

Examples of Tangible Objectives and Outcomes for SERA's

The Southern extension and research directors want to ensure that SERA proposals are developed in such a way that the research and extension activities are balanced, integrated, and produce tangible benefits for stakeholders. Many past proposals have been weak in this regard, particularly related to the proposed extension aspects of the project. The following examples of good objectives and outcomes are intended to help guide writing committees in developing proposals that achieve this goal.

SERA-37: *The New Hispanic South: Strengthening the Capacity of the Region's Land-Grant University System to Respond*

Objectives

1. Establish and facilitate dialogue and information exchange among land-grant representatives from the South dealing with key Hispanic issues in the region.
2. Catalogue the research and Extension resources existing within the region and beyond that focus on issues associated with the expanding growth of Hispanics in urban or rural areas. In addition, facilitate access by land-grant faculty in the region to this important repository of information.
3. Identify the existing gaps in the research and/or Extension resources that focus on important Hispanic issues in the South, and seek to mobilize land-grant faculty in the region to address these gaps.
4. Identify, analyze, and prepare a series of information briefs that profile the demographic, educational, social, and economic changes associated with the region's Hispanic population, and outline the important implications associated with these trends.
5. Design and sponsor training program(s) that introduce and expand the capacity of Extension faculty in the region to work with, and deliver educational programs targeted to, the South's expanding Hispanic population.

Potential outputs and outcomes

- Obj 2 and 3 - an online list of relevant Extension educational programs/publications for the region, maybe an annotated bibliography with appropriate links would be a good output. A desired outcome is that Extension faculty would use these publications/resources to prioritize and develop new educational resources for those areas in which gaps are identified. Similarly, a periodically updated list of knowledge gaps and research expertise would lead to multistate collaborations on research grants and activities, ideally integrated with development of extension resources.
- Obj 4 and 5 - a suitable output would be an online and/or printed set of information briefs and multistate or regional training programs that could be online or in person. An outcome would be a subset of Extension faculty who have an increased capacity to work with and deliver programming to Hispanic audiences in the South.

SERA-6: *Methodology, Interpretation, and Implementation of Soil, Plant, Byproduct, and Water Analyses*

Objectives

1. To develop, modify, and document reference analytical procedures for laboratories performing agricultural and environmental analyses in the Southern region.
2. To encourage uniformity in the soil test correlation/calibration/interpretation process for the development of nutrient and resource management guidelines among geographic areas that share similar soils, crops, climate, and environmental concerns.
3. To encourage analytical proficiency and adequate quality assurance/quality control among laboratories in the Southern region

4. To provide unbiased scientific reasoning for the proper use and interpretation of soil, plant, byproduct, and water analyses and their application to resource management
5. To facilitate the sharing and transfer of research data and educational materials among public institutions, laboratories, and other entities that use information generated from soil, plant, byproduct, and water analyses.

Potential outputs and outcomes

- Existing procedures and fact sheets will be revised as necessary
- New procedures, and fact sheets or bulletins will be developed by participants as necessary
- More uniform testing and interpretation of agricultural and environmental samples in the Southern Region
- The public will be better informed about changes in agricultural testing, crop production and environment protection
- The labs in the Southern Region will play a more important role in agricultural production and environmental protection

SERA-40: *Coordination of Winter Canola Research Programs in the Southern Region*

Objectives

1. Establish and facilitate dialogue and information exchange among land-grant representatives from the South dealing with winter canola production issues in the region.
2. Catalogue the research and extension resources existing within the region and beyond, which focus on issues associated with the expanding growth of winter canola in the South.
3. Identify the existing gaps in the research and/or extension resources that focus on important winter canola issues in the South, and mobilize land-grant faculty in the region to address these gaps.
4. Design and sponsor training program(s) that introduce and expand the capacity of extension faculty in the region to work with and deliver educational programs targeted to winter canola acreage expansion.

Potential outputs and outcomes

- Outputs and outcomes for SERA 40 could model those for SERA 37 - just a different subject area.

SERA-39: *Public Policy Issues Education*

Objectives

1. Provide opportunities for exchange of information, professional development, recognition and activity coordination for Land Grant Extension personnel and others engaged in public policy issues education.
2. Strengthen multi-state partnerships and professional association collaborations among faculty having responsibilities in public policy education with the goal of increasing relevant PPIE education in the southern region and nationwide.
3. Develop public policy issues education curricula and training activities in a variety of venues and formats, and with a variety of audiences, utilizing the proven alternatives/consequences approach to policy education.
4. Advance scholarship in public policy issues education and analysis through peer-reviewed educational materials and products.

Potential outputs and outcomes

- Online and/or printed curricula and training activities
- Better informed extension educators and/or citizens who are beneficiaries of the curriculum activities