

# **SERA 46, Framework for Nutrient Reduction Strategy Collaboration: The Role for Land-grant Universities**

## **Update**

**September, 2016**

SERA-46 has quarterly conference calls to discuss progress on objectives and Hypoxia Task Force shared priorities. A small group of the committee also met in January in Ames, IA to work on these items and the annual project meeting was in conjunction with the Hypoxia Task Force meeting in April in St. Louis, MO. The group has continued to work to strengthen networks between the Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) and the Land Grant University system (LGU). They've provided information to the HTF on why there are differences in LGU recommendations on nitrogen management and a short white paper with a proposal was developed that would address these differences and integrate for 4R outreach. Mississippi State University lead an effort to review the HTF states' nutrient reduction strategies to identify common goals, approaches and attributes. A publication has been prepared that helps explain the science behind solutions for reducing nitrogen export in tile drained lands. This publication will be released from the University of Illinois Extension in August of 2016.

One priority item of SERA-46 is to develop and implement a social indicators system that will guide, evaluate and advance implementation of state strategies for nutrient loss. A white paper/proposal on this topic was funded by USEPA, entitled "Using Social and Civil Engagement Indicators to Advance Nutrient Reduction Efforts." Another priority item is to create a network of watershed practitioners and farmer leaders to strengthen the implementation effectiveness of nutrient reduction strategies. A project on this topic was also funded by USEPA, entitled "Building Capacity for Watershed Leadership and Management in Twelve Mississippi River Basin States."

A critical group for educating producers on nutrient management are Certified Crop Advisors and SERA-46 is working in partnership with the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Certified Crop Advisors program to better engage this group. SERA-46 is continuing to work on monitoring, calibration, and validation and the potential for LGUs to contribute data to the water quality portal. Pilot projects have been identified for testing this process and developing case studies, there is also potential to engage the water institutes in each state to participate in this process. SERA-46 is looking at how to better factor economics into its priorities and provide information to the HTF in this area. Presentations were given at the January and April meetings on economic evaluation of improved water quality and on ecosystem services, which are critical areas that need continued efforts. Most recently project leaders discussed with the HTF potential projects related to metrics and measures of nutrient reduction.