Origin and Overview of the Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) Program

RiceCAP Board Meeting
November 16-17, 2004
Tucson Arizona

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US Department of Agriculture
Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
Washington DC

USDA
Research, Education and Economics (REE) Mission Area

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

National Research Initiative (NRI)

Applied Plant Genomics Program

RiceCAP
Mission

• CSREES’ unique mission is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, & communities by supporting research, education, & extension programs in the Land-Grant University System & other partner organizations

• CSREES doesn’t perform actual research, education, and extension but rather helps fund it at the state and local level & provides program leadership in these areas

CSREES Strategic Goals

• The CAP program contributes to 3 goals of the CSREES strategic plan:

➢ Enhance the Nation’s economic opportunities for agricultural producers
➢ Enhance protection & safety of the Nation’s agriculture & food supply
➢ Improve the Nation’s food, & health
CAP Concept

2003 strategic planning working groups:

- NRI Chief Science Advisor
  - Dr. Brad Fenwick

- Develop focused NRI programs based on stakeholder input & linked to the USDA, REE, & CSREES strategic plans

- CAP concept emerged........

CAP Concept

- Serve as a catalyst for the larger community to coordinate / complement current & future efforts in area of National need

- Strong advisory board (scientific expertise + stakeholder input) that evaluates & guides ongoing focus areas each year

- Incorporate budget flexibility to encourage responsiveness to new leads / developments
CAP for Research, Education & Extension

• Community based, large-scale, multi-million dollar projects intended to promote collaboration, open communication & exchange of information, reduce duplication of effort, coordinate activities among individuals, institutions, states & regions

• Respond to emerging or priority areas of National need

• Project flexibility in funding to accomplish time-critical objectives of National interest that the awardees determine at a later date

• Awards made as continuation grants (i.e., dollars released on an annual basis)

• FY 2004, 3 NRI Programs: Applied Plant Genomics; Animal Biosecurity; Food Safety

FY 2004 Applied Plant Genomics CAP

• Initiated in FY 2004
  - Goal is to engage the applied plant sciences, both public and private, & involve them in the application of basic discoveries to U.S. crop improvement
  - Focused on large-scale rice translational genomics for U.S. agriculture
  - Encouraged community planning for applied plant genomics to bridge the gap between molecular biologists & plant breeders
A Coordinated Research, Education and Extension Project for the Application of Genomic Discoveries to Improve Rice in the United States

To combine phenotypic analysis with genomic tools to better understand the chromosomal location & genetic control of traits that are important to the US rice industry for crop improvement

Cross training and extension workshops to link together the molecular biology & breeding programs & effectively communicate with stakeholders and end users

September 2004 - Phase 1: Management phase to implement project structure & organization
November 2004 - Stakeholder & Scientific Boards meet with Project Directors to seek input about their plans
January 2005 - Phase 2: Initiate implementation of project objectives

Planning Workshops

Objective:
To facilitate community planning for large-scale applied plant genomic CAPs

Approach:
Workshops to bring together a community of plant breeders, genome scientists, end-users, growers, & other experts to identify research, education and extension needs, update information & to advance translational genomics research

2004 Workshops:
• Wheat (August 2004)
• Barley (November 2004)
• Cotton (December 2004)
• Soybean (December 2004)
Rice CAP

- Bringing together a community of scientists and stakeholders with a shared vision & a plan to facilitate translation of basic discoveries & technology to U.S. rice improvement
- Metrics: How will progress toward project goals be measured?
- Project legacy: What will it be?
- Acknowledge USDA-CSREES support
- Lead the way: chart the course for future CAPs....