Follow Up Survey of Dec, 2011 Integrated Grants Workshop

1. To which research priority topic group were you assigned?
   a. (40.6%; 13) Increase productivity, nutritional value and local availability of plant and animal food products
   b. (31.3%; 10) Develop new plant and animal production systems, products, and uses to increase economic return and profitability for producers
   c. (28.1%; 9) Develop technologies and processes to improve production and conversion efficiency of regionally appropriate biomass into biofuels and other bioproducts

2. Did your team clearly identify potential funding agencies and programmatic opportunities for your priority area?
   a. Yes   68.8%; 22
   b. No   31.3%; 10

3. Did you become part of a team that intends to develop a multistate integrated research and extension project?
   a. Yes   71.9%; 23
   b. No   28.1%; 9

4. How much progress did your team make toward developing the framework for a multistate project?
   a. Considerable progress   3.1%; 1
   b. Some progress   81.3%; 26
   c. No progress   15.6%; 5

5. Do you believe that development and submission of a collaborative (multistate) and integrated (research and extension) proposal to a nationally competitive grant program in your priority area during the next 12 months is a likely outcome of this workshop?
   a. Highly likely   12.5%; 4
   b. Moderately likely   25.0%; 8
   c. Uncertain   37.5%; 12
   d. Moderately unlikely   18.8%; 6
   e. Highly unlikely   6.3%; 2

6. Would you recommend the Integrated Proposal Development Workshop to your peers?
   a. Yes   87.5%; 28
   b. No   12.5%; 4

7. Provide suggestions you have for improving the workshop: (unedited responses below)
   a. If there is some way to better integrate the teams previous to the workshop - for example, we had beef livestock people with tree fruit researchers/outreach. That is a reach to have a team form around a common theme with such diverse research areas. I understand the systems integration portion, but if we had a forage breeder, soil scientist, economists, marketers, then I think a more integrated team could have been formed.
   b. Excellent workshop, thanks. My group assignment was correct, but some faculty admitted they had been assigned to the wrong group, so better communication is needed there. The EQ book was interesting, opportunity to put to practice some of the skills would have been helpful. Administrative strategies to organize a large team would have also been helpful. Also, I had an idea that a group exercise on writing smart objectives would have been productive. Each table receives several objectives, and works as a group to improve them. Would have increased dialog and participation during that section (but the candy was fun!) Great location and well executed - thanks again!
   c. In overall, the workshop was good. However, the content may be focused with advanced proposal writing skills than that of basic skills.
   d. I think I would like to see more examples of successful funded multistate proposals, and perhaps hear from the PIs of those proposals.

e. There needs to be a much better job in grouping people together. The people that were in my group, were much to diverse to really collaborate on a project. However, I was able to interact with several people in an alternate section, from which we are in the works of developing a proposal.

f. this was great as is! Maybe add an extra day to look over potential RFP's the team could apply for.

g. Provide opportunities for the priority area groups to interact with each other - I think the bioenergy group and production systems group had significant areas of overlap that could have been explored.

h. I am not sure if we identified a framework or brain stormed, but we do have the intent to work on our ideas some more. One thing that might help the next group is to align group members so that their respective disciplines are more congruent. This would help with the inclusion aspect of different group members.

i. Too much lecture - need more small group time to develop ideas and learn team strengths.

j. I know this is nearly impossible, but id team members prior to participation rather than random draw.

k. it seems difficult to put too many unfamiliar people with various research background into a team to develop one proposal. If there will be next workshop, I would suggest giving more time for people to recognize each other, introduce their research preferences and make their own groups for some projects they share interest Not necessarily to have 10+ people in one project.

l. More background information before the workshop 2. More time to know each other 3. Placing people with different (so different) backgrounds is not a healthy option

m. I think it is important to invite people with similar researches interests in order to optimize the potential for collaborations. Or, at least make participant bios available before the workshop to enable participants to move forward more efficiently.

n. I suggest beginning with some specific funding opportunities in mind and organize teams around those. That might allow the group work to be more focused and productive.

o. The objectives submitted prior to the workshop should be used during the group work. Surprised they were not even looked at until the last session.

8. Do you have ideas of how we (Eric Young or Ron Brown) can facilitate your group in building effective teams and developing high quality proposals, e.g., set up conference calls, collect and share information from other participants, etc. If so, please make the request here: (unedited responses below)

a. Eric and Ron, I think you guys are already in the loop on the local foods group's conference call on Jan 19. :-) Thanks for your offer of help!

b. Not completely sure at the moment. Many of our team members have shown some interest to contribute and participate on large proposals. But I feel some lack of motivation among team for multiple reasons. If you can facilitate to motivate the team for high quality proposal.

c. Encourage our experiment station directors to support travel to a regional planning meeting, such as the one plan for Feb. 5th in Birmingham in conjunction with SAAS.

d. Already have a team conference call set up!

e. Collect and share information from other teams/priority areas so each of the participants could see the best fit for his expertise and interests

f. concentrate more on the mechanics of forming teams within your professional collaborations as opposed to trying to force something with others attending the same workshop.

g. there is a need for follow-up via conference calls or one additional meeting.

h. I am currently in one group with a project that I don't feel I can do too much in it. But we do have set up conference call.

i. I will try (I did try but no answers yet) again to get back to a few of my colleagues and I will get back to Ron or Eric.

j. Our group plans to develop and submit a planning grant to NIFA. Setting up conference calls and any guidance would be appreciated.