**Project Manager Qualifications**

Project Manager: Sujaya Rao, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota; sujaya@umn.edu; 612-624-1299

Sujaya Rao will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the project are accomplished in a timely manner. At the University of Minnesota, Prof. Rao is actively engaged in educating the public and students on benefits of human consumption of insects given their efficiency in feed-to-protein conversion, low land requirement for production, and few greenhouse gases emitted. She is also mentoring a student’s research project on social attitudes towards eating insects.

Prior to her move to Minnesota, Prof. Rao gained considerable experience with leading large research and educational projects at Oregon State University and the University of California. She extended her educational programs beyond universities to K-12 by establishing strong relationships with K-12 teachers and industry partners. With a 3-year, 1.3 million grant from NSF, she directed a program entitled “Integrating Biotechnology and Ecology into Science Education in Rural Schools in Oregon” in six schools around the university campus. Through this program, all year long, inquiry-based science activities were integrated into K-12 curricula. With additional funding, she implemented a pollination project entitled “Partners in Nature” for providing middle school students with a scientist’s experience.

**Grants received by Sujaya Rao related to K-12 Education**:

* NSF: Biotechnology and Ecology in Rural Schools in Oregon ($1,318,079) (2002-2006)
* Toshiba America: K-12 webpage ($10,000); Oregon Youth “Grow” their Own Fuel ($23,500); Partners in Nature ($13,700); Introductory Biotechnology ($14,820) (2003-2007)

**Publications related to K-12 Education:**

* **Rao, S.,** Shamah, D. and Collay, R. 2007. Meaningful involvement of science undergraduates in K-12 outreach. *Journal of College Science Teaching.* 36: 54-58*.*
* **Rao, S.,** Scherr, M., Royce, L., Stephen, W. P., Halse, R. and Soeldner, A. 2007. Bees and pollination: A ‘scientist’ experience for rural youth. *American Entomologist.* 53: 74-77.

**Organization Description**

Project Manager: Sujaya Rao is based in the Entomology Department in the College of Foods, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences on the Saint Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The Entomology Department has adequate space and resources such as computers and internet for preparation of lessons and activities to be implemented in K-12 classrooms.

Project Coordinator: (To be hired) will coordinate activities between collaborators (University of Minnesota, 3 Cricketeers, 5 participating schools), and assist with development of classroom activities, and implementation in schools.

Collaborator (Contract): Chad Simmons, 3 Cricketeers, St Louis Park, MN, will collaborate on preparation of cricket farm kits and classroom activities including establishment and monitoring of mini cricket farms in classrooms by K-12 students. Letter of Commitment submitted to S.Rao.