

Item: ED Report

Presenter: Eric Young

Background Information:

SAAESD

Southern Region Bioenergy

As a follow up to the Aviation Biofuels Summit held last September, I'm working with Richard Altman, Executive Director of the Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuel Initiative (CAAIFI, www.caafi.org) who represents the U.S aviation industry (commercial and Defense) to identify and evaluate opportunities that may exist for the supply of both jet biofuel and green diesel to airports and airbases in our region. Richard believes there is great potential in the Southern region and would like to follow up on the possibility of collaborations with the aviation industry in a number of areas related to opportunities such as; cost/benefit analysis for the conversion of underutilized bio-diesel facilities; developing feedstocks that are potentially applicable to jet biofuel; identifying land available for new production facilities near a significant feedstock supply; or improving poor fuel distribution dynamics; among others. We are also working with Chris Cassidy at USDA to identify appropriate funding sources (e.g. State enterprise grants) that may be available for these types of opportunities. A conference call was held on Monday, March 1, to begin discussions with interested states. Follow up calls are being arranged with Richard and Chris and individual state's representatives to identify state-specific interest, capacity, and opportunities.

Grantsmanship Workshops

SAAESD co-sponsors the CSREES Competitive Programs and Writing Successful Grants workshops in Washington, D.C. with NERA. Also, our office manages the travel grants offered by CSREES to participants of minority serving institutions; including soliciting applications, reviewing applications along with Dan Rossi of NERA, approving grant awards, processing travel reimbursements, and disbursing funds.

Interstate Resource Sharing

At a recent Southern Region Administrative Heads meeting in Orlando those in attendance requested that I solicit and compile examples of faculty and facilities shared by two or more institutions across state lines. Currently there are a number of agreements where a faculty member works in two or more states or where two colleges share an outlying research facility. The administrative heads at the Orlando meeting agreed that these types of collaborations will be even more necessary in the future and examples of current successful agreements would be helpful for everyone. The initial request for this type of information yielded eight examples of shared faculty and one example of a shared facility. A preliminary compilation, including a brief description and the MOA/MOU for these examples, has been sent to the southern administrative heads, experiment station directors, and extension directors with a request for additional examples.

Cooperative Winter Nurseries

The Cotton Winter Nursery in Tecoman, Mexico, is an excellent example of collaboration between the southern region experiment station, USDA/ARS, the cotton industry, and the Mexican government which provides a winter nursery site for off-season seed increase and crossing of cotton breeding lines. There are a number of other crops where this type of research activity is done off-season to accelerate crop improvement progress. Over the next few months I will be identifying specific winter nurseries that are used by breeders across the region and nation and collecting information on these sites; including crops grown, institutions involved, breeder satisfaction with site, and opportunity for other breeders/institutions to utilize the site. The goal will be to increase the number and scope of winter nursery collaborations to gain economic efficiency and reduce unnecessary duplication.

Leadership SERA

An initial meeting of the writing committee for the Leadership SERA was held in Columbus in February. Seven people were in attendance in spite of travel restrictions, conflicts, and bad weather. I am the research administrative advisor for this project, along with the extension AA, Tim Cross, and academic programs AA, Ken Esbenshade. This will be the first three-function SERA that has been proposed. The

group developed a draft justification, goals, and objectives for the project, which are now being reviewed by the entire writing committee. The procedures will be developed once the objectives are agreed on by the whole group. This is a unique topic for a multistate project and it will likely take this writing group longer than usual to develop their proposal for submission to the directors.

SAAESD Assignments

NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Administrative Advisor

S-1043, Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture, Administrative Advisor

SDC-335, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health and Organic Farming, Administrative Advisor

AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor

AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor

SERA Review Committee

Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee, Tecoman Winter Nursery Steering Committee, and Cotton Winter Nursery Executive Committee

Southern Region IPM Center Steering Committee

Southern Region Water Quality Program Advisory Committee

T-STAR Caribbean Basin Advisory Group

Liaison to the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors

Liaison to the Association of Research Directors (1890s)

ESCOP

ESCOP Chair

My office is supporting Clarence Watson as the ESCOP Chair in 2009/10 and therefore Donna Pearce and I have a number of duties and responsibilities we don't normally have. These include such activities as arranging ESCOP and ESCOP Executive Committee meetings and agendas; facilitating monthly Chair's Advisory Committee conference calls; drafting ESCOP correspondence and other documents; and coordinating ESCOP's liaisons and affiliated groups.

BAA Policy Board of Directors System Integration Task Force

As support ED for the Integration Task Force, I have been involved with the Chair in facilitating conversations between the leaders of the Land-Grant System's two leadership programs, FSLI and LEAD-21, to explore whether or not any collaboration would be possible and desirable to gain cost efficiencies in these two programs. This conversation was begun last October and has resulted in an increased effort by the two programs to collaborate on joint marketing and recruiting for the programs. Over the next few months we will expand the discussions to examine the potential of bringing the two programs under one common management structure. While the programs themselves will remain separate, a common management will provide better coordination in marketing and recruiting, avoiding unnecessary program duplication, and ensuring an effective continuum of leadership development opportunities from beginning to advanced for the Land-Grant System and its partners.

The Task Force has also begun drafting the program for the New Deans, Directors, Administrator, and Program Leaders Orientation Workshop which will be held in December, 2010. An initial draft has been developed based on a Task Force meeting held this past February. The draft is currently being sent to various groups for feedback on concerns or suggestions regarding the various sessions and topics to solicit potential speakers.

New Science Roadmap

The SAES directors are in the process of rewriting the Science Roadmap, which is being lead by ESCOP's Science & Technology Committee, chaired by Bill Ravlin (Ohio State). This past summer over 500 scientists and administrators were involved in an effort to identify broad challenges that face the land grant research community in agriculture, food, and related areas, which resulted in naming seven challenge areas. Currently writing groups of 5-6 leading scientists have been formed for each of these seven challenges. I am responsible for facilitating the writing group for the challenge "We must heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices." The writing

groups are being asked to develop a 4-5 page white paper that outlines in broad terms the current status, knowledge gaps, and research needs related to meeting the challenge over the next 5 to 10 years.

ESCOP Assignments

BAA Policy Board of Directors (support for ESCOP representative)
National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (Executive Vice-Chair)
BAA System Integration Task Force (Executive Vice-Chair)
NIMSS Oversight Committee (Chair)
NRSP Review Committee (Executive Vice-Chair)
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (formerly the Farm Bill Committee)
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee
National Multistate Coordinating Committee

ESCOP Officers

Chair – Clarence Watson (OK State)
Chair-elect – Orlando McMeans (West Virginia State)
Executive Vice Chair – Eric Young (SAAESD)
Past Chair – Steve Pueppke (MI State)
Section Representative to BAA Policy Board of Directors – Nancy Cox (UKY)

Next Meeting

ESCOP, July 29-30, Seattle, WA (Joint COPs Meeting)