



United States Department of Agriculture  
Research, Education, and Economics

# Beginning the New Relevance and Adequacy Process

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# Points for Discussion

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Role of Roadmap, REE Action Plan &  
NAREEEAB

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Priority Setting – Relevance & Adequacy



# Origins and Experience

Congress and the Administration have sought effective planning, coordination and evaluation of ag research and education since at least the 1970s (National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 – NARETPA)

- Boards have prepared annual reports of relevance and adequacy of research agendas and of financing
- New plan for review meets statutory needs and can lead to real knowledge for the Board, the Department and stakeholders



# Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

- Created Chief Scientist position with responsibility for “the coordination of the research, education and extension activities of the Department”
- Assigned specific functions and duties to USec/Chief Scientist:
  - Identify, address, and prioritize current and emerging agricultural research, education and extension needs (including funding);
  - Ensure that programs are effectively coordinated and integrated
  - Promote the collaborative use of all research, education and extension resources
  - Foster communication



# Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (cont.)

- Required a “Roadmap” for agricultural research, education and extension and involvement of Federal and non-Federal entities and the NAREEE Advisory Board
- Recommend funding levels for extramural and intramural programs
- Required the Secretary to implement, use and make public the roadmap within one year



# Implementation

- Office of the Chief Scientist established through Secretary's Memorandum – 3/16/2010
- Roadmap – 3/31/2010
- Science Council – 12/2010 (meets quarterly)
- OCS codified in Department Regulation – 2/28/2011
- REE Action Plan released (after stakeholder input) – 2/2012
  - NAREEE Board review
- REE Action Plan revised – 3/2014
  - NAREEE Board review
- REE Action Plan annual reports posted– 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 (in final clearance)



# A Roadmap for USDA Science

## 3/31/2010

- Established priorities: Bioenergy, Climate Change, Food Safety, Child Nutrition, International Food Security
- Stated that:
  - Implementation will be through budgetary and program-planning processes
  - Council of USDA agencies will meet periodically to prioritize and plan programs



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges



Food Security



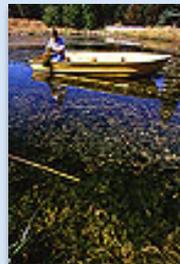
Food Safety



Human Nutrition &  
Health



Building the  
Bioeconomy



Sustainable Agricultural  
Systems Resilient to  
Climate Change



## OIG Audit Impact

- Recently the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has been examining the creation of the Office of the Chief Scientist
- They have focused on the Action Plan as a means to organize priority research in USDA
- Their draft audit recognizes that NAREEEAB can be a legitimate actor for external review of our efforts to coordinate and identify gaps in our research. Final report will be released shortly for 30 day comment period.



# How does the new Relevance and Adequacy Review fit in?

- Priorities for USDA research and education set through Roadmap
- Roadmap goals and strategy set through Action Plan
- Priorities, goals and strategy implemented through agencies, REE, USDA and Administration strategic and budget planning
  - Action plan – aligns with agencies, RFAs, budget initiatives
  - Adjusts to emerging issues: pollinator health, AMR, bio-economy
- Agencies are accountable through established internal controls, program planning and evaluation processes
- Office of Chief Scientist (OCS) produces annual report on Action Plan accomplishments
- NAREEE Board provides external review of priorities/goals/achievements of agencies and provides recommendations on 5-year cycle



## Role of Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)

- The Relevance and Adequacy review is a combined effort of the agencies, Office of the Chief Scientist and the NAREEAB.
- The OCS senior advisors for nutrition and food safety have helped the agencies prepare for your R&A review
- As Chief Scientist I believe your reviews can help the Chief Scientist to carry out statutory responsibilities



# Some Developments Relative to Reviews - Nutrition

- Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research Roadmap coming in early 2016
- Research needs were identified in the Scientific Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee



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*The new R&A review will lead to new understandings and advice*

Many Thanks!  
Are there questions?

