

NRSP Review Committee Agenda Brief (Summer Meetings)

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred Servello (NERA)• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)• Doug Buhler (NCRA)• Tom Bewick (NIFA)• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Young (SAAESD)• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD) <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Phipps (NERA) <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Latham (CARET)
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Background:

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on May 28, 2015 for its annual meeting to review proposals, budgets, and guidelines and make recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be presented at the Fall ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and are included in the NRSP portfolio table, below.

NRSP 2015-2016
Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Authorized FY2014	Request FY2015	Approved FY2015	†Request FY2016	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	300,000	183,500	
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP10 ²					398,631	398,631	370,165	
NRSP_TEMP004 (NRSP4)							481,182	<i>Approve proposal/budget; request further explanation for maintenance funding level requested.</i>
NRSP_TEMP006 (NRSP6)							150,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget; require committee to investigate alternative funding models and report back to NRSP-RC at mid-term review. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP7 (NRSP7)							325,000	<i>Reject proposal/budget. See attached.</i>
NRSP_TEMP9 (NRSP9_							225,000	<i>Approve proposal/budget.</i>

†As of 2012, all NRSP budgets are approved for the duration of their current 5-year cycle, assuming an acceptable midterm review.

²Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP10 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY202019
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4 (NRSP_TEMP4)	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-6 (NRSP_TEMP6)	The U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (<i>Solanum</i>) Germplasm	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP7)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2015-2020	2018
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9 (NRSP_TEMP9)	National Animal Nutrition Program	2015-2020	2018
NRSP10	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

A Synopsis of the U.S. Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (*Solanum*) Germplasm (NRSP6)

Background

The official National Plant Germplasm System project for the US potato genebank is in the National Research Support System designated as NRSP6. The NRSP system is a key facet of the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. NRSP6 provides germplasm stocks, germplasm data, R&D techniques and tools and custom materials for germplasm evaluation to the stakeholders such as public and private plant breeders, potato researchers, food suppliers and processors both domestically and internationally. NRSP6 has been a viable national project (since the 1950s) with current top 10 state (unit) users from CA, IA, ID, MD, MI, MN, NY, OR, WA and WI and, in reality, nearly 50 states using the Genebank over short timeframes. The Genebank has over 5,000 items of germplasm for the world's most important non-cereal crop with 45% of these being unique. While the demand for Genebank services is increasing, the overall financial health is declining; thereby creating uncertainties that project evaluators recommend broader discussions to identify options for a more sustainable future. Very preliminary conversations have occurred with the National Potato Council leadership and staff, a NRSP review team member, a state breeder, state potato commission and a regional agricultural research association. Other key leaders, users and stakeholders must be consulted and fully engaged in order to design alternative funding models.

Challenges

- Potato is a prohibited import crop, so current genetic resources in the US genebank are the only ones readily available to users. Continued restrictions on international germplasm collection and distribution limit new discoveries, thereby increasing the importance and use of the current stocks.
- Historical purchasing power erosion and direct cuts in program support across all of the primary funding sources (USDA Ag Research Service, State Ag Experiment Stations, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industry, grants) and numerous in-kind contributions negatively impact the overall operation of NRSP6. Budget pressures have negatively impacted: personnel, operations, maintenance, facility and equipment. The end result is a tenuous future.
- A key essence of the NRSP system is to leverage expertise and resources across priority projects such that the SAES System and other users (as appropriate) benefit and share the costs. This is a strength as well as a weakness.

Next Steps

- Fortuitously, several key meetings are occurring which will allow for a more inclusive discussion and evaluation of future prospects for action (National Potato Council board and managers summer meeting, NRSP6 and regional ag research association(s)).
- Assuming that these discussions are favorable, key individuals should be identified to serve on a committee to delve deeper into the challenge and identify potential solutions that will lead to a consistent and sustainable funding model that will ensure a quality, financially stable and comprehensive US Potato Genebank well into the future.

A Synopsis of the National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs. (NRSP-7)

Background

The minor use animal drug program has been in existence since 1983 with the following mission/objectives:

1. *Identify* animal drug needs, including naturally occurring biotherapeutics and feed additives, for minor species and minor uses in major species,
2. *Generate* and *disseminate* data for safe and effective therapeutic and biotherapeutic applications, and
3. *Facilitate* FDA/CVM approvals for drugs and biotherapeutics identified as a priority for a minor species or minor use.

NRSP-7 functions to coordinate efforts among animal producers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, FDA/CVM, USDA/ Research, Education, and Extension, universities, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and veterinary medical colleges throughout the country.

The project has received off the top funding since USDA NIFA funds have not been available for the past 6 years. After efforts to join forces with NRSP4 failed in 2014, the NRSP Review Committee (RC) provided a one year approval with a requirement of leveraging off the top funding and also emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders in support of the project.

A majority of NRSP-RC members felt that the committee did not demonstrate “new” leveraged funds, as required, and, rather, only did a better job of reporting funds that already existed (based on explanations provided in the proposal). In addition, the RC expressed concern that, even with NRSP funding, there would not be sufficient funds to make the program effective or impactful. Finally, there was concern about a lack of stakeholder involvement.

Thus, by a **7-1 vote, the committee approved a recommendation to reject the proposal and budget.** Assuming the recommendation is upheld at the Experiment Station Section Meeting in September, NRSP7 will receive 1-year of funding at the current level to phase out activities.

Challenges

- New Minor Use Animal Drugs have been approved at a rate of 1.6/yr. during the 32 years of the program and 52 applications have been made.
- The cost of the program to provide information to support a single label claim has risen to approximately \$3.1 million. At the current funding level approval of a single drug would require 4-5 years.
- There are currently six active projects.
- There is little or no *organized* stakeholder involvement (i.e., an advisory committee) in identifying priorities.
- The program has struggled to remain in existence.
- The program has been unable to garner broad stakeholder support.

Additional Comments:

The NRSP-RC feels that this is an important effort but it needs to have more structure and guidance. This would commence with a retreat of the administrative advisors and other principals at a central location. This meeting would address organizational shortcomings and develop further approaches to codify the program.

A second meeting would bring together stakeholders including the drug industry, producers, USDA, with the aim of directly identifying problems, address funding needs and creating an Advisory Committee.

Several NRSP-RC members are interested in working with the committee to build support for the program to a level that would truly make it effective and impactful.