

## **Agenda Item A: Budget and Legislative Committee Report**

### **Priority-Setting Process of ESS for FY 2010 and 2011 Budgets**

**Presenter: David Boethel/Mike Harrington**

#### **SECTION PRIORITIES FY 2010**

The Budget and Legislative Committee completed the priority setting process for the 2010 budget cycle. Using FY 2009, as a starting point break out discussions were held at the 2007 ESS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia to identify new/emerging issues. This was followed by an on-line survey to which there were 62 responses.

##### **Overarching Priorities:**

- The Directors continue to indicate that maintaining capacity for research through base funds (Hatch, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health) is the top priority by a 3:1 margin over moving funds into competitive programs.
- Increasing funding for the NRI with emphasis on integrated activities is also an important priority
- The Directors did not favor focusing formula funds on specific topics in order to gain increases in these funds but did favor matching new formula funds for specific initiatives.

##### **Ranked Research Priorities:**

1. Biobased Economy; Food, Nutrition, Health and Well-Being (Tie)
2. Environment
3. Food Agrosecurity

#### **SECTION PRIORITIES FY 2011 PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

The Budget and Legislative Committee is currently conducting electronic survey in preparation for the ESS Annual Meeting. As of this writing there have been 48 responses; results are as follows:

##### **Overarching Priorities:**

- The Directors indicate that maintaining capacity for research through base funds (Hatch, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health) is the top priority by 70%:30% margin over moving funds into competitive programs.
- Increasing funding for the NRI with emphasis on integrated activities continues to be an important priority
- The Directors favor the concept of “continuing services” increases for the formula programs but suggest that the increase should be 5% to 10% rather than the rate of inflation.
- Directors strongly favored seeking increases for new research programs in the 2008 Farm Bill:
  - Biomass Research and Development – 83%
  - Specialty Crops Research Initiative – 83%
  - Organic Agriculture- 52%

#### **CHANGING BAA-BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PROCESS**

Heretofore each section submitted several (or more) priorities into the BAC process, which, unfortunately, resulted in a rather long list making it difficult to communicate priorities to decision makers. In light of this, the BAC has been working to develop a much shorter list of priorities. To this end the ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee has included in the above survey a question: “What is the next \$100 Program?”

#### **BREAK OUT DISCUSSIONS FOR THE ESS ANNUAL MEETING**

Discussion breakout groups will reaffirm 2010 priorities, develop preliminary priorities for 2011 and discuss the next \$100 million program. A follow-up survey will be used to refine priorities.