



## agInnovation Business Meeting

March 14, 2024  
2:10 to 4:00 pm CT

### AGENDA

Time	Item #	Topic	Presenter	Action Requested
2:10 pm	1.0	Chair’s Welcome	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	None
2:15 pm	2.0	agInnovation Research Roadmap Update	George Smith	For information, discussion
2:35 pm	3.0	NCFAR Lunch-n-Learn	George Smith	For information, discussion
2:45 pm	4.0	DC visits with agInnovation Partners	George Smith	For information, discussion
3:00 pm	5.0	<a href="#">Finance Committee Update</a>	Matt Wilson, Rick Rhodes	For information, discussion
3:15 pm	6.0	<a href="#">STC Update</a>	Nathon Slaton, Bret Hess	For information, discussion
3:25 pm	7.0	<a href="#">BLC Update</a>	Anton Bekkerman, Gary Thompson	For information, discussion
3:35 pm	8.0	<a href="#">DCC Update</a>	Brian Raison, Rick Rhodes	For information, discussion
3:45 pm	9.0	CMC Incoming Chair Identification/Appointment	Rick Rhodes, George Smith	Discussion, action TBD
3:55 pm	10.0	Other Business, as needed	All	TBD
4:00 pm CT, Adjourn				

### Consent Briefs:

- [CMC Report](#)

### Upcoming agInnovation Meetings:

- BAA Summer Leadership Meeting (formerly, Joint COPs), July 16-18, 2024, Providence, RI,
- Fall 2024 agInnovation Conference, September 22-25, 2024, Raleigh, NC
- APLU Annual Meeting, November 10-12, 2024, Orlando, FL

**Call Attendees:** George Smith (agInnovation Chair), Jeanette Thurston, Jennifer Horton, Lee, Rafat Siddiqui, Scott Willard , Holly Neibergs, George W Smith, iPhone Harsha, Jason Hubbard, Scott Senseman, Cindy Morley, Christina Hamilton, Gary Thompson, John Blanton, Cindy Morley , Lee Hecker, Scot Hulbert, Moses Kairo, Shafiqur Rahman, Wendie Cohick, Steven Lommel, Bret Hess, Siddhartha Dasgupta, Rick Rhodes, Chris Pritsos, Matthew Wilson, Vernon L. Jones, Gary Pierzynski, Chris Davies, Doug Steele, Troy Runge, Mark McGuire, Jay Lillywhite, Greg Cuomo, Shibu Jose, Francis Casey, David Leibovitz, Ron Turco, ARPGE, Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, Ron Turco, Brian Raison, Fulya Baysal-Gurel, Alton Thompson, Sreekala Bajwa, Gregory Goins, Lingying Zhao, Blair Siegfried, Conrad Bonsi, Leslie Edgar, Derek McLean, Lesley Oliver, Tom, Glenda Humiston, Hector Santiago, Lisa M. Williamson, Mary Burrows, David Monks, Manoj Nair, Shawn Donkin, Nathan A Slaton

**Meeting Notes**

- [Link to meeting slideshow](#)
- Call Recording (good for one year after 3/14/2024):  
[https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/e\\_nFlzdsvX9AC09pGY0WyWPhilHIM74nTC8mkG7N12s\\_TUw4bo3Zv7CunztVT5qL.3S3xDYDp3QTxltxV](https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/e_nFlzdsvX9AC09pGY0WyWPhilHIM74nTC8mkG7N12s_TUw4bo3Zv7CunztVT5qL.3S3xDYDp3QTxltxV) Passcode: rLkyvG&7

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Notes	Action Taken/Requested
1.0	Chair’s Welcome	George Smith, FFY24 agInnovation Chair	<p>Chair Smith welcomed everyone to the call.</p> <p>Chair Smith requested revision of today’s agenda to include approval of the 12/12/2023 <a href="#">agInnovation meeting notes</a>.</p> <p>Chair Smith subsequently requested approval of 12/12/2023 agInnovation meeting notes as distributed/posted.</p>	<p>Action Taken: Motion to amend today’s agenda with the addition of approval of the 12/12/2023 agInnovation call notes was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by the group.</p> <p>Action Taken: Motion to approve the 12/12/2023 agInnovation call notes was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by the group.</p>
2.0	agInnovation Research Roadmap Update	George Smith	Chair Smith reviewed the section of the slide presentation describing the efforts of the agInnovation Research	None taken, for information only.

			Roadmap team, including the recent Chicago session, next steps, and overall effort timeline.	
3.0	NCFAR Lunch-n-Learn	George Smith	<p>The agInnovation research Roadmap will be presented as an NCFAR Lunch-n-Learn in Washington, DC, September 17th, Capitol Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The goal of these events is to educate and empower staff on Capitol Hill and policy stakeholders about the value of public investment in food and agricultural research. NCFAR’s popular "Lunch-N-Learn" series and webinars feature experts from institutions across the country sharing expertise on a wide range of topics.</li> <li>• agInnovation Research Roadmap will be the focus of the presentation. Still developing the plan—looking to invite agInnovation directors to speak to each of the agInnovation pillars and expected outcomes.</li> <li>• This will be another opportunity to garner input to the agInnovation Research Roadmap.</li> </ul>	Request: Looking for agInnovation director volunteers to speak to each of the agInnovation pillars and expected outcomes. Please contact Jeanette/George if interested.
4.0	DC visits with agInnovation Partners	George Smith	<p>Chair Smith reviewed the DC visits he and Jeanette Thurston have conducted since the last agInnovation call, as well as those planned for the remainder of his term as chair.</p> <p><b>Value of these meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing engaging with critical partners (i.e., USDA), learning about their priorities and needs and sharing our own.</li> <li>• Building new relationships, identifying new opportunities across federal government and beyond (foundations, other non-profits)</li> </ul> <p>Engaged with over 15 traditional and new partner organizations/offices (some repeat visits):</p>	Request: Please review the list presented and reach out to George and Jeanette if you have additional suggestions for partner visits.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USDA-NIFA</b>- Agency Director—Dr. Misra and Stakeholder Liaison, Josh Stull</li> <li>• <b>USDA-ARS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve Kappes, USDA ARS Deputy Administrator</li> <li>○ National Program Leaders           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural Resources and Sustainable Ag Systems, Sara Beebout</li> <li>▪ Bioproducts and product quality, John Foulk</li> <li>▪ Animal Health, Production and Protection, Steven Moeller</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>USDA—Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Director, Deirdra Chester; Deputy Director, Rich Derksen; Senior advisor for Equity /Next gen, Paularie Knox; Senior Advisory for Stakeholder Engagement and Congressional Affairs, Carlton Bridgeforth           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Program Leads-bioenergy, food and nutrition, and climate change</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>USDA—Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)</b>—Bill Hohenstein, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Policy Office of the Chief Economist</li> <li>• <b>USDA—Senior advisors to the Secretary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regulatory and Biotechnology—Greg Jaffe</li> <li>○ Food Systems—Kate Fitzgerald</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>EPA</b>—Senior Advisor for Agriculture—Rodney Snyder</li> <li>• <b>NSF</b>- Karen Marrongelle, Chief Operating Officer       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ James L. Moore, Asst. Director for the STEM Education Directorate</li> <li>○ Susan Marqusee, Asst Director Biological Sciences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Graciela Narcho, Deputy Asst Director for the Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships Directorate (i.e., TIP)</li> <li>○ Erwin Gianchandani, Asst Director TIP Directorate</li> <li>● <b>NRCS-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deputy Chief for Soil Science and Resource Assessment</li> <li>○ Regional conservationists, Senior Scientist, Farm Bill coordinator, Climate Office leadership</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Economic Development Administration</b> (branch of the Dept. of Commerce)- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Nature Conservancy—Director of Agriculture, Kris Johnson</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>International Fresh Produce Association</b>—Chief Scientist, Max Teplitski</li> <li>● <b>FFAR</b>—Executive Director, Sahara Moon Chapotin</li> <li>● <b>APLU</b> partners-Doug Steele, Wendy Fink, Bill Hoffman</li> <li>● <b>Bezos Earth Fund</b>, Andy Jarvis</li> <li>● <b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b>, interim Associate Director and Director for Biological Systems Science Division, Todd Anderson</li> <li>● <b>Platform for Agriculture and Climate Transformation (PACT)</b>, Joe Schultz</li> <li>● <b>NCFAR</b>—Executive Director and Board</li> </ul> <p><b>Future meetings being planned, targets include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rockefeller, Gates, Howard G Buffet, William and Flora Hewlett, American farm bureau foundation (AFBF)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● DOE (other offices)</li> </ul>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIH</li> <li>• NASA (Bob Swap/Goddard)</li> <li>• DOD</li> <li>• USDA—Chief Scientist</li> <li>• Scientific societies/Council of Scientific Society Presidents</li> <li>• National Sustainable Ag Coalition (NSAC)</li> <li>• American Farmland Trust</li> <li>• Commodity organizations</li> <li>• Biotechnology Innovation Organization</li> <li>• National Association of Conservation Districts</li> </ul>	
5.0	<a href="#">Finance Committee Update</a>	Matt Wilson, Rick Rhodes	Matt Wilson reviewed the Finance Committee brief included below, which includes consideration and discussion on the adoption of the Finance Committee agInnovation budget and investment strategies described in the distributed brief. This requires 30-day advance notice since it will result in >\$5K change in the agInnovation budget. This proposal was shared with agInnovation members on March 4th, 2024, so a vote would occur no earlier than the April 3rd.	Action Taken: Motion, second, and approval occurred to put the proposed budget and investment strategies to a formal agInnovation electronic vote to be distributed to agInnovation membership no earlier than the April 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
6.0	<a href="#">STC Update</a>	Nathon Slaton, Bret Hess	Bret Hess, on behalf of Nathon Slaton, reviewed the STC agenda brief and included STC update slides.	Request: Please share feedback on Canva Grand Challenge templates located at <a href="https://www.aginnovation.info/our-promise">https://www.aginnovation.info/our-promise</a> (click into each challenge to view its template) to STC.
7.0	<a href="#">BLC Update</a>	Anton Bekkerman, Gary Thompson	Gary Thompson, on behalf of Anton Bekkerman, reviewed the BLC brief below.	None, for information only.
8.0	<a href="#">DCC Update</a>	Brian Raison, Rick Rhodes	Brian Raison reviewed the DCC brief included below. May 5 is the deadline for the DCC Award. He strongly encouraged the group to nominate people and help share the efforts and commitment to DEI from agInnovation members, researchers, and institutions.	None, for information only.

			“Lived Experience” DCC session – Keep an eye out for this!	
9.0	CMC Incoming Chair Identification	Rick Rhodes, George Smith	agInnovation is in rotation to provide the incoming chair for the CMC. As a BAA standing committee, the chairpersonship of the CMC rotates among CE, AHS, and agInnovation. JF Muellenet (past chair) is rotating off the CMC as agInnovation's rep. Nancy Cox (AHS, University of Kentucky, Southern region) is now past chair, Shelley Nickols-Richardson (CE, University of Illinois, North Central region) is the chair, and the CMC is now seeking an incoming chair. This is a 3-year appointment. Chair Smith requested nominations for this role from the group. Sreekala Bajwa nominated Leslie Edgar, who accepted.	Action Taken: Leslie Edgar was approved unanimously by the group as the next incoming CMC chair as an agInnovation representative.
10.0	Other Business, as needed	All	Chair Smith: Dr. Kevin Kephart, USDA NIFA Deputy Director for the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment, was unable to attend today's meeting but sends his best wishes to you all. He will be sending a written update but wanted to make sure everyone was aware of NIFA's work to renew the Climate Hub MOU with AES and CES and that the agency continues to prioritize environmental justice.	None, for information only.

*Today's call adjourned at 3:12 pm CT.*

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## Item 5.0: Finance Committee Update

**Agenda Brief:** agInnovation Finance Committee

**Date:** March 14, 2024

**Chair:** Matt Wilson (West Virginia University)

- 1.) **Committee Membership:** see agInnovation Finance Committee webpage – <https://escop.info/committee/finance-committee/>.
- 2.) **Meetings (since July 2023):** The Finance Committee met for the first time on July 14, 2023, and thereafter on August 30, 2023, and February 9, 2024. The minutes/notes from past Finance Committee meetings are available on the [Finance Committee's webpage](#) (see Past Events).
- 3.) **Accomplishments / Upcoming Plans:**
  - Per the Rules of Operation of the Section (approved March 8, 2023), the Finance Committee is now a standing committee of agInnovation. As a standing committee, the Finance Committee is tasked with the following designated roles:
    - i. Draft and present a budget and budget narrative.
    - ii. Advise and give counsel regarding financial matters affecting agInnovation.
    - iii. Coordinate payments/reimbursements from agInnovation operating funds.
    - iv. Provide the agInnovation Executive Committee with information on income and expenses.
    - v. Review the investment plan annually.
  - The cash position of agInnovation is currently strong. Credit to the account includes the annual assessment (currently \$100,000) plus carryover from the previous calendar year, CY 2023 (\$125,340, unaudited). The approved expense budget for CY2024 is \$183,000.
  - The Finance Committee met on February 9, 2024, and discussed the investment strategies of the TD Wealth account with Matthew Kappa, agInnovation's TD Wealth advisor. The total market value of the account on January 31, 2024, was \$624,105. Our current investment allocation, chosen in the heat of the pandemic (circa 2020) is a mix is 35% stocks, 65% bonds (a moderately conservative approach). The Finance Committee discussed managing the TD Wealth account as an "endowment," from which regular disbursements would be taken to support the agInnovation budget. Mr. Kappa shared a number of potential investment strategies that agInnovation might deploy in support of employing the TD Wealth account as an endowment.
  - The Finance Committee drafted an agInnovation budget strategy and a TD Wealth investment strategy for consideration by the Section (attached). The attached draft serves as a recommendation to agInnovation.



4.) **Action Requested:** Consideration for adoption.

5.) **Attachments:**

- Finance Committee Proposal (March 14, 2024).



### **Finance Committee Proposal (March 14, 2024)**

#### **agInnovation Budget Strategy**

To further define budget strategies and build financial processes, the Finance Committee of agInnovation is proposing the adoption of a budget strategy that has grown out of discussions surrounding best use, and therefore investment of agInnovation's account with TD Wealth.

The Finance Committee recommends that agInnovation adopt a practice of requesting that incoming chairs forward to the Finance Committee a proposed budget based on historical expenditures and proposed initiatives of the chair in the coming budget year. This would serve as the expenditure budget from which the Finance Committee could recommend the revenue to meet expenditures. The Finance Committee envisions four potential revenue streams to meet the budget need. First, an assessment to the Section based on expected expenditures less funds coming from the three other sources listed below. Second, a withdrawal of earnings from agInnovation's investment account, currently with TD Wealth with a principal balance of ~\$600,000. An annual withdrawal of 4 to 5% would provide \$24,000 to \$30,000 to meet the agInnovation budget. Third, any identified or expected carry forward from the previous calendar year would support the following year's expenditure budget. Finally, and fourth, revenues from the agInnovation 501(c)3 non-profit (currently in the establishment phase) could be deployed to support the expenditure budget. As a general practice, the section should budget for a residual equal to one fourth of the annual budget to serve as a contingency.

#### **agInnovation Investment Strategy**

The Finance Committee is proposing the adoption of an investment strategy by agInnovation to make best use of agInnovation's account with TD Wealth.

The Finance Committee recommends that agInnovation adopt a practice of a withdrawal of earnings from agInnovation's investment account (currently with TD Wealth with a principal balance of ~\$600,000) of 4.5% annually to support the section. This would equate to approximately \$27,000.

For such an approach to work in the foreseeable future, the Finance Committee suggests moving from a moderately conservative investment approach (30% stock:70% bond) to a moderate (50% stock:50% bond) investment strategy to meet the expectation for a 4.5% annual withdrawal from the investment account and 2.5% for reinvestment to continue to grow the principal of the investment account. At any time agInnovation could either reduce that annual

withdrawal, forego taking withdrawals from the investment account, withdraw from the principal balance, or reinvest the funds elsewhere.

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**Item 6.0: ESCOP Science & Technology:** <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Nathan Slaton (SAAESD) <b>Past Chair:</b> Bernie Engel (NCRA)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) John Yang (ARD) Frank Casey (NCRA) Shibu Jose (NCRA) George Criner (NERA) Jason Hubbart (NERA) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) David Monk (SAAESD) Gene Kelly (WAAESD) Greg Cuomo (WAAESD)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice Chair:</b> Bret Hess (WAAESD ED) Jennifer Horton (WAAESD Recording Secretary)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Tara McHugh (ARS) Kevin Kephart (NIFA) Roger Magarey (NIPMCC) Tim Killian (SSCC)</p>
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**Meetings:** Virtual meetings are scheduled 1-2 pm PT/2-3 pm MT/3-4 pm CT/4-5 pm ET the first Monday of the month. Zoom connection information is:

<https://unr.zoom.us/j/81036274718?pwd=OHIHYXhkWIEyekl3NjcwREZ1dDJpZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 3627 4718 Passcode: STC

**Activities Since the [Report to the agInnovation on December 12, 2023](#)**

Feedback received during the agInnovation membership meeting on December 12 and additional input from STC members was incorporated into the final draft of the call for nominations for the Agricultural Research Innovation Award of Excellence. The call for nominations was announced by agInnovation Chair Smith following the Finance Committee’s approval so spend up to \$5,000 to support the new award. The deadline for nominations was extended to February 29. Guidelines for submitting nominations for respective agInnovation awards are available at [http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/STC\\_INNOVATION\\_EXCELLENCE\\_AWARD\\_2024\\_CALL.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/STC_INNOVATION_EXCELLENCE_AWARD_2024_CALL.pdf); [http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/STC\\_RESEARCH\\_AWARD\\_CALL\\_2024.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/STC_RESEARCH_AWARD_CALL_2024.pdf); and [http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/STC\\_LEADERSHIP\\_AWARD\\_CALL\\_2024.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/STC_LEADERSHIP_AWARD_CALL_2024.pdf)

The success stories templates for each of the agInnovation Roadmap Grand Challenge have been reformatted in Canva (available at <https://escop.info/grand-challenge-templates/>), which is a more user-friendly format than InDesign. The goal is to update annually with regional and local success stories and begin sharing updated success stories on the new agInnovation website.

The committee was pleased to receive an overview of the [National Climate Change Roadmap](#) as the final step in providing guidance throughout its development.

Plans to begin working on development of guidelines to recognize use of capacity funds in publications and making data publicly available via Data Commons have been put on hold in lieu of crafting a response to NSF’s [Catalyzing Across Sectors to Advance the Bioeconomy](#) (CASA-Bio) initiative. CASA-Bio

is a collaborative, facilitated activity involving stakeholders from federal funding agencies, industries, non-profits, and the public sector research community. The overall goal is to give life to the vision of the White House's Bioeconomy Executive Order by seeking synergy through collaboration in areas of mutual interest. A draft of community input was developed from survey responses received from the research strategy framework working group and text from the [agInnovation Science Roadmap](#). The main thrust in March will be to finalize the draft and submit responses through the [Community Input Portal](#).

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## Item 7.0: ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC)

March 14, 2024

BLC Chair: Anton Bekkerman

Action: For Information

### **Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC, <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>)**

BLC meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 4:00-5:00 ET. The committee alternates its meetings: one month the meeting is for voting members only to foster open discussion, and the alternating month includes more structured discussion and liaison reports. One of the outcomes of this revised structure is more time for in-depth discussions by the voting members that is valuable in reflecting on broader questions that the BLC needs to address, while still receiving timely input from the liaisons. Lewis-Burke Associates (LBA) regularly participates in our meetings with Dr. Elizabeth Stulberg serving as the liaison.

The BLC chair is a multifaceted leadership position given the multiple committee assignments (BAA-Budget and Advocacy Committee [BAC] voting member, BAA-Committee on Legislation and Policy [CLP] voting member, ECOP BLC liaison). Due to the BLC chair's involvement in many other parts of the BAA where liaisons provide updates, the chair can bring back information to the BLC in a timely manner even with liaisons joining the BLC meetings less frequently.

The predominant focus of the BLC is to create, adapt, monitor, and change agInnovation's input into the BAC, CLP, and infrastructure budget and legislative activities. Modification to existing processes, advancing new deadlines, and creation of new steps and requests make this an iterative process. The BAA Unified **FY 2025** Appropriations Request was approved by the BAC and the BAA Policy Board of Directors and is summarized here ([FY25 Approps](#)). The BAA Farm Bill Request is summarized here ([BAA Farm Bill](#)). The BLC also presented information to CARET representatives for Hatch, AFRI, and RFA during the "All About the Request" webinar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SahCRJIVGA>) on January 31, 2024.

The BAC and CLP are jointly developing a "Decadal Visioning and Advocacy Strategy" to guide both advocacy and authorization activities over the next five-year period. Two fly-in meetings were convened with BLC and agInnovation leadership participating in Washington, DC for initial discussions. On September 11, a meeting was held to discuss a shared future vision and path forward for Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Forestry research. This was followed by a joint BAC/CLP session and FANR/LBA Advocacy Leadership Forum on November 1-3 to collaboratively frame the decadal plan. Discussions at both fly-in meetings informed proposed high-level topics to serve as pillars for the decadal plan. Below is the content provided by the BLC on January 12, 2024. This content was shared during the January 10 agInnovation Chairs Advisory Committee virtual meeting and revised.

#### 1. **National Security and Resiliency**

Overcoming climate change and land access challenges, the United States produces 95% of its food domestically while reducing water, land, and energy inputs by 50%, capturing 75% more carbon and reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions by 60% through advanced food and biobased technologies—all helping ensure food price inflation is under 2%.

[Recent data indicate that the U.S. already consumes about 87% of food that was domestically produced, so I don't think 95% is a stretch. The bigger moonshots would be the input reductions and

carbon sequestration. Median food price inflation since 1973 has been 3.4%, so reducing that by about 1.5 percentage points could be a reasonable goal as well...and 2% sounds nice too!]

## 2. **Global Competitiveness and Leadership**

America will be the global leader by tripling its annual agricultural and food science innovations and high impact patents, underpinned by an increase of at least \$2.0 billion annual federal investment in capacity and competitive programs that support agricultural research and extension.

[The \$2.0 billion represents \$1 b annual increase in competitive funds, raising the AFRI funding to \$1.5 billion annually (approximately a doubling of the current \$700m authorization) plus a \$500 m increase in capacity funding and \$500 m in ag infrastructure.]

## 3. **Food and Diet-Related Diseases**

Food insecurity in America will be less than 5% and development of more nutritious food and safer food production and consumption will cut in half the number of Americans with diet and other food-related diseases, reducing national healthcare costs by 25%.

[Currently, U.S. spends about \$4.5 trillion in healthcare costs annually, so any double-digit percentage reduction will be significant. For example, 25% reduction is \$1.13 trillion = ~5% of U.S. GDP. Food insecurity in 2022 was 12.8% ([ERS](#)), reducing down below 5% seems like a lofty/bold goal.]

## 4. **Rural Prosperity**

America's rural communities are revitalized through new biobased industries, diverse farming opportunities, and a high quality of life that reduces rural poverty by 50% and incomes grow by 30%.

[According to US Bureau of Economic Analysis income data, over the past 10 and 20 years, urban (metropolitan) income grew by about 30% more than the growth in rural (nonmetropolitan) incomes. So, 30% growth could be a nice figure to shoot for—equitable distribution of income opportunities across U.S. communities.]

On February 15, the BAC/CLP decadal visioning committee met to discuss the initial draft of a high-level overview, based on information received from different committee members. The document included three themes:

- The United States maintains a safe, abundant, and secure domestic food supply for the benefit of food safety and national security.
- Rural communities are economically and environmentally healthy places to live.
- Americans have better, more satisfying diets and longer, healthier lives.

The BAC/CLP chairs facilitated a discussion and set a goal to have a high-level overview document finalized, printed and distributed in the materials provided at the 2024 CARET/AHS meetings.

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## Item 8.0: Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) Update

**Agenda Brief:** ag Innovation Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC)  
**Date:** March 14, 2024  
**Chair:** Brian Raison (Ohio State)

- 1.) **Committee Membership** (as of March 14, 2024): see ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) webpage – <http://escop.info/committee/dcc/>
- 2.) **Meetings** (since December 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).
  - December 14, 2023
  - January 24, 2024
  - February 22, 2024 (webinar)
  - Upcoming Meetings:
    - March 28, 2024
- 3.) **Accomplishments / Upcoming Plans:**
  - In January 2024, the Diversity Catalyst Committee held a discussion at its monthly meeting with agInnovation Chair George Smith, to discuss the DCC's working relationship with agInnovation leadership and the role the DCC plays in implementation of the Chair's priorities in 2024.
  - In February 2024, the call for nominations was released for the 2024 National agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awards. agInnovation intends to recognize an individual and a team for their creation and implementation of inclusive efforts at the local, state, regional, or national levels. The call for nominations is [posted on the ESCOP website](#) and the [electronic portal to submit nominations](#) (SurveyMonkey) is open.
  - On February 22, 2024, the Diversity Catalyst Committee hosted an agInnovation Lived Experience Webinar entitled "Fulfilling the Land-grant Mission through Cultural Competency." The webinar was presented by Dr. Jacquelyn Wiersma-Mosley, Assistant Dean of Bumpers College, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. A recording of the webinar is [available for viewing on YouTube](#).
  - Further webinars arranged by the Diversity Catalyst Committee are anticipated to be held in 2024.
- 4.) **Attachments:**
  - Flyer advertising the webinar on February 22.



agInnovation "Lived Experience" Webinar  
February 22, 2024, 4:00 PM ET

**Fulfilling the Land-grant Mission through  
Cultural Competency - Dr. Jacquelyn Wiersma-  
Mosley, Assistant Dean of Bumpers College,  
University of Arkansas System Division of  
Agriculture**

Hosted by the Diversity Catalyst Committee

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# FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER VISIT

[AGINNOVATION WEBINAR REGISTRATION](#)

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