



Revision of the RULES OF OPERATION: agInnovation

January 15, 2025

Below is a brief explanation of changes made to the Rules of Operation of the Experiment Station Section and the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP), now known as agInnovation.

- The Rules of Operation (last revised March 2023) were updated to include the name of the new organization, agInnovation, and the regional associations of agInnovation. References to ESCOP were eliminated, and agInnovation was co-defined as “the Section”. Likewise, the Rules were revised to reflect the ways that business is conducted by the organization.
- Seven standing committees were identified as important entities for agInnovation, and these include: an Executive Committee, Budget and Legislative Committee, Diversity Catalyst Committee, Finance Committee, National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee, National Research Support Project Review Committee, and Science and Technology Committee.
- The agInnovation Executive Committee in the revised Rules of Operation is a decision-making body that is best characterized as a streamlined “ESCOP”. (In the original Rules of Operation, ESCOP was defined as the Executive Committee of the Experiment Station Section and Rules also described an Executive Committee for ESCOP.) The Chair’s Advisory Committee was removed from the Rules and is considered an ad hoc committee convened by the agInnovation chair.
- For all leadership positions, terms of the positions are defined as well as roles, responsibilities, and, where applicable, procedure for nomination, confirmation, and election. Likewise, for each of the standing committees, membership and membership terms are defined as well as committee member roles. Roles, responsibilities, and terms are all consistent with the ways that agInnovation currently engages in business.
- New items captured in the revised Rules of Operation include reference to agInnovation’s 501(c)(3) non-profit and the relationship between agInnovation (the organization) and the non-profit. The revised Rules also allow the agInnovation Chair to request expenditures of not more than \$5,000 with a maximum total of \$20,000 (i.e., 4 requests at \$5,000 each) for a calendar year with approval by a simple majority of the Finance Committee. Expenditures greater than \$5,000 and less than \$20,000 can be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. Expenditures of greater than \$20,000 require approval by a majority of agInnovation.