

Item 7.0: Science and Technology Committee Agenda Brief

Presenter: John Russin/Jeff Jacobsen

Action requested: None, for information only.

1. NAS AFRI Review

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviewed the NRC Report on *Spurring Innovation in Food and Agriculture: A Review of the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)*. In addition, the AFRI webinar slides and the NIFA response to the NRC Report served as additional sources of perspectives and information. In general, S&T supports the recommendations and offers additional emphasis in several key areas as a mechanism to further enhance and improve the impact of mission-oriented agricultural and natural resources research. Additional details of our deliberations can be found at: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=5>

The overview of key elements from the S&T discussions are:

- The NRC Review provided NIFA and the system with an initial opportunity to review, adjust and monitor AFRI programs across the initial years following its formation and implementation. We support the review process and encourage on-going engagement with NIFA to improve its programs through program and process changes. S&T encourages continued monitoring of NIFA implementation strategies and future reviews as the performance period of many initiatives is fully reached.
SUMMARY: S&T will monitor advancements over time. The ESCOP Chair and the research EDs could routinely discuss with NIFA leadership.
- All support a unified voice to increase the amount of total funding for AFRI. Many of the recommendations and the legislative intent of programs would then have the opportunity to reach their full potential in enhancing research, Extension and academic programs in agriculture and natural resources.
SUMMARY: We encourage the continued efforts to communicate and align the various COPS initiatives through their respective B&L committees, BAC and PBD. These are in conjunction with the Communication and Marketing as well as advocacy efforts through Cornerstone Government Affairs.
- We support the recommendations regarding simplification of the AFRI structure through prioritization of inquiry-driven and mission-driven approaches across priority areas, reducing or eliminating the Challenge Area approaches, careful and comprehensive review of CAP grants following their completion, support the reduction in CAP grant awards, improved consistency in program priorities across time and careful evaluation of grant application metrics.
SUMMARY: NIFA should be continually encouraged to review and implement the ESS Science Roadmap in their program priorities within and across federal agencies.
- S&T strongly encourages NIFA to provide leadership with programs that leverage initiatives and funding across federal agencies relevant to AFRI. On-going discussion with ESS, NIFA leadership and NPLs should occur on a routine basis. We also strongly support the creation of an AFRI Scientific Advisory Board or other appropriate mechanism to secure additional input to design relevant and high impact AFRI programs.

ACTION: ESS (and the other sections) should create a mechanism to integrate multiple agency initiatives. Alternatively, this could be added as a charge to the two B&L committees? S&T strongly supports the creation of a scientific advisory group with key faculty leaders. Note: Federal rules may prohibit this explicitly as an advisory group as it is not authorized, yet other mechanisms could be used. ESS leadership should have on-going discussion on this opportunity.

2. 2015 National Multistate Research Award

The Science and Technology committee received four nominations for the National Multistate Research Award this year:

- NC140: Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use
- NE1201: Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals
- S1049: Integrated Management of Pecan Arthropod Pests in the Southern U.S.
- W3122: Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Natural, Bioactive Dietary Chemicals on Human Health and Food Safety

The Science and Technology Committee selected **NC140** as this year's winner and this recommendation was approved by majority vote of the ESCOP Executive Committee. We received back 8 out of 10 possible votes; 7 were for approval, 1 for disapproval.

The 2016 National Multistate Research Award call for nominations document (below) was updated to reflect current practices and will be distributed nationally this fall, following the 2015 ESS/AES/ARD meeting and Workshop.

3. National Multistate Research Award – 2016 Call for Nominations

2016 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (updated June 2015)

Purpose

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority allows State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state could address singularly. This is a very high standard for any research project, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have

private sector participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

To many, the Multistate Research Program is one of the "best kept secrets" of the Land-grant University System.

The purpose of this Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and deemed by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

Award and Presentation

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA/NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will also be included in the awards brochure by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to APLU. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Centre.

For the past several years, the Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 of Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees), to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU annual conference. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, have been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

Eligibility

Any current Multistate Project listed in the NIMSS ([insert new NIMSS URL](#)) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

Basis for Nomination

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate Review Committee (MRC) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation

Regional selection of multistate teams for an Award for Excellence will be based on panel evaluations of nominations that demonstrate: high standards of scientific quality; research relevance to a regional priority; multistate collaboration on the problem's solution; and professional leadership in the conduct of the project. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria including, in descending order of importance, the Project's: accomplishments indicated by outputs, outcomes and impacts; added-value and synergistic advantages from the Project's interdependency; degree of institutional participation (SAES and others); extent of multi-disciplinary activity; amount of integrated activities (multi-functional); and evidence of additional leveraged funding to further the Project goals.

Selection Process

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee will serve as the review panel and will select from among the regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects shall be evaluated using the same criteria, as listed above.

Timeline

- October – Announcement sent to Directors, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional multistate research review or multistate research collaboration committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 30 – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP Science and Technology Committee
- June – ESCOP Science and Technology Committee reviews regional nominations and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – Award made at APLU meeting

Nomination Format

A nomination should be a very concise statement. It should include:

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project or Committee Number and Title: _____

Technical Committee Chair: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Administrative Advisor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Summary of Significant Accomplishment(s) (noting the following):

- The issue, problem or situation addressed by the project or committee;
- The project or committee's objectives;
- The outcome(s) of the research;
- The impacts of the project or activity (actual or anticipated);
- The extent of links to extension that have been formed; and
- Any additional and relevant partnerships, associations or collaborations that deserve mention.

List of Participating Institutions: Add as an appendix

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page Appendix listing Participating Institutions and units for a total of 4 pages. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Office of the regional Executive Director, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2016**:

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Rubie Mize, Northeast <rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu>

Donna Pearce, South <donna_pearce@ncsu.edu>

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