**ESCOP Science & Technology  
Call Notes: November 30, 2015**

**Committee Members:**

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Chair:** Marikis Alvarez (ARD) | | | |  |  |  | | **Delegates:** |  |  | | Larry Curtis (WAAESD) | | | | David Thompson (WAAESD) | | | | Joe Colletti (NCRA) | | | | Deb Hamernik (NCRA) | | | | Cameron Faustman (NERA) | | | | Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA) | | | | Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) | | | | Harald Scherm (SAAESD) | | | | John Yang (ARD) Ed Buckner (ARD) Chair Elect ? (WAAESD) | | | |  | | | |  |  |  | | **Executive Vice-Chair** | | | | Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder) | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Liaisons:** | | | | | Terry Nelsen (ERS) | | | | | TBD (OSTP) TBD (ARS) | | | | | Charles Allen (Pest Mgmt Subcom) | | | | | Edwin Price (ICOP) | | | | | Mark Skidmore (Social Sci Subcom) | | | | | Parag Chitnis (NIFA) | | | | | Denise Eblen (NIFA) | | | | |  | | | | |  |  |  |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |   **\*Chair elect** |

**Participants:** Marikis Alvarez, David Thompson, Joe Colletti, Deb Hamernik, Cameron Faustman, Adel Shirmohammadi, Harald Scherm, Parag Chitnis, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

**Action Items:**

1. Parag Chitnis continues to work on updating federal agency liaisons to S&T.
2. Jeff Jacobsen will contact Chavonda Jacobs-Young for the name of the ARS liaison to S&T (done).
3. Jeff will edit AGree Report S&T Review document (done, [see below](#agree)) and share with ESCOP leadership.
4. Please continue to review the APLU antibiotic resistance document for our January call. Jeff will work to have Chase Crawford join the call, as well (done).
5. Deb Hamernik will send federal register link on OSTP request for ag research innovations to S&T. See: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/05/2015-28289/identifying-sources-of-agricultural-innovation?et_rid=49286515&et_cid=90026>

**Call Notes**

1. Roll Call (see participants, above)
2. Minutes (review and approve) - Approved
3. Agenda (review and adopt) - Approved
4. S&T Liaisons Update (Parag Chitnis)
   1. Parag is connecting with OSTP to identify a liaison for S&T.
   2. OSTP priorities invite-only listening session happening on 12/1.
   3. NIFA data management plan webinars are on-going; the next one will be 12/4.
   4. Vacant liaison slots on S&T: Still TBD due to turnover, but Parag Chitnis is working on this still and Jeff Jacobsen will contact Chavonda Jacobs-Young directly for the ARS liaison.
5. Actions Update (Jacobsen)
   1. S&T Guidelines and Approaches – The S&T Guidelines and Approaches document approved during the 10/1/2015 meeting has been uploaded to the S&T page on the ESCOP website: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/ViewCommittees.cfm?comid=5>
   2. Riley Foundation Status
      1. Upcoming listening sessions with professional societies are occurring to refine the message
      2. Looking for AES involvement with key stakeholder groups to promote unified message. AES reps should specifically ask, “What can we do to help?’
      3. S&T in agreement with Riley Foundation Report
   3. AGree Report Review (attached, ALL discussion)
      1. Suggested edits: Second sentence: define “their”, who are “they”; Add website to review document
      2. This is a clear and concise review; Jeff will share with ESCOP leadership.
6. Addressing Antibiotic Resistance (attached, ALL discussion)
   1. Reactions to report: Possible increase in funding for alternatives to antibiotics, how to define success/metrics.
   2. Opportunities for ESCOP: Identifying source or process for funding
   3. Jeff will work to get Chase Crawford on next S&T call for further discussion. Perhaps discuss defining success/metrics with him.
   4. We will continue to discuss this report during our next S&T call.
   5. New multistate committee NCDC230 on antibiotic resistance formed recently.
7. S&T Delegates ‘Watch List Reports’ (ALL)
   1. Topic ideas should be sent to Jeff. These will become the focus of S&T reviews to be submitted to ESCOP for information/action.
8. OSTP request for input on innovations in ag and research priorities, due 12/4. Deb Hamernik will send federal register link to S&T. See: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/05/2015-28289/identifying-sources-of-agricultural-innovation?et_rid=49286515&et_cid=90026>
9. Other
   1. APLU Meeting Highlights (attendees)
      1. 1994 institutions notified APLU that they will no longer be members of APLU
      2. Discussion regarding increasing the number of land-grant institutions
      3. International APLU members, Mexico and Canada, present
      4. Sightlines LGU infrastructure survey presentation
      5. Communications and Marketing and the importance of presenting a unified message
      6. From ESCOP: Peer review of NRSPs and revisions of review guidelines, as related to proposed new National Agricultural Research Data NRSP proposal
   2. National IPM Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC) (Jacobsen) - Going forward, Jeff will work with NIPMCC and SSSc to provide updates to S&T and secure liaisons.
   3. Social Sciences Subcommittee (SSSc)          (Jacobsen) (see 8.b.)

Call adjourned at 4:49 pm ET.

**AGree Report: R****esearch and Innovation: Strengthening Agricultural Research**

The ESCOP S&T Committee reviewed, discussed and approved (11/30/2015) the following points from the June 2015 Report. In general, we support the Report’s narrative supporting current and future interests in substantially growing the agriculture and natural resources research infrastructure through a variety of mechanisms. AGree’s core members and advisors are represented by current and past public and federal officials whom are listed in the Report (page 14). We provide specific reaction and comments below to the vision and elements of the Report. Lastly, if there are no comments on the AGree recommendations we are neutral.

1. U.S. research priorities are continually evaluated and refined at the federal and state levels through vast stakeholder engagement, visioning by faculty and professional societies and in ESCOP with the Science Roadmap. This ongoing realignment and action-agenda supports change, efficiency, and the dynamic nature of agricultural research that is both fundamental, transdisciplinary, systems-based addressing current and future challenges.
2. New financial resources are urgently needed to meet the demands. In addition, we fully support a growing partnership with other federal agencies to support (and grow) agricultural research with NIFA. This was a key element of the NRC Review of the AFRI program which S&T fully supported an expansion of multiple agency strategic focus on relevant research.
3. We do support increased interactions with Congress through established mechanisms as a means to understand the critical issues being addressed by research in the food and agriculture challenge arena by LGU ESS/ARD. We question the need for additional Congressional oversight.
4. S&T recognizes the federal mandate and, more importantly, the scientific value of access to publications and data to enhance and scientific advancements from all sources of funding. We encourage a go slow approach as the federal agencies are working on multiple fronts to meet the mandate and LGUs are studying and implementing processes and practices. This will help to ensure that limited resources at the State and Federal level are used effectively and efficiently.
5. Rich stakeholder engagement occurs within the States on a regular and consistent basis. There may be some value in discussions that capture this input and aggregate it to a regional and national agenda, where appropriate.
6. Leveraging State and Federal resources with multiple stakeholders is a common and accepted practice. Very few issues are entirely the domain of the public or private sector.
7. New resources should be secured for both capacity and competitive funding mechanisms. AFRI programs have, unfortunately, been significantly below authorized levels for many years. The U.S. should strive to restore our global leadership in agricultural and natural resources research.
8. AGree’s Implementation Plan should provide additional venues to discuss and refine the U.S. infrastructure associated with NIFA, other federal agencies and LGUs. We welcome these actions and believe that ESS/ARD should be fully engaged in these efforts.

Report: <http://www.foodandagpolicy.org/sites/default/files/AGree_RII_2015_0.pdf>