



agInnovation Business Meeting

December 12, 2023

3:00 to 4:00 pm CT

AGENDA

Time	Item #	Topic	Presenter	Action Requested
3:00 pm	1.0	Chair’s Welcome	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	None
3:05 pm	2.0	2023-2024 agInnovation Assessment and Budget—Ballot Results	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	None
3:10 pm	3.0	Lewis-Burke Associates (LBA) Update	Bridget Krieger (was Elizabeth Stulberg, LBA)	None, for information only
3:20 pm	4.0	Update on Chair’s initiative: agInnovation Research Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ agInnovation Research Strategy Framework plan (George Smith) ○ BAC/CLP effort (Elizabeth Stulberg, LBA) (5 min) 	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	For discussion and input
3:45 pm	5.0	Science and Technology Committee proposal for a new award category: Individual Excellence in Research awards (5 min presentation, 5 min discussion)	Nathon Slaton, STC Chair	For discussion and input
3:55 pm	6.0	Other Business, as needed	All	TBD

Attachments (below Call Notes):

- 2024 agInnovation Research Strategy Framework (12/3/2023 version)
- Individual Excellence in Research Awards – Draft (11/11/2023 version)
- ag Innovation Diversity Catalyst Committee brief (12/12/2023 version)

Call NOTES

Attendees: George Smith (agInnovation Chair 2024), Jeanette Thurston (agInnovation Executive Vice Chair 2024), Matt Wilson (Past Chair), Christina Hamilton (NCRA Assistant Director, recorder), Marikis Alvarez, Vernon L. Jones, Cindy Morley, Chunquan (Chris) Zhang, Nathan Slaton, Shirley Hymon-Parker, Jane Schuh, Jose U. Toledo, Holly Neibergs, Derek McLean, Steven Lommel, Vonda Richardson, Brian Raison, Beth Krueger Gugino, James Matthews, Sreekala Bajwa, Leslie Edgar, Chris Davies, Scott Senseman, Gary Thompson, Ron Turco, Bret Hess, Usman Adamu, Joleen C Hadrich, Alton Thompson, Tim Rials, Rafat, Doug Steele, Amanda Kimball, Rob Gilbert, Paula Agudelo, Rick Rhodes, Bridget Krieger, Cliff Lamb, Jason Hubbart, Gary Pierzynski, Laura Jolly, Jason Hubbart, George Criner, Ralph Noble, Greg Cuomo, Anton Bekkerman, Tom Hanna, Darrin Boss, Troy Runge, Lloyd Walker, Hector Santiago, Holly, Gregory Goins, Lesley Oliver, Desmond Mortley, Hongwei Xin, Eric Webster, Brent Hales, Jenn Horton, Shibu Jose, Chris Pritsos, Shawn Donkin, Stephen Cisneros, Staci Lynn Simonich, Lara Prihodko, Ken White, Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, John Blanton, Conrad Bonsi, Mary Savin, William Hoffman, Margaret Smith, Lingying Zhao, Tala Awada, Alex Winter-Nelson, David Leibovitz, Gene Kelly, David Monks, Michael Toews, Katie Frazier, John Yang, Walter Bowen, Ernie Minton

Link to Recording (good for 180 days only): https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/0VtI7Zui0jdL-IsWYiOOOhRREx0eOHvT71dxZg_7w5IbFpOqjSv7_kymyfKWpdNF.vl6CuQ_DAcWVTf3X?startTime=1702414393000

Passcode: =g4qEq3W

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Notes	Action Taken
1.0	Chair's Welcome	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	Chair Smith welcomed everyone to the call and thanked everyone for their engagement and participation in the meeting.	None.
2.0	2023-2024 agInnovation Assessment and Budget— Ballot Results	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	Chair Smith presented the results of the vote, indicating that the presented CY24 agInnovation assessment and budget was approved. He expressed appreciation for the support for the year ahead and his initiatives. Voting details: 52 votes cast <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100K agInnovation assessment approved; 50 approved, 2 rejected. Required 2/3 majority vote, so approval vote passes.• 2023-2024 agInnovation budget approved; 50 approved, 2 rejected. Required a simple majority to pass, so approval vote passes.	None, for information only.
3.0	Lewis-Burke Associates (LBA) Update	Bridget Krieger (was Elizabeth Stulberg, LBA)	DC update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FY24 appropriations: House ag appropriations bill failed earlier this fall, which was good for us since it included a 14% cut.• Passed another Continuing Resolution (CR), but four bills, including agriculture appropriations, will expire January	

19, with eight others expiring in February. Long term picture for ag appropriations bill does not look good due to the abortion riders included on that bill.

- After the current CR, we are likely facing a year-long CR that would keep us where we are, due to most funding lines staying flat. Final FY24 numbers are likely to remain flat for many other agencies, as well.

Farm Bill:

- Expired in September and extended for one year.
- We may see some draft Farm Bills early in 2024 for a variety of politically fueled reasons.
- There are limited funds, but if there is money, members want to support RFA (Research Facilities Act). Remember to keep light pressure on our legislators to support NIFA and RFA. Keep the value of our programs in conversations when you go to the Hill.
- Probably no further action will be taken until right before the election and maybe some more post-election during the lame duck period.

BAC/CLP Advocacy Framework/Roadmap Timeline (Bridget Krieger, LBA):

- LBA is working with FANR team and Mike Boehm to distill down conversations from November advocacy leadership into a report.
- LBA plans to provide a few themes based on the advocacy summit discussions that will be used to draft a report for section leadership to tear apart as this will really be a discussion draft.
- By CARET/AHS, more of the document will be fleshed out and if ready for a wider audience, feedback will be collected in the March/April/May timeframe.
- Final draft to be shared at Joint COPs

From Doug Steele, re: Information on Capacity-specific advocacy efforts, led by Caron Gala, APLU.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We really want to make a strategic move, looking at 25% increases over the long-term and a 2026 push for this is likely. • Need to create the same justification and motivation as that for the RFA and make this a coordinated, national effort. 	
4.0	<p>Update on Chair’s initiative: agInnovation Research Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ agInnovation Research Strategy Framework plan (George Smith) ○ BAC/CLP effort (Elizabeth Stulberg, LBA) (5 min) – see notes in Item 3.0. 	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	<p>Everyone received the draft 10-year agInnovation Research Strategy Framework with the agenda, so please review that for reference. Included in the agenda briefs below, as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: to identify and deliver solutions to specific societal challenges agInnovation research is uniquely equipped to address and provide the fuel for catalyzing increased support across public and private sectors. • Specifically, the Research Strategy Framework will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our goals, in alignment with Board on Ag Assembly’s (BAA) Budget and Advocacy (BAC) and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) vision and shared goals across BAA sections, agInnovation research strategic objectives—informed by our ESCOP Science Roadmap, expected outcomes, strategies, and resources required to meet our goals across a 10-year timeline. George recognized the exceptional work that went into the ESCOP Science Roadmap as it is a critical resource for our working group to identify the Research Strategy’s strategic objectives. ○ The working group will also be charged with developing recommendations for implementing our strategy. The implementation plan will include recommendations on who will be accountable/provide oversight on the Strategy’s progress (i.e., monitoring benchmarks toward goals), as well as how this information will be communicated and shared across stakeholder groups. ○ The core team consists of agInnovation directors representing all 5 regions, Board on Natural Resources/Section on Forestry, and across 1862s, 1890s, 1994s. Including regional association leadership, BAC, CLP, FANR and LBA leadership. 	None, for information only.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional facilitator - Interviewing professional facilitators this month. ● Short but doable timeline—first in-person meeting, target is March 7-8, possibly a second meeting. ● agInnovation Research Strategy Document should be ready to share with BAC and CLP early June, which will later be included in the full BAC and CLP visionary document to be rolled out at Joint COPs in July (Joint COPs is likely to be scheduled the week of July 15th). ● Jane Schuh thanked Chair Smith and the team for these efforts and acknowledged the importance of this work. ● Chair Smith also mentioned that he has been meeting with the agInnovation committees to learn more about their activities and talk about possible future efforts. He thanked them for all the work they do. 	
5.0	Science and Technology Committee proposal for a new award category: Individual Excellence in Research awards (5 min presentation, 5 min discussion)	Nathon Slaton, STC Chair	<p>STC Chair Slaton presented the STC informational slides on the details and eligibility of the proposed award, as also described in the below agenda brief.</p> <p>Q&A and General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the 40% research appointment a current one, or would one from the past from a current administrator fit? A: The research appointment should be a current one and STC will update the award accordingly. ● Does all the research need to be at an LGU or is another institution appropriate as well? A: Focus ideally is on agInnovation research contribution and STC will re-word the award call accordingly. ● Research appointment should perhaps be listed as “majority,” rather than 40%, which might be too restrictive for some institutions, especially those with 3-way research-Extension-Teaching splits. STC will consider the best way to approach this concern in the award call. ● Including terms related to “team science” suggested, as well as nominees who develop others. STC agrees. ● Please send additional comments to Bret Hess or Nathan Slaton so that they can update the document as needed. 	None, for information only, but if you have additional comments or suggestions on the award, please send them to the STC via Bret Hess (bhess@unr.edu).

6.0	Other Business, as needed	All	Chair Smith reminded call attendees that the next virtual agInnovation meeting is on the calendar for March 14, 2024, and wished everyone a good holiday break.	None, for information only.
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Call adjourned at: 4:00 pm CT



Agenda Brief: ag Innovation Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC)
Date: December 12, 2023
Chair: Brian Raison (Ohio State)

- 1.) **Committee Membership** (as of December 12, 2023): see ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) webpage – <http://escop.info/committee/dcc/>
- 2.) **Meetings** (since July 2023): The DCC held the following meetings via Zoom. Minutes/notes from those meetings are available on the [DCC's page on the ESCOP website](#) (see Past Events).
 - September 28, 2023
 - October 26, 2023
 - November 16, 2023 (webinar)
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - December 14, 2023
- 3.) **Accomplishments / Upcoming Plans:**
 - In October 2023, a recommendation from the Diversity Catalyst Committee to include the Association of 1890s Research Directors (ARD) as a region in the National Information Management & Support System (NIMSS) was implemented.
 - On November 16, 2023, the Diversity Catalyst Committee hosted an agInnovation Best Practice Webinar entitled "A Lived Experience: Tribal Relations and Natural Resource Stewardship. The webinar was presented by Jennifer Ballinger, Tribal Relations Specialist with the US Forest Service. A recording of the webinar is available for playback on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf8grN9jiI8>.
 - Further webinars arranged by the Diversity Catalyst Committee are anticipated to be held in 2024.
- 4.) **Attachments:**
 - Flyer advertising the webinar on November 16.



agInnovation Best Practice Webinar: November 16, 4:00 PM ET

**A Lived Experience: Tribal Relations
and Natural Resource Stewardship
Jennifer Ballinger, Tribal Relations
Specialist, US Forest Service**

Hosted by the Diversity Catalyst Committee

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER VISIT

[AGINNOVATION WEBINAR REGISTRATION](#)

Individual Excellence in Research Awards

Sponsored by agInnovation

Purpose and Overview

The Individual Excellence in Research Award is given to researchers who strive in their research career to achieve benchmarks reflective of excellence. These benchmarks include, but are not limited to, demonstration of high impact of research within their discipline; a sustained record of scholarly productivity, including funding, publications, and patents; commitment to diversity; and professional recognition of research excellence through local, regional, national, and/or international awards and honors. Awardees should be recognized as a leader in their respective field of expertise.

Who is Eligible?

The nominee must be an active researcher employed by a land-grant university with at least 40 percent EFT/FTE university appointment in research as of the deadline of the nomination. The nominee must have at least 40 percent research appointment for **a minimum of five consecutive years**. Administrative professionals serving in agInnovation leadership positions are not eligible.

Honorees

Regional – Five awards are granted to regional competitors.

National – One Researcher selected by the agInnovation Science and Technology Committee from the pool of the regional honorees.

Regional honorees receive a four-year Silver-level membership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a cash reward of \$500. The National winner will receive an additional \$500 cash award from agInnovation. The five honorees will be recognized during the Awards Program at the Annual Meeting of agInnovation in September. The national award winner will be invited to accept their additional cash award and an award plaque at the agInnovation annual meeting. Travel reimbursement for the national honoree will be provided by agInnovation. Summaries of each regional honoree's excellent work will be released to the national news media and published in the agInnovation Awards Program as well as in the *Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in College and University Awards Program: A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence* by APLU.

Process

Nominations open February 1. Nominations may be submitted to the offices of respective [regional associations](#) by a nominee, supervisor, or peer and **must have the written endorsement of the nominee's respective State Agricultural Experiment Station Director or 1890**

Agricultural Research Director. Each agInnovation institution is permitted to submit one nomination per year.

Committees formed by the [regional associations](#) will use eligibility and criteria explained in this call for nominations to score nominations in the first round. Winners of each regional competition will be automatically considered for the national award. Regional award winners will have an opportunity to revise their nomination based on feedback from the regional committees. **The final deadline for regional associations to submit nominations for the national award is 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time May 1.**

The second and final round of scoring to select a national winner is conducted by the agInnovation Science and Technology Committee (STC) during June and July. All nominees and their nominators will be invited to attend the agInnovation Awards Ceremony at the end of September. Nominations are to be prepared to match the evaluation criteria indicated below. Include a CV, not to exceed 10 pages, that highlights the evaluation criteria.

National award recipients are not eligible for renomination. Regional award honorees may be renominated for the national award after receiving the regional award. However, regional award honorees shall only receive one regional monetary award and one award plaque. Renominations for the national award may be revised before submission by the regional association on May 1. Regional associations shall determine which nominations will be advanced for the national award competition.

Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated high impact of research, described by the following (700 words or less). **Weight - 50%**
 - Relevance of the research to one or more of the agInnovation Grand Challenges (20%)
 - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture (20%)
 - The impact statement should follow the format of the national impacts database (landgrantimpacts.org) (10%).
- Recognized excellence in one's field of expertise as demonstrated by sustained funding and scholarly productivity; professional recognition, regional, national, and international invited presentations or speaking engagements (500 words or less). **Weight - 40%**
- Demonstrated conveyance of cultural sensitivity and appreciation for diversity (300 words or less). **Weight - 10%**

Limitations

- Incomplete nominations or nominations that exceed the word limits may not be reviewed.
- No more than one nomination by an agInnovation member institution is considered for this award.

- Only nominations submitted per the instructions provided by the deadline will be considered.

Timeline

- December – Announcement sent to Directors and Administrators, by agInnovation Chair.
- February 1 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations.
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings.
- April - Regional associations provide feedback to nominator and nominee and provide an opportunity to revise their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 1 – Associations submit final regional nominations to STC via the regional association supporting STC (**pdf or word document**)
- June/July –STC Committee reviews regional nominations and selects the national winner.
- July/August– STC Executive Vice-chair collects information from regional associations, secures photographs, and submits materials to agInnovation and APLU for booklet and program script.
- September – National winner presentation at agInnovation meeting
- November – National award announced at APLU Meeting

Where to Begin

Use the nomination format indicated on the following page.

Contact

Please contact your regional association office if there are questions:

Lisa Williamson, ARD <lmwilliamson1@ncat.edu>
Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>
David Leibovitz, Northeast <david_leibovitz@uri.edu>
Cindy Morley, South <cmorley@uark.edu>
Jennifer Tippetts, West <jennifer.tippetts@waaesd.org>

Nomination Format

(The nomination should be a very concise summary and must be in this format.)

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominee Name E-mail: _____

Nominee Institution and Title: _____

Nominee E-mail: _____

ARD or SAES Director: _____ E-mail: _____

Nomination Summary (noting the following and should not exceed 1500 words):

- Demonstrated high impact of research, described by the following (700 words or less). **Weight – 50%**
 - Relevance of the research to one or more of the agInnovation Grand Challenges (20%)
 - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture (20%)
 - The impact statement should follow the format of the national impacts database (landgrantimpacts.org) (10%).
- Recognized excellence in one's field of expertise as demonstrated by sustained funding and scholarly productivity; professional recognition, regional, national, and international invited presentations or speaking engagements (500 words or less). **Weight – 40%**
- Demonstrated conveyance of cultural sensitivity and appreciation for diversity (300 words or less). **Weight – 10%**

Please use single-spaced, Times Roman 12 point and one-inch margins.

Include a CV, not to exceed 10 pages, that highlights the evaluation criteria.

Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Offices of the regional Executive Directors, by **c.o.b. February 1, 20XX**:

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>

David Leibovitz, Northeast <david_leibovitz@uri.edu>

Cindy Morley, South <cmorley@uark.edu>

Jennifer Tippetts, West <jennifer.tippetts@waaesd.org>

Lisa Williamson <lmwilliamson1@ncat.edu>

2024-2034 agInnovation Research Strategy

Strategy Working Group Members

- **AgInnovation Directors Core Team:**
 - George Smith, agInnovation Chair
 - Steve Lommel, incoming agInnovation Chair
 - Linda Nagel, Forestry and Natural Resources
 - 1994 Research Representative (request recommendation from John Phillips)
 - 5 BLC members, one representative per region
 - 5 S&T members, one representative per region
- **Regional Association Leadership:**
 - Jeanette Thurston, agInnovation Executive Vice-Chair
 - Christina Hamilton, NCRA Assistant Director
 - Bret Hess, Executive Director, WAAESD
 - Rick Rhodes, Executive Director, NERA
 - Alton Thompson, Executive Director, ARD
 - Gary Thompson, Executive Director, SAAESD
- **Professional Facilitator: (TBD)**
- **Optional:** Mike Boehm, Rich Bonanno, Doug Steele, and Elizabeth Stulberg

Expected Engagement and Activity of Working Group Members (January through July 2024)

- Participate in 1 or 2 in-person, facilitated sessions, 1 to 1.5 days each.
 - Central location (e.g., Chicago)
 - agInnovation will pay for working group member hotel and meals during the meeting(s)
- Participate in up to 3 ZOOM pre- and follow-up meetings.
- Actively engage in strategy development by providing input to draft strategy documents from January to June through virtual and in-person meetings and email exchanges.
- First working group meeting to be held virtually in January with the final rollout of the agInnovation Research Strategy in July (see timeline on next page).
- The first in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for February 21-22, in Chicago.
- Optional participation at Joint COPs (July 2024) for agInnovation Research Strategy rollout.

Strategy Framework

- In alignment with BAC/CLP efforts, agInnovation will identify up to three strategic objectives for each predetermined “big picture” shared goal. These big picture shared goals, agreed upon by all APLU sections, will be identified through the BAC/CLP process. For our purposes, strategic objectives are defined as measurable outcomes that help achieve the big picture shared goals. Objectives are specific to what we will accomplish and deliver within the 10 year Research Strategy timeframe. If the agInnovation working group feels that there is a major gap, an additional goal and set of strategic objectives can be considered. In the unlikely event that the BAC/CLP big picture goals are not identified by our February in-person meeting, we will discuss the appropriate path forward with our facilitator and working group and adjust our process, if necessary.
- 1 page per Big Picture Shared Goal
 - Each Big Picture Goal page will include:
 - Brief overview of the goal area, its importance, and why research is needed to address it.
 - Vision for the nation if the big picture shared goal is achieved (at 5 and 10 years).

- ***Up to 3 strategic objectives (defined as measurable outcomes that help to achieve the larger shared goal).**
- ***1-2 examples of science strategies required to accomplish strategic objectives.**
- ***1-2 National impacts expected from achieving big picture shared goal.**
 - *Timeline of the specific deliverables/outcomes and the support/investments required to address strategic objectives at 3, 5 and 10 years.*
 - ***What it would mean if the goal was not met, at 5 or 10 years?**
 - **Are there previous examples/data to demonstrate the enormity of not meeting the goal?**
 - Examples of research activity, outcomes, and impacts already underway and/or realized.

****The focus of our in-person meeting discussions, in order of priority. The other, nonbolded, items above are those that may be gathered through virtual meetings or written input.***

The primary charge of the agInnovation Research Strategy working group is to identify up to 3 strategic objectives for each big picture shared goal that agInnovation scientists are uniquely positioned to address as well as provide recommendations on how agInnovation will execute and provide oversight to the Research Strategy. The agInnovation Research Strategy Implementation Plan* (an appendix of the Research Strategy) will include, for example, who will be responsible for Research Strategy communications and effective strategies for increasing awareness and advocacy (**see below for additional implementation plan details).

To accomplish its charge, working group members will need to be prepared to engage in a productive and robust discussion. To come to our first in-person meeting with strategic objectives, working group members will be asked to review of the 2019 [ESCOP Science Strategy](#) that provides recommendations for food and agriculture research and priorities, across 7 grand challenges, that remain relevant today. Other documents that can help inform the development of strategic objectives with transformational outcomes include the [NAS Science Breakthroughs to Advance Food and ag research by 2030](#), federal science agency strategic plans, executive orders, and other documents (some suggestions provided at the end of this document).

The big picture goal-aligned strategic objectives considered by this working group should include those that have a high likelihood of success but also those that are high-risk but will result in great rewards for the U.S. food and agriculture system and its citizens. Below are a couple examples of specific objectives that incorporate the expected outcome, and are bold and aligned with the 2019 Science Strategy (note that the percentages are not science informed—these are made up as examples to demonstrate the kind of specificity we would like to incorporate into our Research Strategy):

- Increase water use efficiency and agricultural productivity and profitability by developing crop and livestock systems that require 50% less water per unit of output.
- Reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions by 60% through the development and adoption of new practices, technologies, and innovations.

**** agInnovation Research Strategy Implementation Plan (an appendix of the agInnovation Research Strategy)** --The working group will also be charged with developing recommendations for implementing the Research Strategy. The implementation plan will, for example, identify how and who should be responsible for oversight, collecting and reporting metrics and goal progress, identifying funding to support goals and associated objectives, providing Strategy updates, etc. The implementation plan will include recommendations on approaches for advocacy, communication, and awareness efforts concerning the Research Strategy. CGA, CMC and/or other advocacy and communications experts may be included in the discussion to provide strategic advocacy recommendations in association with the agInnovation Research Strategy efforts and impacts. This group will provide recommendations on who (individual(s), committee(s)) should provide oversight and leadership for communications and where and how progress is reported to internal and external partners and stakeholders, new partners/champions for agInnovation research based on our goals and objectives, and effective advocacy approaches and tools to catalyze and increase support for agricultural research.

2024 Timeline



Documents/initiatives that assist with the identification and selection of agInnovation Research Strategy objectives:

TO BE UPDATED PRIOR TO SHARING WITH WORKING GROUP...

- 2019 [ESCOP Science Strategy](#)
- [NAS Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research](#)
- [AIM for Climate](#)
- [ASCEND for Better Health](#)
- [USDA Science Strategy](#)
- EOs
 - [Advancing Biotech and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy](#)
 - [FACT SHEET---New Bold Goals and Priorities to Advance American Biotech and Biomanufacturing](#)