Item 11.0  Multistate Research Awards
Presenter: EDs
Background:

Experiment Station Section

Awards for Excellence in Multistate Research

Purpose
The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority allows State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to interdependently collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state could address singularly. This is a very high standard for any research project, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program’s management objectives.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects even have private sector and foreign participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

To many the Multistate Research Program is one of the "best kept secrets" of the Land-Grant University System.

The purpose of this program is to annually recognize those scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and in doing so enhance the visibility of the multistate program.

Award
- A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and deemed by the review panel to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate activities.

Award and Presentation
The National Excellence in Multistate Research Award will consist of a plaque for the project's group chair and a certificate for each participating scientist to be presented by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Chair and USDA/Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) Administrator during the Awards Program held at the NASULGC Annual Meeting. ESCOP will contribute 50% of the travel expenses for the national winner to attend the awards ceremony.
Eligibility
Any current Multistate Project listed in the NIMSS (http://nimss.umd.edu/) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award.

Basis for Nomination
Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional multistate review committee (MRC) chair via the regional Executive Director’s office.

Such nominations should describe the:
- Accomplishments that have been realized by the Project as measurable outputs, outcomes and benefits (either directly or through indicators); and
- Synergistic advantages of the particular project derived through interdependency.

The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation
Selection of multistate teams for an Award for Excellence will be based on panel evaluations of nominations that demonstrate: high standards of scientific quality; research relevance to a regional priority; multistate collaboration on the problem's solution; and professional leadership in the conduct of the project. All nominated shall be evaluated using the same criteria including, in descending order of importance. The Project’s:

1. Accomplishments, indicated by outputs, outcomes, and impacts,
2. Added value, from the Project’s interdependency;
3. Degree of institutional participation (SAES and others as well);
4. Extent of multi-disciplinary activity; and,
5. Amount of integrated activities (i.e., is it multi-functional).
6. Evidence of additional leveraged funding to further the goals of the project.

Selection Process
The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee will select from among the regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the NASULGC Annual Meeting each year.
Format for Applications or Nominations

An application or nomination should be a very concise statement. It should include:

**Number and Title:**
Name(s) and addresses of individuals nominated
Phone ______________________________
E-mail ______________________________
(Add more lines as needed for additional committee members)

**Summary of Project's Significant Accomplishment(s)** (should be less than 3-5 (?) pages) noting:

- The issue, problem or situation addressed by the project or committee;
- The project or committee's objectives;
- The outcome(s) of the research;
- The impacts of the project or activity (actual or anticipated);
- The extent of links to extension that have been formed; and
- Any additional and relevant partnerships, associations or collaborations that deserve mention.

Nominations should be submitted by email to the Office of the regional Executive Director.