ESCOP
Experiment Station Committee
on Organization and Policy

2021 ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
January 20, 2022 (1:00 - 2:00 p.m. PT)

Time	Agenda Item	Topic and Presenter(s)
1.00 p.m.	1.0	**Call to Order** – Chris Pritsos, ESCOP Chair • Approval of Agenda • Approval of Minutes (November 12, 2021) • Interim Actions
1:05 p.m.	2.0	RRDC Proclamation-Resolution – Chris Pritsos
1:07 p.m.	3.0	ACE sponsorship request – Chris Pritsos
1:10 p.m.	4.0	DCC 2022 Plan and Award Call – Henry Fadamiro and Rick Rhodes
1:20 p.m.	5.0	Regional Agricultural Innovation Hubs Concept – Sreekala Bajwa
1:35 p.m.	6.0	Welcome & Introduction to Lewis-Burke – Doug Steele
1:40 p.m.	7.0	Lewis-Burke Remarks – TBD
1:45 p.m.	8.0	Summary of ESS 2023 Farm Bill Recommendations – Glenda Humiston and Jeff Jacobsen
1:55 p.m.	9.0	February Virtual CLP Meeting – Marshall Stewart and Doug Steele
2:00 p.m.	10.0	Final Remarks and Adjourn – Chris Pritsos
Consent Item	11.0	ECOP Liaison Report – Bev Durgan

Agenda Item 1.2: 11-12-21 Meeting Minutes
Presenter: Chris Pritsos (Chair)
Action: Vote For Approval

2021 ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2021 (1:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET)

Link to agenda and supportive documentation

Attendance: Bret Hess, Chris Pritsos, Bernie Engel, Rick Rhodes, Alton Thompson, David Leibovitz, Glenda Humiston, Jeff Jacobsen, JF Meullenet, Cindy Morley, George Smith, Gary Thompson, Vernie Hubert, Maggie Earle, Steven Loring, Christina Hamilton, Caroline Henney, Matt Wilson, Bev Durgan, Mark McGuire, Parag Chitnis, Saied Mostaghimi, Doug Steele, Hunt Shipman, Katie Frazier, Caron Gala, Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary)

1. **Call to Order:** Chris called the meeting to order.
   - 1.1. **Approval of Agenda-** Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the agenda was approved as presented.
   - 1.2. **Approval of Minutes (October 27, 2020)-** Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.
   - 1.3. **Interim Actions** *(page 14 in hyperlink)*
     - Approved addition of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy referenced in the stakeholder support letter to Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi supporting $7.75 billion dollars in Research, Innovation, and Facilities Funding in the Build Back Better Package.
     - Marty Draper, Kansas State University, was appointed to represent NCRA on the Budget and Legislative Committee; (3) Shawn Donkin, Oregon State University, was appointed to represent WAAESD on the Budget and Legislative Committee; (4) Sreekala Bajwa, Montana State University, was appointed to represent WAAESD on the Budget and Legislative Committee.
   - 1.4. **ESCOP Priorities and Chair Initiatives** *(page 15 in hyperlink & link to presentation)***-** Chris will work with the EDs and the various ESS committees to develop metrics to operationalize these priorities and initiatives. Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the ESCOP Priorities and Chair's Initiatives were approved as presented.
2. **Cornerstone Advocacy Update and Path Forward–** *(link to presentation)*
   - House appropriations – FY22 passed entire house with increases in all priority lines.
   - Senate appropriations – increased most lines, except 1890 research and extension remained flat – tactical move because of Chairman Bishop's emphasis on 1890s.
   - Infrastructure – passed last Friday – President to sign into law next week.
     - $1.2T Infrastructure Investment in the American Jobs Act
       - Roads, Bridges, Broadband, Rail, Water etc
   - Build Back Better (BBB)- to take up second major funding bill no later than the week of Nov 15.
     - Ag research infrastructure is in BBB
     - Reconciliation to achieve the $1.7T in BBB
     - Key ag issues – production and conservation – research funding available...(topics and dollars were itemized on a slide)
       - Slide highlights- $210M AFRI and same for FFAR, $120M SARE, $100M 1890 scholarships, $80M for Extension
     - $1B for MSI infrastructure under Research Facilities Act – concern by 1862s

- Expect at least one more Continuing Resolution (CR) with possible year-long CR.
    - Current CR expires Dec 3
    - Debt Ceiling extension expires Dec 3
- Annual Appropriations and BBB interrelationships for future funding appropriations.
    - Many lines in the bills are normally funded through annual appropriations
    - Possible programs receive significant increases in funding that extend over years
    - Appropriators may not use discretionary dollars since mandatory funding in BBB
    - Mindful of this potential issue

3. **BLC 2022 Plan** *(page 17 in hyperlink)*
    - Page two is the justification for the request to BAC.
    - One edit reflected in document is climate smart agriculture has been updated to climate smart agriculture and forestry.
    - It was noted that BLC is working further in advance and generating multi-year plans, and including stakeholders. This new plan will be a great addition for the Farm Bill.
    - Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the BLC plan was approved as presented.
4. **ESS Finance Committee 2022 Plan** *(page 19 in hyperlink)*
    - 13 months ago, funds were invested based on a variety of variables, now the money is generating interest.
    - Complete notes are posted on BLC website.
5. **CMC 2022 Plan**
    - CMC underwent strategic planning to generate a roadmap for communications.
    - Successfully added position to APLU, and assisted with hiring. Andrea Putman, Assistant Vice President, Communications and External Partnerships, Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources (FANR) is charged with the implementation of roadmap.
    - Policy Board moved the request forward to establish CMC as standing committee and updated Rules of Operation.
    - The next step is to receive approval of the entire BAA, done by electronic vote. Need a 2/3 super majority of all voting members to pass. A non-vote counts as a no vote.
6. **NIDB 2022 Plan**
    - In a holding pattern, pending vote to make CMC a standing committee.
7. **BAA Policy Board of Directors 2022 Plan** *(page 20 in hyperlink)*
    - Recommended moving CMC forward for a vote on BAA standing committee status.
    - Advocacy RFP committee released a report with recommendations. Should hear something from APLU in the next few weeks.
    - Approved BAA and CARET budgets. Recommendation to work with Jeff Jacobsen for reinvestment of carry over dollars, in effort to improve financial standing.
    - Encouraged to engage CARET representatives at their March 2022 meeting.
8. **APLU Update**
    - Finalized week-long APLU conference.
    - APLU annual meeting is November 15-17, registration available on www.APLU.org.
    - APLU President, Peter McPherson announced intent to retire in September 2022.
    - Still on a voluntary return to work, with no more than 25% capacity at a time. Return to work scheduled to be March 01, 2022, and employees will be required to be fully vaccinated. Continue to follow CDC guidelines.

- Still pending on what National meetings will look like in 2022. Hosted a few in-person meetings.
- Advocacy efforts continue. Objective to get 1862's qualified for infrastructure, and continue to advocate for additional funding and consideration.
- 3 staff vacancies. Check out website for full list and complete details.
- Canadian Deans have engaged APLU, and expressed interested to work more closely in the future on a dean level. APLU is interested in expanding network regionally.
- Climate continues to be a key topic emphasizing why funding ag infrastructure is important.
- Noted strong partnership with NIFA. Awaiting naming of Blue-Ribbon Panel.

9. **DCC 2022 Plan**
   - DCC will be meeting Tuesday, November 16th to discuss the plan of action for 2022.
   - Anticipate engagement in wrap around programs (occur 365 days in the next year).
   - Count on support from DCC on initiatives to integrate diversity equity inclusion.
   - DCC will be following up on call-to-actions.
10. **STC 2022 Plan** *(page 22 in hyperlink & link to presentation)*
    - Bernie will work with the STC committee to accomplish the STC 2022 plan presented.
    - Parag reported that the Blue-Ribbon Panel should be announced next week. Their first meeting (closed) is scheduled for November 22, 2021.
    - Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the STC document was approved.
11. **CARET 2022 Plan**
    - CARET strategic plan and implementation plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Below are focus areas of strategic plan:
      - Build and strengthen relationships including a comprehensive understanding of all parts of the Land-grant Systems.
      - Improving and increasing communication and coordination.
      - Engaged and accountable CARET representatives.
    - 2022 Joint CARET/ AHS meeting and celebration of 40th anniversary in-person.
12. **ECOP 2022 Action Plan** *(page 27 in hyperlink)*
    - 4 priorities for action plan:
    - Expand federal and non-federal resources available to Extension.
    - Increase visibility and recognition of the Cooperative Extension System as a provider of evidence-based education and services and as a valuable partner to federal and national non-federal entities through improved communications of program impacts and successes.
    - Support the professional success of Extension leadership through tailored professional development opportunities including training, webinars, in-person meetings, networking opportunities and more.
    - Identify ongoing and emerging CES priorities and national issues and provide mechanisms for collective action.
13. **NIFA Reporting System 2022 Plan** *(page 30 in hyperlink)*
    - Reduced Plans of Work from ~80 pages to average of 7-8 pages. Reduction of Annual Reports of Accomplishments from ~200 pages to 20-30 pages. Released a streamlined research initiation form that reduced input and review times by ~50%.
    - NIMMS integration kicked off today. Regular Hatch migrations happened already and are now included in NRS.

- The Results Module is in final design phase. This will look different than the REEport module, and will have 4 questions.
- April 1, 2022 is the due date for the annual report.
- NIFA is seeking approval to change Plan of Work due date to July 1, 2022.
- The Financial Module is in early development phase. The goal is to have everything into one module to eliminate supplemental reports.
- Financial reports will be due February 1, 2022 in REEport.
- All capacity projects completed this fiscal year will go into REEport; all others will be reported in the new module (upon release).

14. LEAD21 2022 Plan *(page 34 in hyperlink)*

- Call for applications for Class 18; closes on November 30th.
- June 12-17, 2022 is the first meeting date, and scheduled for in-person.

15. Other Business- ESS Climate Change Leadership Strategies *(page 36 in hyperlink)*

- Generated at the 2021 Fall ESS meeting- 3 strategic leadership buckets were identified.
    - Organize interdisciplinary teams to support specific climate change programs.
    - Enable climate change research initiatives through strategic investment.
    - Engage internal and external agencies to address specific climate change issues.
- Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the ESS Climate Change Leadership Strategies were approved.

16. NIFA Update

- Waiting to see what happens with reconciliation bill.

17. Final Remarks and Adjourn

- Chris thanked members for their time and continued contributions to ESCOP.

Agenda Item 1.3: **Interim Actions since November 12, 2021**
Presenter: **Chris Pritsos (Chair)**
Action Requested: **Vote for Approval**

1. Held the first virtual quarterly meeting with NIFA Director Castille.

2. Sent the attached letter requesting the NIFA Director increase the budget for research capacity funding.

3. Sent the attached talking points to the NIFA communications director for possible inclusion in the NIFA director's remarks.

EXPERIMENT STATION COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

Experiment Station Section
The Board on Agriculture Assembly
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Director Carrie Castille
Office of the Director
USDA NIFA
305-A Whitten Building
12th Street, SW, and Jefferson Drive
Washington, DC 20250

January 7, 2022

Dear Director Castille,

I am writing to respectfully request that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) increase the budget for research capacity lines to support members of the Experiment Station Section by 28% in the next budget cycle and by 14% annually for an additional 5 years (Table 1). As part of the Land-grant University system, members of the Experiment Station Section include State Agricultural Experiment Stations at 1862 Universities and agricultural research programs at 1890 Universities (hereafter 'Ag Research'). Ag Research receives Hatch or Evans-Allen, and in many cases McIntire-Stennis, funds through a state-federal partnership with NIFA. Ag Research capacity funds provide the critical foundational funding to conduct state-of-the-art food, agricultural, forestry, and natural resources research.

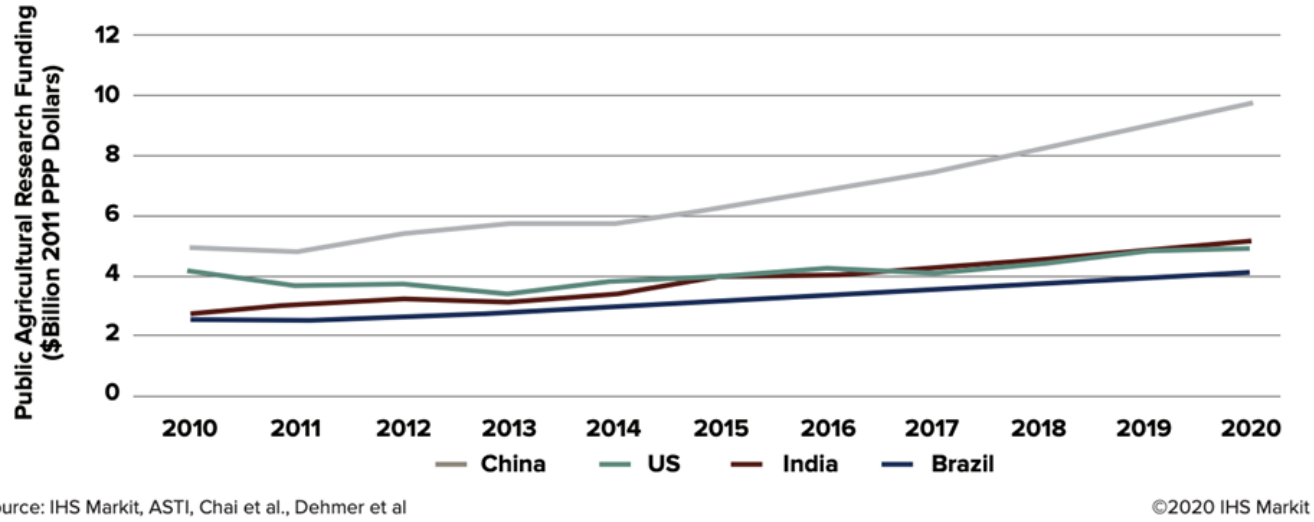
Table 1. Requested budget increases in research capacity lines to support Ag Research

Research Line	2021	2022 CR	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Hatch	$259.000	$259.000	331.520	377.933	430.843	491.161	559.924	638.313
Evans-Allen	$67.000	$67.000	85.760	97.766	111.454	127.057	144.845	165.124
McIntire-Stennis	$36.000	$36.000	46.080	52.531	59.886	68.270	77.827	88.723

Strategic investment in capacity funding for the nation's Ag Research has historically vaulted the U.S. to the position of unparalleled global leader in agricultural technology and production by conducting over 73% of all U.S. public agricultural research[1]. Not surprisingly, investment in agricultural research is closely linked to agricultural productivity. Investing in Ag Research capacity programs will help maintain the preeminence of the U.S. in agricultural research and production in a sustainable and ecologically responsible manner. However, public investment in agricultural research[2] shows the U.S. is falling behind China at a very alarming rate (Figure 1).

The difference in public agricultural research funding between China and U.S. was ~$1 billion just two years after NIFA was formed. Ten years later, that difference has grown to ~$5 billion. The level of public support for agricultural research began to drastically diverge between China and the U.S. in 2014. Between 2014 and 2020, China increased its public agricultural research funding by an average annualized rate of ~ 14% per year. In the same period, the U.S. was increasing its average investment in agricultural research by ~4% per year. Funding for the Ag Research capacity funding lines, however, only increased by an average of 3.3% per year. The gap in Ag Research funding has increased each and every year since 2014. A one-time 28% capacity funding increase to align with the administration's F.Y. 2022 budget request followed by annual increases of 14% for at least the next five years would help bring the U.S. back on track with China and help maintain our nation's competitive and leadership edge.

Figure 1. Estimated public agricultural research and development funding



Source: IHS Markit, ASTI, Chai et al., Dehmer et al

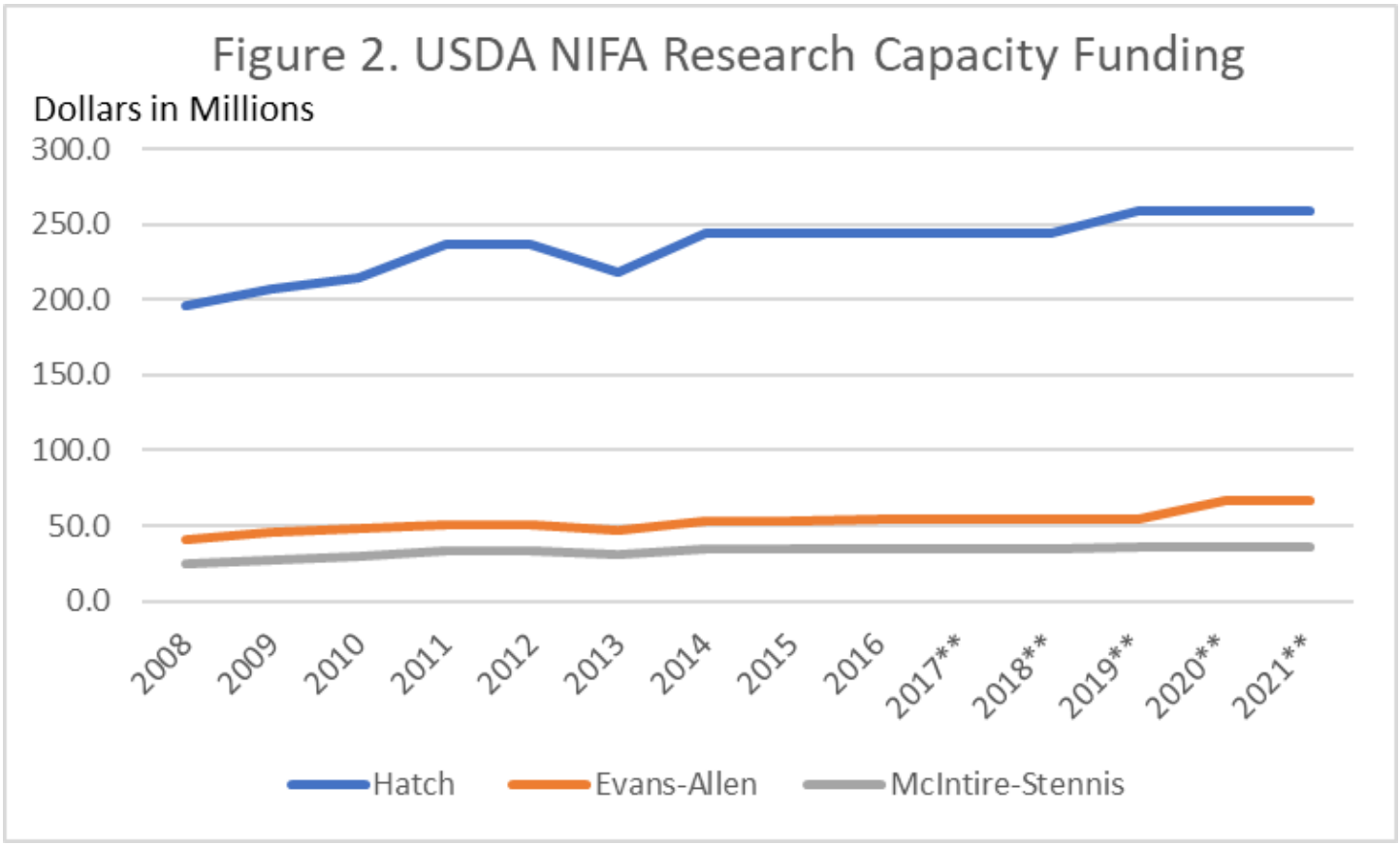
The ongoing efforts and impacts of Ag Research provide a sustaining power that undergirds our nation's economy[3]. The Ag Research network spans the country and its territories and plays meaningful roles in economic development efforts in distressed communities by addressing urgent and emerging issues in the agricultural economy and food supply chain and delivering practical tools, technologies and information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. A hallmark of capacity funding is that it provides Ag Research with the necessary funding to quickly respond to emerging issues within the broad mission of the USDA at the local, state, regional or even national level. A prime example was the impact of COVID-19 on the nation's food supply and how Ag Research across the nation responded to help secure a safe and adequate food supply to the communities they serve.

Agricultural productivity and resilience are fundamentally linked to our ability to understand biological systems and develop technical- and knowledge-based solutions in the context of economic, social, and environmental constraints and opportunities. A thorough understanding of such complexities takes multiple years of research effort. Fortunately, Ag Research capacity funds help provide the requisite financial stability to embark on research endeavors designed to overcome seemingly insurmountable complex issues. Research capacity funds are also deployed by Ag Research to help agricultural producers stay competitive by providing new and improved plant and animal genetics and production management strategies to address the unique and changing needs of the specific region of the country.

Maintaining global leadership and level of productivity over the past decade has been both remarkable and challenging for the Ag Research enterprise as the level of federal capacity funding has barely kept up with inflation. Decreasing state funding for Ag Research[1] as well as the increasing costs of conducting state-of-the-art research due to the increasing numbers of new and expanding grand challenges, complexities and sophistication of agricultural research instrumentation and techniques have exacerbated the strain on Ag Research units to maintain this level of productivity. Figure 2 illustrates the increases in federal research capacity funding to Ag Research from 2008 through 2021. Unfortunately, those increases have barely kept up with the cumulative inflation rate of 29.1% over the same period of time.

Increased funding for Ag Research will directly benefit struggling communities throughout the nation while enabling the U.S. to remain competitive and the world's leader in food and agricultural innovation. Accordingly, additional support will help ensure food and nutrition security. An abundant, secure, and resilient domestic food supply is particularly important for the >40 million U.S. citizens facing food insecurity. This includes expanding existing and forging new partnerships with tribal communities to incorporate their traditional ecological knowledge of foods and food production to assist with efforts to enhance food independence and ensure food sovereignty. Often led by the 1890 agricultural research programs, Ag Research also delivers assistance to many other historically underserved individuals, producers,

and communities. Greater research capacity funds will enable better collaborations between 1862, 1890, and 1994 Ag Research enterprises to address the common threats of climate change on secure and sustainable food systems.



The (**) denotes funding increases to Evans-Allen due to the addition of Central State University in 2018.

Research capacity funding helps address grand challenges[4] facing our agricultural, food, and forestry systems, as well as natural resources upon which those systems rely on (i.e., water). Greater capacity research funds are necessary to sustain scientific research productivity capable of addressing emerging issues and creating effective solutions, strategies, and technologies that mitigate climate impacts while simultaneously reducing effects of wildfires, ensuring food safety, advancing biosecurity for disease and pest outbreaks, increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability, and safeguarding human health.

Ag Research leadership has elected to tackle the climate crisis by mobilizing its limited resources to create climate-smart communities. A survey of Ag Research directors revealed that over 93% of directors report having a growing portfolio of climate change-related research with 64% at medium to large-scale. Areas of climate change-related research currently underway at various institutions include: Natural resources/biodiversity/water resources (77%); Carbon emissions/carbon sequestration/carbon banking (60%); Renewable and biofuels (60%); Efficiency of nutrient use in managed livestock or agronomic systems (55%); Climate change science and modelling (55%). One of the next steps will be to coordinate among multistate research committees working in these areas to develop a comprehensive research agenda to focus on alleviating the existential threat. This effort will include coordination with a climate-smart research committee formed by the 1890 research directors utilizing Evans-Allen resources. An advantage of this mission-oriented effort is multistate committees have great potential to build a climate-smart partnerships that will ultimately benefit producers. This quick pivot to create and build climate research programs required to address this crisis, is not sustainable with current funding streams. Ag Research will require additional research capacity funds to aggressively invest in people, facilities, instrumentation, and social science expertise to address the magnitude of the challenge.

Strategic investment in climate-smart agriculture research catalyzes bold innovation and site-specific practices that can lead significant long-term impacts to reduce climate uncertainties. Improved practices, innovative and adaptive technologies, diverse human and improved physical infrastructure, and proactive policy incentives at the local, regional,

and national levels will in aggregate produce diverse and equitable national impacts to mitigate climate change. Sustained increases in research capacity funding, for example, would enable enhanced efforts with artificial intelligence, digital technologies, the microbiome, and academic inquiry with diversity, equity and inclusion.

The requested 28% initial increase in research capacity funds followed by annual increases of 14% for at least the next five years will enhance cutting-edge science and innovation that will support greater economic development throughout the nation. In a comprehensive meta-analysis of hundreds of publications on returns to agricultural research and development, world-renown economists Alston and Pardey found median reported benefit-cost ratios of 12:1 and an annualized internal rate of return of 32%[5]. The real social rate of return to public investments in agricultural research is 67%[6]. Because the social benefits exceed potential profits, the new technological opportunities opened by public research could stimulate more private research[7]. Federal funds are matched and highly leveraged through local and private investments and implementations, increasing buy-in and adoption by a diverse set of stakeholder communities across the U.S. In conclusion, the U.S. has much to gain by increasing funding of Ag Research capacity programs.

I sincerely appreciate your most serious consideration of my request. Thank you very much for the exceptional partnership between Ag Research at our 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Institutions and NIFA. Please contact me if you have any questions or seek clarification about anything in my request.

Sincere Regards,

Chris A. Pritsos
2022 Chair
Experiment Station Section

References:

[1]Pardey and Alston. 2021. available at https://www.kansascityfed.org/documents/7107/the-drivers-of-us-agricultural-productivity-growth.pdf.
[2]Somers et al. 2020. available at: https://cafe6d5f-70b2-43ab-9de4-ab95ce5a8fa8.filesusr.com/ugd/d30782_72e530e6cc0e41a2a660e03281e56b6c.pdf.
[3]Pearson and Atucha. 2015. available at: https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.4195/nse2013.10.0032.
[4]A Science Roadmap for Food & Agriculture. Updated 2018. available at: http://escop.info/roadmaptext/.
[5]Alston and Pardey. 2020. available at: https://www.nber.org/papers/w27206.
[6]Jin and Huffman. 2015. available at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/agec.12206.
[7]Heisey and Fuglie. 2018. available at: https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=89113.

ESCOP Talking Points for Farm Bureau Presentation

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed $1.109 trillion to the U.S. GDP in 2019, a 5.2-percent share.

Research in natural resources, forestry, food and agricultural systems is vitally important to sustaining agriculture's share of GDP.

Investment in agricultural research is closely linked to agricultural productivity.

Through state-federal partnerships, NIFA provides essential capacity and competitive funding to support agricultural experiment stations and agricultural research programs at universities, and at historically black and tribal colleges and universities (referred to as agricultural research stations and centers hereafter)

Although agricultural research stations and centers are located in every state and U.S. territory, they are not a single physical site.

Ag Research enterprises are scientists with associated facilities and laboratories that are on the main land-grant university campus along with scientists located at agricultural farms, research centers, and branch stations and facilities located out in the state serving many rural communities, where local needs can be readily addressed.

Baseline funding from NIFA helps agricultural research stations and centers meet their mission to:

(1) maintain innovative, profitable, and productive agricultural research systems;
(2) evaluate, adapt, and implement knowledge;
(3) develop bridges of understanding and cooperation with other researchers, institutions, private industry, and others;
(4) support programs of education to clientele and stakeholders;
(5) develop new technology to meet local needs;(6) create the workforce of tomorrow.

Simply put, agricultural research stations and centers include a network of over 600 research locations that conduct scientific investigations to serve the people of the U.S.

Not surprisingly, agricultural research stations and centers are responsible for conducting 73.4% of U.S. public agricultural research.

Baseline funding clearly support the agricultural research stations' and centers' ability to address grand challenges facing our agricultural and food systems.

Agricultural research stations and centers sustain scientific research productivity capable of addressing emerging issues and creating effective solutions, strategies, and technologies that mitigate climate impacts while simultaneously ensuring food safety, advancing biosecurity for disease and pest outbreaks, increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability, and safeguarding human health.

For example, a survey of agricultural research stations and centers directors revealed that over 93% of agricultural research stations and centers have a growing portfolio of climate research with 64% at medium to large-scale.

Areas of climate research capacity:
(1) Natural resources/biodiversity/water resources 77%;
(2) Carbon emissions/carbon sequestration/carbon banking 60%;
(3) Renewable and biofuels 60%;
(4) Efficiency of nutrient use in managed livestock or agronomic systems 55%;
(5) Climate change science and modelling 55%.

Such climate-smart agriculture research catalyzes bold innovation and site-specific practices that can lead to more than marginal long-term impacts to reduce climate uncertainties.

Improved practices, innovative and adaptive technologies, diverse human and improved physical infrastructure, and proactive policy incentives at the local, regional, and national levels will, in aggregate, produce diverse and equitable national impacts to mitigate climate change.

Moreover, research funded by NIFA will directly benefit struggling communities throughout the nation.

Support through NIFA-funded programs will help ensure food and nutrition security.

An abundant, secure, and resilient domestic food supply is tremendously important for the >40 million U.S. citizens facing food insecurity.

a. Because of their direct ties, NIFA-supported agricultural research programs at universities and historically black and tribal colleges affiliated with land-grant universities delivers assistance to many historically underserved individuals and producers.

A comprehensive meta-analysis of hundreds of publications on returns to agricultural research and development revealed median reported benefit-cost ratios of 12:1 and an annualized internal rate of return of 32%.

Another report in the literature noted the real social rate of return to public investments in agricultural research is 67%.

Obviously, NIFA-supported research is assisting the U.S. to remain competitive and the world's leader in food and agricultural innovation.

The agricultural research stations and centers are critical to our success.

NIFA is proud to be an integral partner with the agricultural research stations and centers and help fuel the research engine that is vital to the U.S. agricultural economy.

Agenda Item 2.0: **RRDC Proclamation**
Presenter: **Chris Pritsos (Chair)**
Action Requested: **Vote for Approval**

A PROCLAMATION
Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Passage of the Rural Development Act of 1972 and Its Establishment of Research and Education Programs to Revitalize and Develop Rural America

WHEREAS the thirtieth of August, in the year two thousand twenty-two, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the *Rural Development Act of 1972* ("the Act") by the Congress of the United States (Public Law 92-419, published at 86 Stat. 657); and

WHEREAS title V of the Act, named *Rural Development and Small Farm Research and Education*, has as its purpose "to foster a balanced national development that provides opportunities for increased numbers of the people of the United States to work and enjoy a high quality of life dispersed throughout our Nation by providing the essential knowledge necessary for successful programs of rural development" (§501, now as amended at 7 U.S.C. 2661); and

WHEREAS the four Regional Rural Development Centers act as one-stop entities to connect the nationwide network of Land-Grant college and university researchers, educators, and practitioners, that they may provide science-based information and hands-on, community-level programming designed to help rural communities make science-based investments for economic development, and position the United States as a global economic leader; and

WHEREAS in this fiftieth year since the Act's passage the country's four Regional Rural Development Centers are: the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, based at Purdue University and serving 12 states through 34 Land-Grant colleges and universities; the Southern Rural Development Center, based at Mississippi State University and serving 13 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through 30 Land-Grant colleges and universities; the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, based at the Pennsylvania State University and serving 12 states and the District of Columbia through 16 Land-Grant colleges and universities; and, the Western Rural Development Center, based at Utah State University and serving 13 states, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, and the Northern Marianas through 30 Land-Grant college and universities; and

WHEREAS the four Regional Centers bring together the most innovative minds from inside and outside the Land-Grant University system to address cutting-edge issues, without regard to state boundaries, and contribute significantly to scientific knowledge related to rural development; and

WHEREAS collectively, the four centers have collaborated regionally and nationally to: conduct innovative research and develop programs which strengthen economic vitality; create resilient, healthy, and equitable communities; enhance quality of life; support the development of rural workforces and leaders; harness technological innovation; promote balanced use of natural resources; and advance e-connectivity for rural America; and

WHEREAS many localities, states, and regional bodies are celebrating this fiftieth anniversary of the *Rural Development Act of 1972* with resolutions and proclamations, and all the Regional Centers are commemorating the signing of this historic legislation, as it addresses the needs of rural communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

PROCLAIMED, that we, the Experiment Station Section of the Association of Public Land-grant Board on Agricultural Assembly (Experiment Station Section, do recognize the significant contributions of the Regional Rural Development Centers over the past 50 years and look to them for leadership as they play a significant role in the continued vibrancy of rural America; and

PROCLAIMED, that we the Experiment Station Section encourage the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the *Rural Development Act of 1972*; and

PROCLAIMED, that we the Experiment Station Section call for continued collaboration and cooperation among Federal, state, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and community organizations to ensure special effort is made to address the needs of rural communities; and

PROCLAIMED that we the Experiment Station Section celebrate the millions of youths, adults, families, farmers and ranchers, community leaders, and others who have benefited from the Extension, teaching and research programs provided by the Regional Rural Development Centers as national treasures and indispensable investments of which we as a Nation are proud.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Chris Pritsos, has hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Experiment Station Section on this 20 day of January in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Agenda Item 3.0: **ACE Sponsorship Request**
Presenter: **Chris Pritsos (Chair) Action**
Requested: **Vote for Approval**

ACE 2022 Conference Sponsorships

Create awareness of your brand with ACE members year-round and at ACE's 2022 Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. It is the best way to showcase your unique services or share your solutions to pressing issues impacting our members. Your support will open the door to new relationships with key communications leaders and change agents from ACE.

The **2022** conference will be held in person with select virtual components. and brings critical communicators together for workshops, professional development breakout sessions and networking - helping them polish their skills and capabilities to better address the challenges facing their organizations.

Gold Sponsor — $2,500
Recognition as primary sponsor of a high exposure event such as the C&A Awards Presentation, Keynote or Hermance Speakers. All Gold Sponsors receive:

- Organization name and logo on all printed and digital conference materials
- Acknowledgement from podium at all events
- Opportunity to present one 45-minute professional development breakout session, subject to approval by program committee
- Full-page ad in conference program
- 2 complimentary conference registrations

Silver Sponsor — $1,000

Recognition as primary sponsor of: ACE Honor Awards, including ACE Fellow and Reuben Brigham Awardees. All Silver Sponsors receive:

- Organization name and logo on printed and digital conference materials
- Acknowledgement from podium at all plenary events
- ½ page ad in conference program
- 1 complimentary conference registration

Bronze Sponsor — $500
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Contact Ruth Borger rborger@ufl.edu or the ACE office to secure your support of ACE at aceoutreach@gmail.com or 847-647-8861.

Agenda Item 4.0: **DDC 2022 Plan and Award Call**
Presenter: **Henry Fadamiro and Rick Rhodes**
Action Requested: **Vote for Approval**

Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) Plan of Work FY 2022

During FY 2022 the DCC will:

- Meet on a monthly basis.
- Support the ESCOP Chair's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Identify metrics for assessing progress towards improving diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Assist directors in integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion as an essential component of all programs.
- Issue a call for nominations for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Awards (individual and group.)
    - Seek nominations.
    - Evaluate nominations and identify a winner.
    - Provide winners with an opportunity to share what they've done during the annual ESS Meeting in September.
- Periodically follow-up on the Call to Action (attached) issued to all directors in August 2021.
    - Create an inventory of DEI actions and best practices taken by directors.
    - Engage regional Executive Directors to identify a champion institution(s) who could serve as an exemplar and as a change leader in areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
    - Collaborate with NIFA to profile exemplary actions of the directors.
- Collaborate with NIFA on the presentation of DEI webinars (e.g., "DEI and the NIFA Compliance review process")
- Propose to the Experiment Station Section a series of DEI-related activities, exercises, trainings and opportunities are included in the Experiment Station Section agendas.
    - Examples:
        - Longer format, cultural competence training (occurring over several days); creation of ESS DEI Fellows?
        - Offering reading resources (e.g., *The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming* by Natasha Bowens). Follow up with presentations by the author?
        - Re-offer the Intercultural Development Inventory. (Nehrwr Abdul-Wahid, the speaker at the 2021 ESS meeting [Leadership, Diversity and You] is a licensed IDI trainer.)
- Collect ESS DEI best practices and submit to NIFA for profiling.
- Collaborate with ESCOP's Science and Technology Committee to develop a working definition of and a framework for "Equity in Science."
- Collaborate with the Cooperative Extension Section to co-create a DEI training session during the Joint CES/NEDA/ESS meeting in Baltimore, MD in September 2022.

Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC)

Call to Action 2021

Land-grant institutions and the Experiment Station Section have a duty to understand how they have benefitted from racial injustice and to ensure their programs and services do not perpetuate systems of oppression and injustice. We challenge ourselves to not simply strive to become non-racist but commit to an active anti-racist agenda in all aspects of our work.

Background:

During the annual 2020 Experiment Station Section meeting, the opening session was dedicated to "inclusive excellence." From that session, the attached summary report was written[1]. During the opening work session, the Experiment Station Section directors identified four diversity challenge areas and discussed potential actions to address those challenges. These are listed in the report. Prior to and coincident with the ESS meeting, the United States was in the midst of civil unrest boiling over from years of racial injustice and the need for all Americans to acknowledge and address racial inequities. During his leadership term, ESCOP Chair, Moses Kairo declared that the first of the Chair's Initiatives was: Fully integrate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as an essential component of all our programs. Last, the Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force, the predecessor to the DCC, recommended strategies to broaden the diversity of leaders holding research administrative positions. Many of the suggestions made by that task force are reiterated here. It is to these ends that the DCC shares the following reflections and recommendations.

Diversity and Inclusion Challenge Areas:

The Experiment Station Section Directors identified four diversity and inclusion challenge areas. These included:

- Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce: developing a pipeline to support inclusive excellence.
- Strengthening partnerships among the 1862/1890/1994 institutions.
- Addressing funding challenges/disparities across the three LGU systems.
- Reaching/working with underserved populations.

Call to Action:

The DCC issues a Call to Action to engage all directors. Of the challenge areas listed above, the DCC asks you to identify a challenge that you intend to address in the upcoming year and use the following questions to guide your action steps.

- What actions do you intend to take?
- What is the timeline on your actions and what resources will you deploy?
- What gaps will you address and what obstacles do you anticipate?

[1] The summary report was written by Woody Hughes, Jr., Brian Raison and Rachel Welborn.

- What goals do you expect to reach?
- What will diversity and inclusion look like on your campus or station?
- How does your response to this Call to Action fit into the long-term diversity and inclusion strategies of the station, the college and university?

DCC Actions:

The DCC will periodically ask each director what they've undertaken. The DCC will work with NIFA to profile exemplary actions of the directors. The DCC will seek directors to share what they've done in a series of best practice sessions. The DCC will encourage submission of nominations for Diversity and Inclusion Award winners and celebrate your accomplishments.

Inclusive Excellence: Systematic Approaches to System Change

September 28, 2020 Opening Session to the 2020 ESS/AES/ARD Annual Meeting Summary Report

Session Objectives – Participants will:

- Explore how inclusive excellence can strengthen existing Experiment Station efforts.
- Engage in a series of conversations that will identify obstacles to affect inclusive excellence and strategies to overcome the obstacles.
- Be challenged to implement at least three actionable steps that lead to inclusive excellence at their home institutions.

> If we do wonders with one set of eyes, imagine seeing the world from various other set of eyes.
>
> ~Session Participant

Survey Highlights

In a survey to ESS members prior to this session, several assets as well as challenges to inclusive excellence were identified. During this session, participants explored potential strategies to leverage assets to address the four top challenges identified. The section that follows documents potential strategies to address these issues:

1. Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce; developing a pipeline to support inclusive excellence
2. Strengthening partnerships among 1862/1890/1994 institutions
3. Addressing funding challenges/disparities across the three LGU systems
4. Reaching/working with underserved populations

> In a changing world, a diversity of ideas will better help us find solutions to new problems that are not predictable with past understanding.
>
> ~Session Participant

Call to Action

This report serves as a summary of thoughtful input on what ESS could do in order to vastly impact Inclusive Excellence. The charge to the reader is this:

How will this input be translated into CONCRETE ACTION that will have the greatest positive impact in Inclusive Excellence in 5-10 years?

Strategies for Addressing Top Challenges

Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce; Developing a Pipeline to Support Inclusive Excellence

- **Internships**
  - Targeted internships
  - Internships leading to permanent positions at slightly better the entry-level salaries (e.g., incentive)
  - Reserve internships for minority serving inst.
- **Mentorships - strong peer-to-peer mentorship for underrepresented groups**
- **Pipeline development**
  - Industry pipeline program (industry scholarships/internship opportunities)
  - Grow the diverse workforce that you want to see by grooming students from freshman through graduate school for those w/ graduate programs
  - Use capacity funds to recruit diverse graduate students (will end up as faculty hopefully)
  - Postdoctoral programs to bridge to faculty
  - Work with your institutions MANRRS groups as a pipeline for employees https://www.manrrs.org/
  - Develop a program from diversity scholarships in undergrad and grad.
- **Training**
  - Training own diversity PhD students
  - Identifying unconscious or systematic biases currently causing attrition within the pipeline
- **Start with youth development**
  - Start early with 4H in creating the foundation for a diverse workforce
  - Change the perspective of high school students about what Agriculture is, most of the best talent is going to a pre-med pathway
  - Campus experiences for 3rd graders from URMs
  - Target students in 7-12 for scholarships in Ag programs to build the pipeline
- **Exchange programs/shared programs/cross training/collaboration**
  - Graduate student swap between 1862s, 1890s, 1994, like a clinical rotation, for a semester research project.
  - Develop summer experiential exchanges for students between the LGU system
  - Student opportunities to exchange across campus
  - Create regional research exchange programs to provide greater experience for grad students and post docs
  - Station scientists from other organizations at our experiment stations

    - Cross training of students from diverse institutions - summer internships at diverse locations - all institutions involved
    - Dual degrees from more than one institution/program
    - Providing learning opportunities to each other's students within a region.
    - Multiyear faculty exchanges across institutions
    - Develop bridge research programs with 3 LG types
- **Incentivize - Incentives for minority faculty and students**
- **Identify successful examples**
- **Examine/reshape recruitment and hiring practices**
    - Aggressive search locally and internationally
    - Reduce the number of non-essential required qualifications in job ads
    - Improve recruitment strategies.
    - Strengthen hiring practices
    - Strong start up packages
    - Reactive and proactive work environment- vetting in hiring for sensitivity
    - Train all personnel involved in any aspect of hiring training in recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce
    - Dedicated funding to assist in hiring diverse faculty.
- **Collaboration**
    - Shadow AES/ARD Directors and get them to regional/national meetings
    - Encourage and build through regular monthly/weekly meetings with Admin
    - Build Regional strategic relationships with 1890s and 1994's to do target hires at faculty or staff
    - Joint travel to relevant sites
    - Change the climate so that different people with different life experiences can feel at home

Strengthening Partnerships among 1862/1890/1994 Institutions

- **Building relationships**
  - Physically visit other institutions
  - Faculty exchanges across the three LGU family members.
  - More face to face get-togethers with faculty working in related areas and administrators across these institutions
  - Effective partnerships begin with building strong relationships!
  - Regular collaborative sessions
  - Faculty "internships" or mini sabbaticals at institutions of different land grant groups
  - Virtual exchanges
  - University alliance formation among 2-3 other university partners
  - Reach out to one of each institution type different from your own and invite to 1) a meeting, 2) a research proposal.
  - specialty listing
  - Names of 1862/1890/1994s into a hat and matchmake to outcomes and/or speed dating.
  - Partnership building grantsmanship workshops
  - Create shared appointments within and across states that have scientists from both institutions at each of the universities
  - Hold meetings at more affordable locations for larger participation or meet at an 1890 or 1994 institution's campus for major meetings.
- **Target collaboration on issues**
  - Targeted meetings focused on joint challenges or common stakeholders
  - Link common interests at grass roots level, not admin.
  - Organize mixed research teams around a given area and provide funds
  - Targeted special collaborative initiatives
  - Think tanks that will connect researchers/expertise with targeted outcomes
  - Identify common goals.
  - Develop statewide or regional joint research programs to include all types of institutions
  - Collaborative projects
- **Funding/grants**
  - Dedicated competitive funding
  - Seed grants to form or strengthen teams between 1862/1890/1994 institutions and facilitation of these partnerships
  - Fund cooperative projects with faculty at other LGU types
  - Create grants in AFRI, NSF, NIH, etc. that requires partnerships with 90 and 94
  - RFAs that require or at least favor collaborations among LGUs

    - Funding that not only rewards diverse granting participants, but also highlights different cultural perspectives in presenting research results
    - Expand Hatch Multistate type funding to 1890 and 1994 institutions
    - National funding programs requiring programs that include all partners
    - Dedicated funding for collaborative projects for mixed research teams
    - Require collaborations across institutions for more grant sources.
    - Shared grants requiring multiple diverse land grant institutions.
    - USDA-funded graduate student and post-doc exchange programs
    - Financial Benefit should go primarily to the 1890 and 1994 partners, 1862 faculty should be rewarded internally from the effort and time.
    - Dedicated competitive 1890 funding for the 1890 LGUs, and dedicated competitive 1994 funding for the 1994 LGUs that is separate from new and existing dedicated competitive funding for all LGUs
- **Expand leadership opportunities**
    - Invite 1890's and 1994's to lead on projects and not just follow
    - Provide funding to 1890s & 1994s to lead the strengthening partnership efforts
    - Allow 1890's to lead programs with 1862s as participants
    - 1890/1994 lead interdisciplinary proposals
    - Due to external funding having a long history of moving extraordinarily slow at some 1890 LGUs, in some instances, take that into consideration when determining which institution will be responsible for managing external financial resources as it relates to 1890/1994/1862 collaborative partnerships
- **Strengthen multi-state opportunities**
    - Create a program that allows for more participation from the 1890s and 1994s in Multistate projects
    - Take better advantage of multistate opportunities
    - Collaborations are personal - invest in more involvement of 1890/1994 in multistate research projects
    - Multistate research projects / research teams
    - Joint multi-disciplinary research initiatives
    - Joint research and extension programming
    - Encourage faculty to include project partners from these universities
- **Cross institution pipeline development**
    - Joint degree programs and grant program collaborations
    - Automatic adjunct faculty appointments with institutions within each state
    - Building partnerships around recruitment of faculty and staff for 1862, 1890 and 1994
    - Share facilities, human and other resources
    - Co-advise students

Addressing Funding Challenges/Disparities across the Three LGU Systems

- **Join together/ collaborate (3) for significant request for all ag research**
  - Joint programs/research projects
  - Collective pipeline directed to UG and MS programs at 1890/1994 institutions leading to PhD program at 1862 so all institutions benefit at their strengths.
  - Collaborate to be unified and make a concerted effort on behalf of all.
  - merge the different institution types to reduce segregation in higher education
  - true long-term partnerships. not one-time funding that encourages last minutes request.
- **Collaborative grant development**
  - public private partnerships
  - grant and project cooperation across 1890/1862/1994
  - Shared grants across diverse institutions with equal sharing of resources.
  - Designated pools of funding (collaborations)
  - develop funding opportunities targeted specifically to joint submissions from the 3 LGU systems focused on developing solutions to meet global challenges
  - Commit to submitting a proposal with at least one other institution AND commit to allowing the minority-serving institution to be the host of the project.
  - set asides in OREI, SCRI and other competitive funding opportunities
  - Partnerships between institutions strengthen research grant applications!
  - funding opportunities that require meaningful roles/budgets for all 3 LGU
  - national initiative stimulating ag research to the level of NIH; all LGU benefit
  - Collaboratively developed research proposals
  - partner across LGU systems to find grants together and foundation support
  - Joint projects/grant programs that require participants from more than one land-grant category: 1862 + 1890 + 1994
  - develop joint grantsmanship workshops and proposal development activities, preferably with accompanying seed funding committed from the institutions
  - build extra power in grants including commodities for partnerships
  - grant subcontracting
  - meaningful participation of 1890s and 1994s with the1862s, not as add-ons
  - collaborative grants with dedicated funding and long-term partnerships
- **United approach to funding/advocacy**
  - Joint advocacy for more funding
  - All land-grant Universities advocate for equitable funding at the federal level
  - 1890's and 1994's need to have the fully funded match just as the 1862's do.
  - Do the state-based work to ensure equitable match availability
  - Focus on increasing 1890 and 1994 $ BEFORE 1862 after IDing the goal that works.
  - Joint lobbying to minimize competition amongst institutions

    - work with state legislatures and Congress to highlight the benefits of leveraging resources across systems
    - Better aligned requests to Congress
    - Joint efforts in seeking state matching funding.
    - Join forces for advocacy as ONE
    - Advocacy for funding increases of underfunded programs
    - Willingness of 1862 institutions to equitably share increases in funding (based on need) with 1890 and 1994 institutions
    - Expand advocacy efforts
    - Expand Capacity Funds - and have student and faculty demographics as part of the formula for allocating dollars
    - Local and state representation, federal reps in the corner as well- part of this also means a diverse representation to represent a diverse constituency
- **Share resources**
    - Share AES research stations which some lack.
    - willingness to share resources
    - Share resources
    - Pooling internal funding across different institutions
    - Create opportunities for leveraging

Reaching/Working with Underserved Populations

- **Listen and identify needs first; develop true long-term partnerships**
  - Include multiple members of those populations in advisory groups to set priorities.
  - Collaborate on research projects addressing underserved populations to include a needs assessment.
  - intentional outreach and inclusion in advisory groups
  - match making process to identify underserved populations and their needs, then facilitation process to make connections with LGU that have resources and want to assist
  - Use/revise/enhance/change frameworks to engage underserved populations
  - Firstly, define and identify the populations
  - Working with advocacy groups for underserved populations to identify needs
  - Engage the stakeholders directly in setting the research and outreach agenda
  - Get out more and find stakeholders and address their concerns
  - ID some problems and then sign up to do
  - listen first and be there for long haul.
  - Show genuine interest
  - listen to needs, and create intentional collaborations with clear measures of accountability
  - Underserved populations aren't always overlooked, but not considered in the plan. Be interesting and try hard. Nobody wants to partner with you if you are boring and not in tune with culture!
  - Listen carefully to what your target population says is important to them.
  - identify shared issues (e.g., use of public lands)
  - shared stakeholder communication activities- both to gather input into our programs and delivery of results
  - Include underserved perspectives in interpretation of research results and sharing those perspectives as a way to enhance conversations and include diverse audiences.
  - targeted programs in the poorest counties in each state/ long-term and intentional
- **Understand, respect and build on the strengths of each other**
  - Working with underserved populations with limited resources is what 1890's and 1994's do well. This is a case where 1890s/1994's could lead the conversation
  - Partner with the experts, Extension, especially 1890 Extension
  - Partner with 1862s, 1890s, and 1994s to deliver instructional and research programs in underserved areas/populations
  - Increased collaborations
  - Use Extension partners to reach out across state/region/nation
  - Build on linkages that have already been established

    - collaboration with institutions that focus on underserved populations
    - identify the best communicators - then build the team who has the scientific expertise to solve issues
- **Strengthen understanding/training around working with underserved audiences**
    - Special training for reaching the underserved
    - Build a greater understanding to learn how to become more effective.
    - reach out to NGOs and other non-university entities (e.g. advocacy groups) to learn best practices in how they engage underserved populations
- **Grow the pipeline of students and faculty from underserved groups**
    - Dual and joint graduate degrees across all LGUs
    - Provide internships for underserved populations.
    - scholarships
    - Summer camps/interns/faculty sabbaticals for underserved groups
    - recruiting employees/students from the targeted underserved population
    - Create shared internships to focus on this area
    - Create programs and funding for teachers in target schools to develop familiarity. Match the faculty to the population
    - Student exchanges/mentoring across diverse institutions.
    - scholarships/ internships - multi-year commitments
    - Hire faculty with this as a major job expectation and hold them to this through T&P process. or create an endowed chair with this expectation
    - Student internships that target underrepresented groups within the state and region - do this as a regional/joint activity rotating across universities or joint effort
    - employing a diverse faculty and staff
- **Purposeful inclusion/ prioritization**
    - Make it a priority, rather than an afterthought.
    - Field days that facilitate bringing in underserved populations
    - Increase the focus on urban populations, food islands, linkage of food with health outcomes.
    - Community service/open classes and community events, schools
    - Better funding for these types of programs

Addendum: Participants provided other rich content to the session through a series of related discussion prompts. These are included below for reference.

Discussion Prompt: How would we (ESS) be better if we truly worked under a banner of Inclusive Excellence?

- Then we will value the opinion of others who train of thought is not of the same cannon (our view), from a traditional way
- ESS would produce more innovative programs and products and of more practical value to a larger number of people in our communities
- We will be able to more freely share our resources and truly bring 1862, 1890, and 1894 institutions together.
- Working under a banner of Inclusive Excellence would yield broader perspectives on existing issues.
- We would be better equipped to approach problems (both internal to the university and external) in more meaningful ways, and ultimately provide solutions that are more robust.
- We need to ask our advisory groups, stakeholder groups, and commodity support groups to better embrace DEI as a relevant system of increasing market share and consumer support.
- build more trust and confidence among ourselves
- Bring a broader set of experiences that would challenge our assumptions of “the way” to solve or approach issues
- also a better set of outcomes for our students and adult learners
- Fresh, more efficient processes across the board that don't follow, "We do it this way because it's how we've always done it."
- It would help to enhance inter-institutional cooperativity
- If we embrace inclusive excellence, we would expand both the diversity of ideas in addressing research questions while also expanding our potential impact.
- reach more people more effectively
- Inclusion of different viewpoints and experiences can spark innovation.
- All voices would be heard and valued, leading to a better working climate, increased productivity, and innovation.
- Examples of best practices or new programs that work at other institutions that could be modeled at our institutions
- Through IE, we would be able to more effectively engage stakeholders whose
- Research questions and answers that address the needs - limitations of all those who live in our borders to ensure safe, food, feed, and fiber
- If we do wonders with one set of eyes, imagine seeing the world from various other set of eyes.
- Reach a broader audience
- It would change the perspectives we all harbor, to open minds to see problems more broadly.

- Chance to hear perspectives you might not consider, or might have misconstrued, and learn issues that are outside your normal thinking.
- Richer experience for all involved.
- Diverse world experiences bring very different ideas on how to approach a problem — both research challenges and institutional challenges.
- We will be able to more freely share our resources and truly bring 1862, 1890, and 1994 institutions together.
- Broadened perspectives and horizons.
- In a changing world, a diversity of ideas will better help us find solutions to new problems that are not predictable with past understanding.
- Provide more role models and motivation to strive for leadership positions for marginalized people.
- Problems which ESS aims to address and respond to impact a diverse group, answering these challenges will require a diverse team
- Inclusive Excellence would provide for stronger, more meaningful and impactful multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations: leveraging of resources.
- Empowering and welcoming a diverse community of scholars will improve the quality of everything we do, from teaching to the quality of our research questions and solutions.
- Being inclusive doesn't just make us better, it makes us relevant to more people.

Discussion Prompt: What is ONE THING I could change or do this year that would have the greatest positive impact in Inclusive Excellence in 5-10 years?

- Reach out to other institutions that we have not connected with as yet.
- Work on regional strategies with Alton Thompson and ARD Directors
- I will reach out to 1890s and 1994s to recruit my graduate students.
- Network with people who are not just like me. Build my circle with people outside my box.
- Intentional communication and engagement.
- support shared internships
- Focus on audience when developing materials to report data
- be proactive in reaching out to other groups
- Hire faculty members of color and support them with quality start-up packages.
- Incentivize my faculty to collaborate with 1890 universities on research projects
- Be strategic and intentional about inclusivity
- Recruit faculty from 1890 and 1994
- collaborate with 1890s on internships in agriculture fields
- Try to carve out seed funding for new collaborative efforts between our faculty (1862) with 1890 or 1994 partners
- Try to institutionalize the concept of inclusive excellence with faculty and administration and establish a pilot program to foster interactions between ESS 1862 and 1890s.

- I think my "one new idea" is also the answer for this one: Building an advisory committee that will better connect communicators from 1862, 1890 and 1994 institutions so we can benefit from their input and they can benefit from learning about each other, their audiences and their cultures.
- Establish meaningful relationships with other institutional members of the LGU family.
- Reach out to build trust with 1994 institutions
- Helping others (students, high school teachers, Madea, etc.) to understand all that "Agriculture" is. That is the best way to recruit and will lead to positive change in the years to come. [Madea--the person who is raising those students who should major in agriculture, but because of the view of agriculture, these students are majoring in other areas.]
- Facilitate meaningful conversations among minority and majority students for deeper understanding of challenges and opportunities of DEI
- This has been an amazing thinking and reflecting time. THANK YOU!
- Our 1862 HSI has some of the same challenges that our 1890 and 1994 institutions are facing, so I will seek ways to collaborate at a higher level.

Discussion Prompt: What are 2-3 action steps I could take in the next 30 days to advance toward this ONE THING?

- Identify funding opportunities to enable these interactions and collaborations to become a reality.
- I sure would love to think through how the SRDC could help with these ideas.
- Agriculture can be so much more than its historical image, data sciences, gene editing, innovation and entrepreneurship, we need to embrace those traits
- Plan for seed funding for collaboration with 1890 universities
- Talking to everyone I meet about agriculture:
- Flip the narrative that education is the pathway away from Agriculture.
- Pick up the phone and start networking!
- Establish a regular monthly meeting with my counterparts in 1890 and 1994 universities.
- Target faculty from 1890 and 1994 to participate in AFRI grants
- I love the emphasis on conversation...that's where it starts!
- As was mentioned earlier, I will work with Gary Thompson to plan and implement joint programs, proposals with ARD and the Southern region

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Respectfully submitted by:

- *Woody Hughes, Jr., Fort Valley State University*
- *Brian Raison, The Ohio State University*
- *Rachel Welborn, Southern Rural Development Center*

National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award
2022 Call for Nominations

The Call

The Experiment Station Section (ESS) seeks nominations of individuals, teams, or programs for the National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award. This award recognizes the creation, implementation and/or nurturing of pluralistic and inclusive efforts at the local, state, regional, or national level. Such efforts could impact one or more of the following areas: administration, advisory and decision- making groups, audiences, coalitions, educational materials and delivery methods, funding, initiatives, policies, programs, staff, and stakeholders.

Background

Beginning in 2015 with the establishment of the ESCOP Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force (now the permanent Diversity Catalyst Committee), the Experiment Station Section (ESS) forged a commitment to increase diversity across its constituencies and foster inclusive environments which empower all groups within organizations to work better collectively. **Diversity** is defined as differences among people with respect to age, class, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, spiritual practices and other human differences. **Equity** is a solution for addressing imbalanced social systems and has been described and is a means for ensuring all individuals have what they need to succeed and participate fully, accounting for different access to opportunities, status, and rights. An **inclusive organization** is defined as having a culture which empowers all members to continually innovate, assess and redesign programs, policies and practices to support the success of the full range of its membership. ESS through its individual and collective efforts aspires to be a body that consistently and holistically models and practices inclusive excellence. Importantly, the National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award supports efforts that go beyond simply meeting EEO/AA program requirements.

Award Presentation

Dependent on the pool of nominations, up to two recipients (an individual and a group) may be recognized with this award. The recipient(s) of the National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award will be recognized at the annual Experiment Station Section (ESS) Meeting held in September/October each year with a commemorative plaque and $1,000 cash award from ESCOP. Travel reimbursement to attend the awards event will be provided for the primary recipient(s). The recipient(s) will be asked to submit photos and a project summary for the ESCOP websites, the NIFA Update and for integration in the Award Program. The awardees will also be asked to submit an impact statement for the Land-Grants Impacts database which describes research impacts to the public.

Past Winners

2021 Shannon Archibeque-Engle (individual award winner), Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Colorado State University

Carlene Chase, Marilyn Swisher, Oscar Liburd, Jin Zhao, Zhifeng Gao, Alejandro Bolques and Sanjun Gu (group award winner), Organic Farming Team, Horticultural Sciences Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

2020 Tracy Irani, Jenny Jones, Sharon Austin, Keith Diem, Kelly Moore, Dale Pracht, The Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS) at the Institute of Food Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida

2019 Jeff Jacobsen, North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA)

2018 Levon Esters and Neil Knobloch, The Mentoring@Purdue Team, Purdue University

Eligibility

The nominee can be an individual, group, team or organization composed of Experiment Station faculty and scientists, staff, students or post-docs. An Experiment Station faculty or scientist is defined as having at least 25 percent FTE university AES or ARD appointment or affiliation as of May 1st of the year of the nomination and responsibility for AES programming for a minimum of four consecutive years.

Criteria for Nominations

Nominations can be submitted from any area of the Experiment Station Section. Nominations can be made by anyone, including self-nominations. When writing nominations, special attention should be given to efforts that have the potential to be sustained over time or can be replicated in other comparable situations.

Six weighted elements will be considered in the review process and should be described clearly in the nomination. These include:

Purpose: Why was this effort undertaken? Describe the efforts by a person, group or organization to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion in an experiment station project/program (e.g., Hatch, Hatch Multistate, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis.) How does the project achieve pluralism with its advisory and decision-making groups, audiences, staff, and/or stakeholders? (10%)

Basis: Why is this effort worthy of recognition? (10%)

Effort: Are actions and activities in support of diversity, equity and inclusion appropriate and fundamentally sound? How do the actions and activities demonstrate impact? (20%)

Impact: Have efforts led to positive, sustainable programmatic and/or organizational change? If so, how? (30%)

Scope: How broadly did (or likely will) this effort affect the success of the operations of the Experiment Station Section? (20%)

Innovation: How did (or will) this effort enhance existing models or create new or models for positive change? (10%)

Nomination Package Guidelines

Nominations must not exceed word limits below, and must contain the following elements.

1. Name, title, address, phone number and e-mail of nominee(s).
2. Name, title, address, phone number and e-mail of person making nomination.
3. A brief synopsis of nomination (30 words or less)
4. A narrative explaining the six elements in the criteria given above (400 words or less per element).

Limitations

Incomplete applications or applications in excess of size limitations will not be considered. Please do not forward DVD's, bound publications or other support materials with the nomination. Only electronic submissions will be considered. Nominations can include links to supplemental materials that clearly demonstrate one of more of the nomination elements.

Selection Process

An Award Review Panel is appointed by the ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee to review nominations and recommend the recipient(s) to the ESCOP Chair. The process will be completed by June 1, 2022.

Due Date

The due date for nominations is April 1, 2022**.** To be considered, nominations must be submitted as a single pdf file to Dr. Rick Rhodes (Executive Vice-Chair, Diversity Catalyst Committee) at rcr3@uri.edu.

Agenda Item 5.0: **Regional Agricultural Innovation Hub Concept**
Presenter: **Sreekala Bajwa**
Action Requested: **For Information and Discussion**

Agricultural Innovation Hub Cluster
January 14, 2022

Proposed Idea – Agricultural Innovation Hub Cluster

Agricultural industry is interested in creating more effective partnered pathways with universities to bridge the gap that exists between research innovations from university scientists and commercialization of these innovations so that they become useful to agricultural producers and companies**.** While universities are very successful at conducting cutting-edge research; many of them are less successful at translating agricultural research innovations into commercialized products*. We propose to pilot five agriculture innovation hubs through public-private partnership to facilitate the incubation and scaling-up of agricultural innovations, coach innovators prior to entering the capital market, and market innovations*. The innovation hubs aim to increase the number of agricultural start-up companies, expand business opportunities, create jobs, retain talent within the states, and increase the contribution of agricultural sector to the GDP in the regional economy. These innovation hubs will accelerate the commercialization of research innovations to grow agricultural economy.

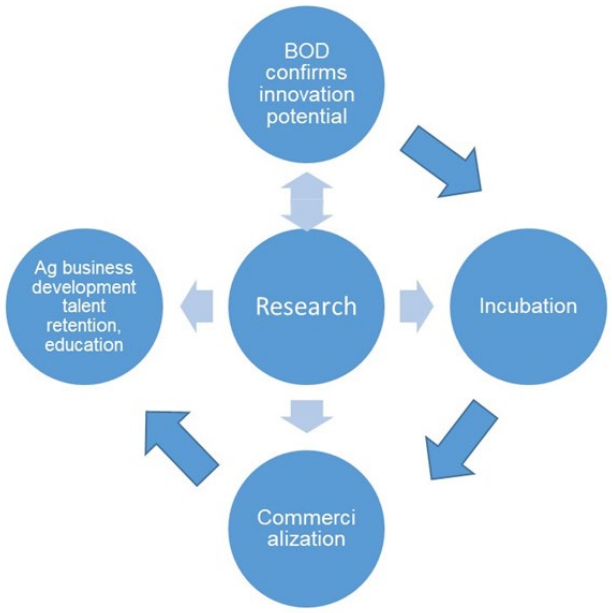

Figure 1. Concept of Agriculture Innovation Hub

Justification: Food security is national security. For our nation to keep its competitive edge in agriculture in the face competition from other parts of the world, investment must be made in bridging the gap between research innovations and commercialization in five critical areas namely, agricultural production, precision agriculture, animal health, crop protection, and value addition. This effort combined with the recent investment in agricultural infrastructure will generate more employment opportunities (companies and jobs) and higher wages in agriculture sector. Although farmers and ranchers in many of the rural states produce large quantities of agricultural commodities, the future sustainability of agriculture sector will depend on innovations addressing climate resilience, agriculture input efficiency and value addition at the local level through smart technologies and local innovations in the five sectors listed above.

In many rural states such as Montana, less than 1% of the value of crop and livestock commodities is processed, sold directly to consumers, or sold directly to retail markets, institutions and food hubs [1]. Maintaining the investment in agricultural infrastructure at a state or regional level requires bringing locally relevant innovative solutions to the marketplace for producers. For instance, when considering climate change impacts, research by Whitlock et al[2], suggests the following:

> "any effort at assessing climate impacts on agriculture faces multiple layers of uncertainty, including uncertainty that 1) accompanies all climate projections, 2) is

specific to agricultural projections, and 3) is created by adaptive actions (human interventions) that can mask a direct climate impact signal" [2].

The innovation hub will be focused on bringing more locally relevant innovations and thus, employment and higher quality jobs to the agricultural sector, and increasing the contribution of production agriculture to the GDP of the partnering states and regions.

Agricultural Innovation Hub Objectives

This innovation hub cluster is a public-private partnership among the agricultural industry (including farmers and ranchers, other agricultural businesses), state governments (such as, the Department of Agriculture), and land grant universities. The purpose of the innovation hub is to advance agricultural science and technology innovations by facilitating critical private-public partnerships that will prepare US agriculture for the technology future, generate technology jobs and economic growth in agriculture sector, and allow for commercialization of innovations. The goals of the innovation cluster are to:

(1) Develop creative solutions to more efficiently address finance, production, processing and supply chain issues facing agricultural producers and agricultural businesses;
(2) Allow for businesses and entrepreneurs to guide and foster agricultural and technology innovations coming from research community;
(3) Translate innovations into commercial products and processes that add value to agriculture and will be adopted by agricultural producers; and,
(4) Create an innovation ecosystem that will link entrepreneurial opportunities with innovative infrastructure and field expertise that leads to products and services that advance agricultural economy in a transformative manner.

Proposed Hub Structure

The agriculture innovation hub cluster will be established at land grant universities in partnership with the agricultural industry. We propose five innovation hubs, one for each of the five critical areas in agriculture namely agricultural production, precision agriculture, crop protection, animal health, or value addition. Each pilot hub will be located in a different state. These innovation hubs are expected to evolve into self-sustaining non-profit enterprises with support from industry, academic and government partners. The innovation hub will be structured similar to successful models in some states and will include:

(1) A Board of Directors (BOD) comprised of industry, academic, and government partners. A preliminary Board of Directors will include industry, university, and state government partners. The industry partners may include representatives of the major agricultural industry associations, producer associations, agricultural banker associations, major agricultural businesses in the region, and individuals with experience in the commercialization of innovations.
(2) A technical advisory committee to identify and assess innovation opportunities, assist in developing action plans to advance appropriate technologies, provide technical expertise, and allocate funding for the selected innovation projects. A preliminary technical advisory committee will include technical experts, such as university faculty, industry scientists, and administrators from the state government engaged in agricultural sciences;
(3) An executive director identified by the Board of Directors will manage the hub and solicit financial support from public and private sector sources, including economic development council, commodity groups, and others as well as membership dues from board members.

USDA Rural Development could be the ideal partner for this effort as they have programs focused on rural innovations.

Sustaining the Innovation Hub

The innovation hub is expected to become self-sustainable within 3-5 years. A sustainable funding model based on industry membership dues, private donations, and external grants for operation is critically important. Membership dues will be assessed on all members of the Board of Directors, private donations will be solicited with the help of the university's alumni foundation, faculty members soliciting research and innovation grants will be encouraged to include support for the innovation hub, and the Executive Director will have the responsibility to solicit grants and contracts to support regional innovation hub.

The innovation hub will be the face of agricultural innovation and its success will be evaluated through its contribution in workforce development, talent retention, attracting agriculture and technology companies to a region, start-up development, and public education on innovations in agriculture and the food systems. The innovation hub will contribute to undergraduate and graduate education and talent development through internships. Faculty and students developing agricultural innovations through the entrepreneurship development programs in partnering universities will have the opportunity to utilize the hub's start-up programs to establish new businesses in agriculture. The intention is to make other education and financial assets available to those faculty, students, and industry partners interested in bridging the gap between research and commercialization.

Resources

The Colleges of Agriculture at land grant institutions foster flagship programs in agricultural sciences and technology. Agricultural business associations and other agricultural organizations are critical to the success of the innovation hub when transitioning to a public-private non-profit business. For example, Montana Agriculture Business Association is a leading partner in these efforts in Montana. The land grant universities have the expertise and infrastructure to accomplish the objectives of the proposal through their offices of technology transfer, Extension, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and manufacturing extension centers. The agricultural business associations, state departments of agriculture and commerce, crops and livestock producer associations (such as the Farm Bureau Federation and Farmers' Union) can provide the expertise in business, capital and market development.

Sources:

[1] Census of Agriculture (2017), National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, part 26, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Montana/mtv1.pdf

[2] Whitlock C, Cross W, Maxwell B, Silverman N, Wade AA. (2017). 2017 Montana Climate Assessment. Bozeman and Missoula MT: Montana State University and University of Montana, Montana Institute on Ecosystems. 318 p. doi:10.15788/m2ww8w.

Agenda Item 8.0: Summary of ESS Recommendation for the 2023 Farm Bill
Presenter: Glenda Humiston and Jeff Jacobsen
Action Requested: For Information

Summary of ESS Recommendation for the 2023 Farm Bill

General

- Add LGUs as recognized research collaborators where other entities (e.g. Extension, USDA ARS) are acknowledged or added in other Titles in the Farm Bill (e.g. NRCS and the Conservation Title) and with pertinent research thrusts (e.g. climate, soil health, sustainability, conservation).
- Remove barriers to collaboration with USDA ARS and LGUs.
- Encourage regional food systems as components of national food security in competitive grant programs. In addition, encourage investment in big data applications in agriculture.
- Elevate specialty crops to the status of commodity crops.
- Provide authorization and funding for plant breeding programs with new crop development.
- Shift the focus on specific dietary components to roles that nutrition plays on preventing chronic disease.
- 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA ARS to develop and implement a National Strategic Germplasm and Cultivar Collection Assessment and Utilization Plan (SEC. 7205) that "takes into consideration the resources and research necessary to… as a self-study internal evaluation activity." Several of these National Plant Germplasm Station gene banks are on LGU campuses and have other affiliations. Consequently, significant consultations on the human and physical infrastructure necessary to improve these joint programs should include resources and research needs by USDA ARS and relevant LGUs as part of any action agenda in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- Based upon the research Grand Challenges and the expansive capacity/interest in climate change research agenda, increase Hatch funding.
- Re-enforce, strengthen and stipulate that 1862 and 1890 research directors are the only administrative officials responsible for capacity research programs at state-certified institutions eligible to participate in capacity-funded programs.
- Increase F&A IDC rate only if new money is appropriated to NIFA competitive grant programs.

Infrastructure

- Engage with any opportunity to do singularly or as a collaborator and partner (e.g. USDA ARS, NRCS) on new and deferred maintenance and agricultural infrastructure at LGUs and non-LGUs with agricultural programs.

Matching

- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) – Remove or modify with waiver authority for Secretary. Continue funding at current level.
- Research Facilities Act – Remove or modify with broad waiver authority for Secretary.
- Evans-Allen to ensure that it is new funds (not redirected) and greater than current matching levels.
- Remove or modify the current 100% match requirement with New Beginning for Tribal Student (NBTS) grants.

Reauthorization and Authorization Levels

- 1890 Scholarship Program, 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program, 1890 Facilities Improvement Program – Do and increase.
- Modify and/or provide clarity in titles to address the inequities and eligibility rules for participating in cost-share programs.
- FFAR had mixed support from several respondents in its reauthorization – from no to something less than current level.
- Increase the authorization levels of the Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowships and Institution Challenge Grants.
- Change the authorization and restrictions on tuition remission (e.g., allow use of Hatch funds to pay tuition and allow use of tuition paid by an institution to support a graduate student stipend paid by capacity funds as non-Federal match) and indirect costs from (capacity) funds 7 U.S. Code ∫ 3319.
- Within AFRI awards for new investigators, the stated criteria is too restrictive and counterproductive for the future workforce. Currently serves as 5-year, career track experience which does not allow for pandemics, family leave options, publication limit needs to change. Modify the language to be less restrictive and to reflect modern realities.
- Reauthorize the Sun Grant program at $75,000,000. The regional center concept has established value for regionally relevant bioeconomic research and development. Broadening the emphasis beyond bioenergy and allowing the recovery of real costs of administration by the performing institutions will strengthen the potential for economic impact through the regions of the United States.
- Support for research and Extension activities with Titles VIII (Forestry), IX (Energy), X (Horticulture) and XII (Miscellaneous) for McIntire-Stennis; growing and processing crops for biofuel, C sequestration, climate mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy systems; expanding farmers markets, local food programs with research and infrastructure; grow and expand beginning, socially disadvantaged workforce, respectively.

1890 Institutions

- Increase funding for the Evans-Allen Program from the 30% percentage share of Hatch funding to 40%.
- Increase the 1890 Centers of Excellence from six to twelve.

1994 Institutions

- Eliminate the mandate that requires 1994 collaborations on research grants with 1862 LGUs, 1890 LGUs, USDA ARS, Institutions with approved forestry programs.
- Concurrent with expanding the eligibility of 1994s with McIntire-Stennis funds increase the total allocation.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Agenda Brief 11.0: Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
Date: January 20, 2022
Presenter: Beverly Durgan, University of Minnesota
ECOP Chair-elect, ECOP Liaison to ESCOP
Action Requested: For information only.

ECOP Membership (as of January 20, 2022): see Cooperative Extension Section Leadership/ECOP Lists

Meetings: March 29-31, 2022-ECOP Spring Meeting

Key Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:

ECOP CES Strategic Alignment-Since the adoption of the 2020-2023 Strategic Directions for ECOP and CES and the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan and Ongoing Priorities for the Cooperative Extension Section (CES), much work has been accomplished by ECOP's Standing Committees to align national-level efforts with CES priorities. From these plans, the ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) with Jon Boren, New Mexico State University as Chair, has led the development of the Advocacy and Education Toolkit to provide ECOP leadership and CES with consistent messaging and resources focused on national advocacy and education priorities, including diversity, equity, and inclusion; climate mitigation, resiliency, and adaptation; economic and workforce development; health equity and well-being; 4-H and positive youth development; urban programs; broadband access and digital skills; and community nutrition education.

ECOP Program Action Teams-The ECOP Program Committee, with Brent Hales, Penn State University, as Chair, has developed Program Action Teams (PATs) for each of ECOP's priority areas, bringing together Extension experts to advance programmatic resources and partnerships. Each of the PATs has an Extension Foundation Catalyst and NIFA Liaison assigned to them, as well as ESCOP experts. A strong partnership between the ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee and National 4-H Council leads the 4-H positive youth development priority area, as well as advancements in the health arena. Through the New Technologies for Ag Extension Program, NIFA has provided supplemental funding to the Extension Foundation around ECOP/CES national priorities. Additionally, there is interest from other partners and agencies in providing national-level support and advance Extension's visibility, communications, programs, impacts, and demonstrate the value of ECOP's investment of Cooperative Extension Section assessments.

ECOP 2021 Annual Report Released - ECOP is pleased to release the *ECOP 2021 Annual Accomplishments Report* highlighting the past year of national leadership. Chris Watkins, ECOP Immediate Past Chair, Cornell University, particularly emphasizes the release of the CES Advocacy and Education Toolkit, the development of associated ECOP Program Committee Program Action Teams providing leadership on national CES efforts, the updated National Framework for Health Equity and Well-Being, and the ECOP return on investment. Much appreciation is extended to everyone who led these efforts.

2023 Farm Bill Activities-ECOP BLC is working with all Extension-related groups (1862, 1890, 1994, and Board on Human Sciences to review recommendations submitted to the BAA CLP for alignment, especially on Capacity fund recommendations. Additionally, ECOP BLC is exploring recommendations around SNAP-Ed, Data Science for the Public Good and from the National Extension Tourism Network.

ECOP Orientation for New Extension Leaders Resources – On January 7, 2022, the ECOP Professional Development Committee conducted a virtual orientation with a panel of experienced leaders from Georgia, Minnesota, and New Mexico. Colleagues offered their best guidance on "what I know now that I wished I knew from the beginning." 34 members of the Cooperative Extension Section were in attendance. The recording is available at https://youtu.be/fWyn4vRMuc8. Other helpful sources are
-- FAQ's by Extension Directors and Administrators
-- Learning for Leaders Series Archive, 2018-2021

ECOP Celebrates the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Rural Development Act of 1972 - Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) were established by the Rural Development Act of 1972 and celebrate their 50th year in 2022. ECOP has endorsed a resolution to celebrate this momentous occasion. The RRDCs are a trusted source of economic and community development data, decision tools, education, and guidance for our nation's rural communities. The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development is based at Purdue University. The Southern Rural Development Center is based at Mississippi State University. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is based at The Pennsylvania State University, and the Western Rural Development Center is based at Utah State University. Each RRDC is administered by a joint agreement between USDA and a host institution operating for the Extension Services and the Agricultural Experiment Stations in the respective region. Core funding is from NIFA for integrated research, education, and Extension activities.

Resources: 2020-2023 Strategic Directions for ECOP and the Cooperative Extension System
Annual Action Plan and Ongoing Priorities for the Cooperative Extension Section
Extension Advocacy and Education Toolkit