

**Item:** ED Report

**Presenter:** Eric Young

## **Background Information:**

### **SAAESD**

#### Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Ron Brown and I have been working with the AES and CES directors from the five Gulf coast states since last August in an effort to better coordinate research and extension activities related to the Gulf of Mexico. Early in the discussion it was decided that those AES's and CES's should join the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), a governors' partnership between state and federal agencies working in the Gulf. Our membership in GOMA was accepted formally in March and currently 45 research and extension faculty are part of GOMA's six Priority Issue Teams. Reuben Moore and Paul Coreil are our representatives on the Federal Workgroup, with Ron and I as alternates. The next GOMA conference will be in New Orleans, Aug 2-4.

#### Grantsmanship Workshops

The SAAESD office manages the travel grants offered by NIFA for of minority serving institutions' participants in the Competitive Programs and Writing Successful Grants workshops in Washington, D.C.; including soliciting applications, reviewing applications along with Dan Rossi (NERA) and Carolyn Brooks (ARD), approving grant awards, processing travel reimbursements, and disbursing funds.

#### 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. I identified those winter nurseries used by breeders across our region and collected information on these sites; including crops grown, institutions involved, breeder satisfaction with site, and opportunity for other breeders/institutions to utilize the site. This information is currently on the SAAESD web site and hopefully will inform directors of potential winter nursery collaborations to increase economic efficiency and reduce unnecessary duplication.

#### Interstate Equipment and Facility Sharing

At a recent Southern Region Administrative Heads meeting in Corpus Christi those in attendance requested that I consider compiling information on high-end laboratory equipment and facilities throughout the region to promote sharing of these resources and unnecessary duplication. This may be best done as an on-line survey with various categories of equipment and facilities that would result in a regional inventory of these resources. Thoughts and suggestions on how to approach accomplishing this would be welcome.

#### Leadership SERA

The Leadership SERA was approved for two years as SERA-42 beginning Oct 1, 2010. I am the research administrative advisor for this project, along with the extension AA, Tim Cross, and academic programs AA, Ken Esbenschade. The participants have identified a Core Planning Group that has had three conference calls so far to discuss how to proceed with the project's objectives.

#### 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

SCC-83, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health, Organic Farming and Food, Administrative Advisor

SERA-42, Enhancement of Leadership Capacity in the Food Systems through Coalition Development

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 1890 Research Directors

## **ESCOP**

### Science Roadmap for Agriculture

I was responsible for facilitating the Science Roadmap writing group for the challenge "We must heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices." This writing group consisted of five leading scientists in the areas of environmental farming systems, water quality, sustainable animal production, IPM, and ecosystem services. Over a five month period this winter the group collaborated on producing a seven page white paper outlining the current status, knowledge gaps, and research needs related to meeting this challenge over the next 5 to 10 years.

### 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. Following extensive discussions with representatives of FSLI and LEAD 21, a recommendation was made to the PBD in November that a Joint FSLI/LEAD 21 Committee be established to continue communication and explore potential coordination and collaboration between the two programs. The overall charge to the Joint FSLI / LEAD 21 Committee will be to help ensure sustainability of the LEAD 21 and FSLI leadership development programs through facilitation of communication, coordination, and collaboration between the two programs and with the entire Land Grant University system. The PBD System Integration Task Force chair will convene the Committee and I will provide support. Members of the Committee have just been appointed and the first meeting is being arranged for this spring or summer.

The Task Force has also conducted the New Deans, Directors, Administrator, and Program Leaders Orientation Workshop which will be held in December, 2010. Seventy six people from 35 universities and NIFA attended the workshop.

### NIFA Outcomes and Indicators Workshop

I assisted Bart Hewitt (NIFA) in selecting participants for the National Outcomes and Indicators Workshop held in February. The overall goal of this workshop was to define two or more national outcomes and indicators (research and/or extension) for each of the five NIFA priority areas which will be reported in the Plan of Work and Annual Report of Accomplishments in the future. Five teams, one for each priority area, consisting of an experiment station and extension representative from each of the five regions plus an evaluation specialist and facilitator worked for two and a half days and developed 3-6 outcomes and numerous indicators for each area. These results will be put into a common format by NIFA, vetted through the workshop participants, and then put out to the system for review and comments.

### 406 Task Force

ECOP has established a task force to develop options to save the programs and funding under the NIFA 406 budget lines, Integrated Programs. Nancy Cox, Wendy Wintersteen, and the research EDs represent ESCOP on this task force. The task force is discussing at least three different options to the current funding mechanism, including; reauthorizing integrated programs into one budget line that would fund 2-3 national issues each Farm Bill cycle, utilizing a funding mechanism similar to the NRSP's to support integrated work on large issues through each region, and absorbing the 406 programs and funding into Smith-Lever 3d lines. The task force is scheduled to report at the Joint COPs meeting in July.

### 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)  
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (formerly the Farm Bill Committee)  
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee  
National Multistate Coordinating Committee (Executive Vice-Chair)

### ESCOP Officers

Chair – Orlando McMeans (West Virginia State)  
Chair-elect – Lee Sommers (Colorado State)  
Executive Vice Chair – Carolyn Brooks (ARD)  
Past Chair – Clarence Watson (OK State)  
Section Representative to BAA Policy Board of Directors – Mark McLellan (UFL)

### Next Meeting

ESCOP, July 20-21, Boston, MA (Joint COPs Meeting)