the Secretary  
8           considers to be necessary to carry out this sub-  
9           section.

10          “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
11          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
12          this subsection \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
13          2008 through 2031.

14          “(b) TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL  
15          RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

16                 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting  
17                 through the Director of the National Institute of  
18                 Food and Agriculture, shall establish and carry out  
19                 a program under which the Secretary will award  
20                 grants to eligible institutions to support competitive  
21                 research on the production, protection, and mar-  
22                 keting of tropical and subtropical agricultural com-  
23                 modities in the United States. Such program shall  
24                 be known and referred to as the Tropical and Sub-

1 tropical Agricultural Research Program (referred to  
2 in this subsection as the ‘Program’).

3 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An institution eligible to  
4 receive a grant under the Program is—

5 “(A) an insular area land-grant college or  
6 university, as described in subsection (a), in-  
7 cluding the University of the Virgin Islands, the  
8 University of Puerto Rico, the University of  
9 Hawaii, the University of Guam, the American  
10 Samoa Community College, and the College of  
11 the Northern Mariana Islands;

12 “(B) a State agricultural experiment sta-  
13 tion in a State with significant tropical or sub-  
14 tropical agricultural production; or

15 “(C) a consortium of institutions described  
16 in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

17 “(3) PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS.—In making  
18 grants under the Program, the Secretary shall give  
19 priority to eligible institutions proposing to carry out  
20 research addressing—

21 “(A) production systems and pest and dis-  
22 ease management for tropical and subtropical  
23 specialty crops, including breadfruit, mango,  
24 papaya, soursop, plantain, taro, cacao, coffee,  
25 and other commodities identified by the Sec-

1           retary in consultation with producers in insular  
2           areas;

3           “(B) post-harvest handling, cold chain lo-  
4           gistics, and market development for tropical  
5           and subtropical specialty crops produced in in-  
6           sular areas;

7           “(C) soil health, water management, and  
8           climate resilience practices adapted to tropical  
9           and subtropical island production environments;

10          “(D) recovery of agricultural production  
11          systems following major hurricane or tropical  
12          storm events, including replanting strategies for  
13          perennial crop systems; and

14          “(E) aquaculture and mariculture of trop-  
15          ical and subtropical species.

16          “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

17          “(A) CARIBBEAN BASIN.—The Secretary  
18          shall designate a lead institution among eligible  
19          institutions in the Caribbean basin—

20                 “(i) to coordinate competitive grant  
21                 activities under this subsection for Carib-  
22                 bean basin institutions; and

23                 “(ii) to provide administrative support  
24                 for the Program in the Caribbean region.

1           “(B) PACIFIC BASIN.—The Secretary shall  
2 designate a lead institution among eligible insti-  
3 tutions in the Pacific basin—

4           “(i) to coordinate competitive grant  
5 activities under this subsection for Pacific  
6 basin institutions; and

7           “(ii) to provide administrative support  
8 for the Program in the Pacific region.

9           “(C) ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary  
10 shall establish an advisory panel for the Pro-  
11 gram that includes producers, researchers, and  
12 extension professionals from the United States  
13 Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam,  
14 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of  
15 the Northern Mariana Islands, to advise on  
16 Program priorities and grant selection criteria.

17           “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
18 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
19 this subsection \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
20 2027 through 2031, of which—

21           “(A) not less than 50 percent shall be allo-  
22 cated to competitive grants for Caribbean basin  
23 institutions; and

1                   “(B) not less than 50 percent shall be allo-  
2                   cated to competitive grants for Pacific basin in-  
3                   stitutions.”.

