

Agenda Item: NRSP Review Committee Update

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: For action/vote

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 June 17, 2014 for its annual meeting and held a follow up conference call on August 18th to discuss resources needed for the NRSP-1/NIMSS revision (see attached proposal and update) and remaining questions on the NRSP_temp321 proposal.

The following actions were taken by the NRSP-RC:

(Note: These actions are seconded motions that require a majority vote of the Directors to overturn. If this occurs there will be an alternative motion put forward for consideration.)

- **Guidelines Changes:**

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

- **Section III. A. General:** Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
- **Section IV. B Management and Business Plan:** Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

- **Funding recommendations:**

A summary of the NRSP portfolio, including NRSP-RC actions, is below.

NRSP 2014-2015

Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2012	Authorized FY2012	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Approved FY2014	†Request FY2015	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000		
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	
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	
NRSP_TEMP001 (NRSP1)							300,000	Approve 3-year budget ¹
NRSP_TEMP003 (NRSP3)							50,000	Approve 5-year budget
NRSP_TEMP301 (NRSP7)							325,000	Approve 1-year budget ²
NRSP_TEMP321							398,631	Approve 5-year budget ³

†Assuming an acceptable midterm review, all NRSP budgets were approved during 2012 Fall ESS Meeting for the duration of their current, five-year cycles.

¹NRSP-1 plans to terminate on September 30, 2014. NRSP_TEMP001 is requesting approval of a new 3-year proposal and budget to facilitate an overhaul of the NIMSS and maintenance of the new system through a 3-year contract with Clemson University; the impact communications component of the project is ongoing. The 3-year budget is:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
MRF Funding	300,000	183,500	183,500

²NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting a renewal proposal.

³Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP_temp321 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591
Other Funding	597,354	732,278	359,245	239,837	238,238
Total Project Budget	995,985	1,102,443	741,079	673,806	644,829

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2014	2014
NRSP-1 (NRSP_TEMP001)	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3 (NRSP_TEMP003)	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-6	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP301)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2014-2015	-
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015	2013
NRSP_temp321	National Animal Genome Research Program (NRSP8 renewal)	2014-2019	2017

Project Number: NRSP-1

Project Title: Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program

Requested Duration: October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017

Administrative Advisors: William Brown, Jeff Jacobsen, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi

NIFA Representative: Bart Hewitt

STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND JUSTIFICATION

NRSP-1 serves two critical functions for the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. First, it supports the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS). NIMSS was designed to facilitate the management of multistate research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF), from conception of the proposal to project termination. NIMSS is a web-based application allowing: (1) online submission of proposals, peer reviews and progress reports, and (2) ready access to this information. An automated e-mail notification function prompts users to take action and sends out notifications for meetings and report deadlines. Researchers, Extension educators, stakeholders and other cooperators can search NIMSS for relevant and timely information related to multistate research projects. In addition, the public has access to research project outlines and impacts. NIMSS is now serving all of the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions, allowing them to manage, in a totally paperless system, their multistate research portfolios. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) also uses NIMSS to download and integrate data into its management dashboard and pre-populate federal forms.

The second important function that NRSP-1 serves is the communication of impacts of multistate research and Extension activities. The impact communications component of NRSP-1 enhances the visibility of Land-grant institutions and the success of the multistate research projects. Impact statements are prepared by a communications specialist at the termination of every project (approximately 60 per year) and are sent to: Administrative Advisors, Regional Executive Directors and their assistants, NIFA representatives and the ESCOP marketing agency kglobal. Administrative Advisors share the statements with project participants, partner trade associations, regulatory organizations, and other stakeholders. The impact statements are posted on the Regional Association websites and are also entered into the National Land-grants Impact Database (<http://www.landgrantimpacts.org>). They are used by NIFA staff in the preparation of reports and responses to Congressional and other inquiries. kglobal features the impact statements on the Ag Is America website (<http://agisamerica.org/>), and on the Ag Is America Twitter feed (reaching over 26,000 users) and Facebook page with about 4,000 followers. This relatively new component of NRSP-1 has been extremely effective and very well received within the Land-grant University system, its public and private partners, its stakeholders and the public in general. Collectively, the NIMSS database system and the impact communications program provide for open and transparent systems that enhance compliance and accountability for SAES.

The Experiment Station Section is entering into a three-year contract with Clemson University to redesign, host and maintain NIMSS. The first year will be focused on the redesign of NIMSS, while the

following two years will provide ongoing maintenance and the opportunity to further enhance NIMSS. The NIMSS redesign will provide substantial direct benefits to administrators and staff of SAES, participating scientists, federal agencies, and many others utilizing this system. There will also be indirect benefits to the public through increased access to current activities and outcomes from the Multistate Research portfolio.

The contract with Clemson will be for the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017. The NRSP-1 Management Committee requests that the current NRSP-1 be terminated effective September 30, 2014 and that this new project be approved for a three year period, October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017, to correspond to the contract with Clemson. Approval of this request will allow the project to continue to provide critical research support services to the SAES system during the three year contract with Clemson. During the final year of this project, a new five year NRSP-1 project proposal will be developed to support the enhanced NIMSS and the impact communications programs.

IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives and Projected Outcomes

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the effectiveness and functionality of NIMSS and access and utilization of the NIMSS database.

Objective 2: More effectively document and communicate impacts of the multistate research activities

Outcomes:

At any given time, there are about 300 active multistate research projects and activities recorded in NIMSS. At its peak period, NIMSS gets 28,000 hits per day, and an average of 15,000 hits per day during normal operations. Data transferred varied from 2GB to 4GB per day, during slow to heavy periods. New users register daily and the number of registered active, frequent users are recorded at over 11,000. NIMSS will continue to serve this clientele and the public during the project period, allowing for timely submission of proposals and reports, conduct of peer reviews, meeting notifications, participation and access to information in real time.

In addition, new functionalities will be introduced in NIMSS to enhance access to and quality of information available to users. It is anticipated that participation will continue to be expanded to include those outside the Land-grant system, and will include additional federal and state partners, producers, commodity groups, foundations and foreign scientists. NIMSS will serve as an effective communication tool to share research data and hence, ease the application of new discoveries and technology transfer.

Since its inception in 2002, NIMSS has been used to collect and store information on hundreds of scientists working in multistate projects in specific Knowledge Areas (KAs), Subject of Investigation (SOI) and Field of Science (FOS). NIMSS serves as a national repository of experts and their specializations. This capability will be explored further to build programs to analyze where expertise can be tapped to address national and regional priorities and to solve emerging problems.

NIMSS will be transformed into an even more effective tool in reporting the accomplishments and impacts of agricultural research carried out by Land-grant institutions. This impact information will be used to prepare more effective impact statements from multistate research activities. The Impacts Communication Specialist will continue to refine and enhance the impact statements. More effective ways to communicate impacts will be developed to reach a broader audience. Timely and relevant impact stories will continue to be identified and targeted to popular press outlets such as newspapers (local and national), university publications, industry magazines, agriculture magazines and online news sites. These efforts will greatly enhance the visibility of the Land-grant universities and specifically demonstrate the return in public investment in the multistate research system.

Management Budget and Business Plan

General oversight, policy development, proposal preparation and budget recommendation will be provided by a Management Committee composed of: four Administrative Advisors, representing each of the four SAES regions; an ARD Director; a Cooperative Extension Director; the NIMSS Manager; the four Regional System Administrators; two director's administrative assistants who use NIMSS routinely; and two communicators/writers to advise the impact reporting program. The Administrative Advisors will elect one of their representatives to be the Lead Advisor and Chair of the Committee. NIFA will assign one or more non-voting representatives to the Committee.

NIMSS is managed by each of the Regional Associations serving the SAES. The Regional System Administrators handle the day-to-day tasks related to maintaining the system and answer queries from their users.

The WAAESD Office (WDO) provides coordination, editorial oversight, and physical space to the impact communications component of NRSP-1. The WDO also provides coordination between this effort and the ongoing efforts of ESCOP and ECOP (i.e., with kglobal, Cornerstone, the ESCOP/ECOP Communications and Marketing Committee, and the National Land-grant Impacts Database Project).

Funding for NRSP-1 will be provided through an off-the-top allocation from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. NRSP-1 will provide important administrative support services to research administrators and staff, project participants and other users of NIMSS and the impact communication efforts. Funding for NRSP-1 is seen as an administrative expense and alternative sources of funding are not anticipated.

Integration and Documentation of Budget Support

NRSP-1 was developed to facilitate the management and communication of the impacts of integrated research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. It supports all 1862 and 1890 Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension participants. The program can also accommodate integrated education activities as the need arises.

Outreach, Communications and Assessment

Input from SAES administrators and scientists on issues of policy, planning, and management of NRSP-1 is essential element in sustaining it as an effective support system. The approval of this NRSP provides

the mechanism to support the representation of user interests and provide a forum to assess the effectiveness of the outreach of the NRSP-1 programs.

The Regional System Administrators will serve as the primary contacts and source of information and training for university administrators, program managers, investigators, business officers, and station staff using NIMSS. The WDO will serve as the primary contact and source of information on the impact communications component. The NRSP-1 Management Committee will serve as stakeholder representatives in addressing assessment issues and to help evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The representatives will be responsible for collecting information from the institutions in their respective regions or associations to reflect the effectiveness of the NIMSS and the impact communications programs in meeting their needs and objectives. The Committee will provide an annual report outlining the accomplishments of the previous year in support of the objectives at the ESS fall meeting. A copy of the report will accompany the annual budget request.

PROJECT PARTICIPATION: All 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Institutions

LITERATURE CITED: N/A

BUDGET:	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
NIMSS:	\$245,000 ¹	\$128,500 ²	\$128,500 ²
Impact Communications Project:	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$183,500	\$183,500

¹ The 2014-15 NIMSS budget request of \$245,000 corresponds to the first redesign cost of \$265,000 proposed by Clemson minus \$20,000 in carry-over NRSP-1 funds residing at Rutgers.

² The 2015-16 and 2016-17 NIMSS budget requests of \$128,500 reflect the on-going operations and maintenance cost proposed by Clemson.

NIMSS Update (9/2014)

Presenters: Jeff Jacobsen, Dan Rossi

Current NIMSS - NIMSS had undergone two transfers in 2014. The first involved moving the system from the Univ. of Maryland to an external server, and the second to a Rutgers' Amazon Web Service account. The transfer to the Rutgers' server account was completed on August 27. Coding adjustments are underway to correct glitches due to a software upgrade (to ColdFusion ver.11) related to the second migration. Data entry is working and upload to the NIFA REEport has been restored. Approval letters and meeting authorizations are not automatically sent yet, but can be copied and pasted to committees as needed. At this time, the current system will be maintained and used until the newly re-designed NIMSS is ready for rollout. Maintenance of the current system is planned for the remainder of CY2014 and CY2015.

Future "NIMSS"- A subcommittee of NRSP1 [Jeff Jacobsen (chair), Bill Brown, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi, Shirley Hyman-Parker, Chris Hamilton] reviewed the responses to a national solicitation for a redesign of NIMSS. Available members of this group and two IT professionals (Robert Ridenour UTIA; John Chamberlain NMSU) participated in a conference call with Clemson's Youth Learning Institute Information Technology Team (ITT) to respond to provided questions and offer additional insights. Several follow-on calls were made to clarify residual questions. In addition, two other IT professionals reviewed this proposal with favorable recommendations. These details were provided to NRSP1 electronically and discussed in conference calls.

NRSP1 recommends developing a contract with Clemson's ITT for the redesign, operations and maintenance of the new system. The one-time cost of the redesign is \$265,000 and the on-going cost of operations/maintenance is \$128,500. This would require: 1) termination of NRSP1 on September 30, 2014, and renewal with a 3-year proposal and budget and 2) a contract for service with ITT.

Our discussion has been to develop a 3-year contract. One year of redesign and two years of operations/maintenance with the new system. This would result in a redesign that is responsive, operational and optimally tested by the national system over the following two years.

Recommended ESS Actions for NIMSS:

NRSP1 recommends that the new, 3-year NRSP1 budget for NIMSS be:

- \$245,000 one-time NIMSS redesign (\$265,000 - \$20,000 in carry-over funds) for FY2015
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2016
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2017
- The new 3-year budget would also include an increase the budget for the Impact Communications Specialist to \$55,000 (from \$53,410) for FY2015, FY2016, and FY2017 to accommodate variable fringe benefit rates.
- The total request for NRSP1 is \$300,000 [FY2015], \$183,500 [FY2016] and \$183,500 [FY2017] as presented in three-year NRSP1 proposal [FY2014-17].

A proposed NIMSS redesign team composed of: four regional NIMSS System Administrators (Chris Hamilton, Sarah Lupis, Rubie Mize, Donna Pearce), one Executive Director (Jeff Jacobsen), Director (Steve Loring), four State staff regional representatives (Shelley Whitworth [NC], Tammy Heil [S], Angie Dangerfield [W], Rachel Unger [NE]), NIFA representative (Katelyn Sellers). In addition, ITT recommends that 1-2 people become the day-to-day contacts for their programmers. Chris and Sarah have volunteered to be these contacts.