



CY 2024 agInnovation Budget Explanation

Budget Notes:

Approval of the attached budget, as presented at the agInnovation Business Meeting on September 26 in Grand Rapids, MI will require two votes. The first vote will be a referendum on the assessment. The [Rules of Operation of the Experiment Station Section](#) require that decisions made on assessments be completed by a referendum. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting is required for adoption of an assessment referendum. Should the assessment referendum pass, a simple majority is required for budget approval.

If the assessment referendum fails, the budget would not be approved as presented. If this occurs, an electronic meeting of agInnovation would be convened, and an alternative assessment and budget would be discussed. If an alternative assessment was suggested, a second referendum would be held along with a vote on the budget. If a second referendum on an alternative assessment is not held, an electronic vote on an alternative budget would be shared with agInnovation and the budget would pass by a simple majority. As a reminder, the Rules of Operation also allow the Chair of agInnovation to authorize the expenditure of assessed funds up to \$5,000 with a simple majority of the agInnovation Executive Committee.

CY23 Approved and CY23 Actual/Encumbrances: As a grounding and comparison exercise, we've included on the budget sheet columns that show the CY 2023 approved budget and CY 2023 actual expenditures/encumbrances.

Income

With an assessment to the ESS of \$100,000 (identical to the assessment of CY 2023) and a cash carryover of \$109,402, the budget will have \$209,402 in assets.

- *Previous CY Carryover:* While the fiscal has not yet been closed out, we're estimating a cash carryover of approximately \$109,402.
- *agInnovation Assessment:* The budget seeks a \$100,000 assessment to agInnovation to be invoiced through the APLU. Assessment payments will be due by June 30, 2023.
- *Other:* This is a placeholder line for future income not related to carryover or the assessment. For instance, this could be an annual contribution from agInnovation's wealth account.

Expenses

Below is a line-by-line explanation of each anticipated expense.

Eliminated or Moved Budget Lines

- *National Impact Database (TAMU hosted)*: This line has been zeroed in the agInnovation budget as the National Impact Database migrates to the Communications and Marketing Committee, a standing committee of the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA).
- *National Impact Database (travel)*: This line has been zeroed in the agInnovation budget as the National Impact Database migrates to the Communications and Marketing Committee, a standing committee of the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA).
- *Printing (APLU, other)*: This expense has been eliminated as a line in the agInnovation budget and has been included the *Promotion* line below.

Unchanged Budget Lines

- *Training*: The proposed budget includes \$15,000 for training, primarily to support professional development opportunities for all station/research directors. Bringing speakers in from the outside is expensive. Typically, the minimal cost to bring in an outside, professional speaker is \$5,000 plus travel expenses. Likewise, providing travel and a modest honorarium to internal speakers is a minimum of \$2,500 each.
- *Website*: This line requests \$1,000 to support maintenance of the current [ESCOP website](#) hosted by Clemson University. This website is the Section's inward-facing archive.
- *NCFAR Membership*: agInnovation has been a long-time member of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) and seeks renewal of the NCFAR membership (\$1,000). NCFAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and customer-led coalition that brings together food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders to serve as a forum and unified voice supporting increased federal investment in USDA Research, Education, and Economics (USDA REE).
- *NRSP Stakeholder (travel)*: agInnovation budgets \$1,500 to reimburse the stakeholder member of the NRSP Review Committee for travel expenses to attend the annual face-to-face meeting of the committee, typically held in the late spring.
- *agInnovation Committee Meetings*: This budget item (\$5,000) assists with defraying meeting costs (e.g., meeting rooms, A/V, food and beverage, etc.) and some travel for agInnovation committee members to meet face-to-face. While these meetings are typically associated with the annual agInnovation meeting, the standing committees are invited to meet when it is convenient for committee members.
- *AG-NGINE*: This is the second year of support (\$50,000) by agInnovation and assists the development and implementation of AG-NGINE, **Agriculture National Graduate Institutional Name Exchange**. AG-NGINE is a database of prospective graduate students fashioned after a similar database for engineering students. The overall goal of the database is to enhance graduate student placement and recruitment for all participating institutions. A copy of the [AG-NGINE presentation](#) made during the agInnovation meeting in Grand Rapids is available on the [ESCOP website](#). The University of Florida currently hosts the AG-NGINE database.

Funding Line Decreases

- *Communications and Advocacy*: This line seeks \$10,000 to complete the re-branding work for the Section, a collaborative effort initiative with the support of PIVOT Creative and Consulting. This line covers the final roll-out events of the rebrand of agInnovation and the creation of collateral materials as needed by agInnovation.

Funding Line Increases

- *Meeting Support (Annual Meeting)*: \$15,000 is requested to provide direct support to the agInnovation annual meeting as a means to offset currently escalating registration fees.
- *Promotion (meeting travel, printing, etc.)*: This coming calendar year, we propose dedicating \$20,000 to support the travel of the agInnovation chair and assist in the implementation of his second initiative to “*Strengthen current and build new strategic partnerships with traditional and nontraditional entities to 1) broaden network to industry, NGOs, other federal agencies, professional organizations, and others; 2) build and strengthen awareness of our LGU system’s research capabilities and coordination; 3) generate and reinforce appreciation of our national and global impact on lives and livelihoods, and 4) catalyze advocacy for federal and other funding to support agInnovation’s food security, environmental stewardship, nutrition and health, agricultural systems, energy, bioproducts, and community health and resilience priorities.*” The chair expects to travel to Washington, DC on a regular basis to support the best interests of the Section to the APLU, Federal agency partners, NGO partners, decision makers, and other influencers. Also included in this budget line is support for *Printing* (see above) and covers the cost of creating and printing the booklets for the agInnovation Leadership Awards ceremony at the APLU meeting, printing of award plaques presented during the agInnovation meeting, and printing of all collateral materials during CY 2024.
- *Diversity Catalyst and Leadership Awards*: This line covers the projected costs (\$12,000) associated with the presentation of two, \$1,000 agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion awards (individual and group) and travel support (\$2,000 each) for the award winners to attend the annual agInnovation meeting. The balance of this line (\$6,000) would be dedicated to offset travel expenses of the agInnovation Leadership award winners (5 winners at \$1,200 each).

New Funding Lines

- *Research Funding Framework -Facilitator*: This line, \$15,000, will support a professional, external facilitator to guide discussions for the Chair’s first initiative (see next bullet below), to develop and implement an agInnovation Research Funding Framework and implementation plan.
- *Planning Team In-Person Meetings*: This budget line of \$35,000 will support hosting two professionally facilitated, face-to-face meetings in response to the Chair’s first initiative to “*Develop and implement an agInnovation “Research Funding Framework” and Implementation Plan that includes well-articulated goals, data driven and other effective advocacy strategies, and clear 1-, 5-, and 10-year science deliverables and funding benchmarks for achieving identified goals.*”

- *agInnovation 501(c)3*: This line at \$2,500, would provide support for the completion of the establishment of agInnovation's non-profit organization.

TOTAL EXPENSES

- The budget for CY 2024 seeks \$183,000 in expenses.

PROJECTED BALANCE-END OF CY

- A carry forward of \$26,402 is estimated for CY 2025.

Proposed Calendar Year 2024 Budget

Proposed CY24 agInnovation Annual Budget		CY24 Proposed	CY23 Approved	CY23 Actuals/Encum
INCOME				
	Previous CY Carryover (estimate)	\$109,402	\$143,717	\$133,425
	agInnovation Assessment	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL INCOME	\$209,402	\$243,717	\$233,425
EXPENSES				
Eliminated or Moved Budget Lines	National Impact Database (TAMU hosted)	\$0	\$12,500	\$0
	National Impact Database Writing (travel)	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
	Printing (APLU, other)	\$0	\$4,000	\$0
Unchanged Budget Lines	Training	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Website	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
	NCFAR Membership	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	NRSP Stakeholder (travel)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$761
	agInnovation Committee Meetings	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,220
	AG-NGINE	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Funding Line Decreases	Communications and Advocacy	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$22,150
Funding Line Increases	Meeting Support (Annual Meeting)	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Promotion (meeting travel, printing, etc.)	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$9,998
	Diversity Catalyst and Leadership Awards	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$10,329
New Funding Lines	Strategic Advocacy--Facilitator	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
	Planning Team in-person Meetings	\$35,000	\$0	\$0
	agInnovation 501(c)3	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,565
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$183,000	\$136,000	\$124,023
	PROJECTED BALANCE-END OF CY	\$26,402	\$107,717	\$109,402