Five-Year Plan 2000-2005

Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

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SAAESD member states and U.S. territories:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the Virgin Islands

mission

The Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) facilitates research of its member agricultural experiment stations to enhance the quality of life throughout the Southern Region and nation.

The SAAESD:

- is an association of research administrators of the state agricultural experiment station system within the 1862 land-grant universities of the 13 southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands;
- solicits stakeholder and member input to identify high-priority research needs in food, agriculture and natural resources for the Southern Region;
- encourages and establishes relevant research activities that are multi-state, multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary and multi-functional;
- provides a link to related academic, governmental, industrial and private allies to represent the nature, importance and needs of member agricultural experiment stations;
- communicates timely information to member agricultural experiment station administrators to enhance their ability to engage effectively interested public, clientele and funding groups;
- expands the regional and national impact of member agricultural experiment stations through broad advocacy for agriculture and agricultural research.

vision

The Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) will be a highly efficient and effective facilitator of high-quality research relevant to the needs of the Southern Region.

The SAAESD will:

- regularly solicit stakeholders' and members' opinions in a systematic planning and prioritization process that identifies and updates Southern Region research priorities;
- facilitate the development of and coordinate research activities that are multi-state, multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, multi-functional and that address currently identified Southern Region needs;
- have strong linkages to appropriate academic, governmental, industrial and private entities that foster productive alliances between those entities and member agricultural experiment stations;
- manage a comprehensive information gathering, storing and disseminating network that provides for reporting, analysis, planning and accountability of Southern Region research;
- be an active and effective advocate for the state food, agriculture and natural resources research system at the regional, national and international levels;
- facilitate interaction and coordination of research activities with extension activities.

Southern Region Priority Areas for Multi-state Research Activities

The vision of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors is to be a highly efficient and effective facilitator of high-quality research relevant to the needs of the Southern Region. To accomplish this vision successfully, the Southern Directors will engage faculty with expertise in the physical, biological and social sciences in multi-state research activities in high-priority areas. In addition, to assure relevancy of our research programs, our stakeholders from agriculture, forestry, natural resources and rural communities will assess the merit of our research activities. When appropriate, research activities will include the entire range from discovery to application.

The following are areas of high priority for multi-state research and will serve as a guide for soliciting and approving multi-state research activities over the next five years.

Goal 1. An Agricultural System That Is Highly Competitive in the Global Economy

- Integrated and sustainable agricultural production systems
- Precision agriculture
- Regional impact of the Food Quality Protection Act
- Value-added plant and animal genes in conventional breeding and molecular biology
- New plant and animal species for agricultural production
- Bio-based products
- Competitiveness in international markets
- Processing agricultural byproducts
- Health and well-being of food animals
- Public policy and economics of agricultural production systems

Goal 2. A Safe and Secure Food and Fiber System

- Food safety
- Plant and animal food and fiber processing systems

Goal 3. A Healthy and Well-Nourished Population

- Nutritional quality of plant and animal food products
- Food choices for optimum nutrition and individual health
- Functional foods for enhancing health
- Prevention and treatment of diet-related diseases
- Interrelationships of food animal health and human health

Goal 4. Greater Harmony Between Agriculture and the Environment

- Air, soil and water resources conservation and enhancement
- Natural resource and ecosystem management
- Multiple uses of agricultural lands
- Environmentally benign agricultural operations
- Nutrient management in agricultural systems
- Integrated pest management systems, including biologically-based tactics
- Environmental policy and regulations

Goal 5. Enhanced Economic Opportunity and Quality of Life for Americans

- Economic and policy analysis of agricultural industrialization
- Rural community development and revitalizing rural economies
- Risk management and assessment in agricultural systems
- Suburbanization of rural areas
- Housing quality in rural areas
- Agriculture-related social and consumer concerns

SAAESD OPERATIONAL PLAN 2000 - 2005

Goal 1. Improve the effectiveness of agricultural research management.

Objective 1: Share research management approaches and successful leadership experiences through professional development programs, seminars, workshops and in other ways.

Objective 2: Develop improved performance and accountability measures to better assure scientific quality and research relevance.

Objective 3: Develop, maintain and share methods for assessing the impacts of research.

Objective 4: Enhance the effective use of the Southern Region's research capacity (human, fiscal and physical resources) for solving relevant problems.

Objective 5: Appropriately use merit assessment (stakeholders) and peer review (scientists) to ensure the relevance and quality of research activities.

Objective 6: Develop a program portfolio for the Southern Region's research activities.

Goal 2. Expand the research capability of the Southern Region's agricultural experiment stations to respond to stakeholder needs.

Objective 1: Emphasize the development of science-based knowledge and technology through a targeted portfolio of priority multi-state, multi-disciplinary and multi-functional research activities.

Objective 2: Develop a rapid response process for initiating short-term multi-state research activities to address rapidly emerging issues or problems.

Objective 3: Expand consultation, participatory planning and stakeholder involvement in program implementation.

Objective 4: Facilitate expanding funding opportunities, including the development of nontraditional sources of funding.

Objective 5: Directly contribute to CSREES reporting requirements.

Objective 6: Support communication of research impacts.

Goal 3. Expand and reinvigorate our strategic partnerships.

Objective 1: Strengthen partnerships among the member agricultural experiment stations.

Objective 2: Develop and enhance partnerships with federal agencies, private laboratories, commodity groups and other non-governmental organizations, including international partners.

Objective 3: Foster improved integration of research, extension and academic programs.

Objective 4: Promote collaborations with cross-functional institutes, centers and similar organizations.