

2026 S1090 Multistate Meeting

Basic Information

- **Project No. and Title:** S1090: AI in Agroecosystems: Big Data and Smart Technology-Driven Sustainable Production
- **Meeting Date:** March 30, 2026
- **Location:** Plant Science Building, North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, NC
- **Meeting Format: Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)**
- **Leadership Team:** Yuzhen Lu (past chair), Akinbode Adedeji (Chair), Dongyi Wang (chair-elect), Mahendra Bhandari (Secretary)

Participants

A total of 38 participants attended the meeting, including 35 people in person and 3 via Zoom. Attendees included: Akinbode Adedeji, Yiannis Ampatzidis, Chetan Badgujar, Frank (Geng) Bai, Maria Bampasidou, Marcelo Barbosa, Mahendra Bhandari, Nipuna Chamara, Abhilash Chandel, Anjin Chang, Ignacio Ciampitti, Younsuk Dong, Reza Ehsani, Peng Fu, Hao Gan, Thanos Gentimis, Hussein Gharakhani, Shirin Ghatreh Samani, Ivan Grijalva, Bobby Hardin, Daniela Jones, Karun Kaniyamattam, Bulent Koc, Won Suk Lee, Xiaofei Li, Yuzhen Lu, Erdogan Memili, Daniel Morris, Ira Parsons, Ahmed Rabia, Tanzeel Rehman, Carlos Rodríguez López, Tri Setiyono, Henry Medeiros, Robert Strong, Luis Tedeschi, George Vellidis, and Pappu Yadav.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in a hybrid format in conjunction with the AI in Agriculture Conference at NCSU and aligned with the S1098 multistate project. It took place one day prior to the AI conference on March 30, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Akinbode A. Adedeji, who provided an overview of the agenda, including housekeeping items and introductions of new members. Dr. Durelle Scott, Professor and Head of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at NCSU, delivered welcome remarks and introduced the department and the innovations happening in the Plant Science Building. Akinbode Adedeji and Yuzhen Lu presented updates on the proposal development and submission. The renewal proposal for the S1090 multi-state project has been submitted and is currently under review. The 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the members. Yuzhen acknowledged and appreciated the team's work towards the proposal rewrite.

Station reports began at 8:50 AM, starting with Auburn University representative Brenda Ortiz. Each representative was allotted five minutes. Fifteen institutions presented reports covering research on AI applications in plant and animal production, postharvest systems, and natural resource management. Four institutions listed on the agenda were absent, although some submitted reports to the S1090 leadership. Presentations continued until 12:00 PM.

Following lunch, Dr. Gary Thomson, our administrative advisor, provided remarks to a joint session of the S1090 and S1098 groups (42 members in-person and 3 online). He discussed the origins of the S1090 project with the *agInnovation South*, which later morphed into a USDA multistate group (S1090), and the first major meeting was held as a virtual workshop in 2021. He highlighted the impact of the group through cross-institutional collaboration, multi-

generational engagement, technology transfer, and addressing stakeholder needs. He also emphasized opportunities for involvement in National Research Support Projects (NRSPs) and the importance of clearly documenting project impacts. Dr. Thomson emphasized how crucial it is to assist small and medium-sized farms by advancing AI tools and technologies. He suggested improvement to how we report by not only chronicling activities (outputs) but also impacts/outcome.

The meeting followed with a discussion about the future hosts for the AI in Agriculture Conference. University of Kentucky is hosting the conference in 2027. For 2028 and 2029, the interested stations and their representatives were given five minutes to present their case on why they would be the right station to host the AI conference. Ignacio Ciampitti from Purdue University and Yuzhen Lu from Michigan State University presented their case on why they are a suitable host in 2028 and George Vellidid from University of Georgia presented their case for 2029 hosting right. Each station was expected to have one vote following internal discussions and will cast their vote in the next 24 hours.

The meeting proceeded to nominate a new secretary for S1090. A call for nominations for the S1090 Secretary position was made. With no self-nominations, Mahendra Bhandari nominated Henry Medeiros (University of Florida). Henry accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected by members present both in person and online.

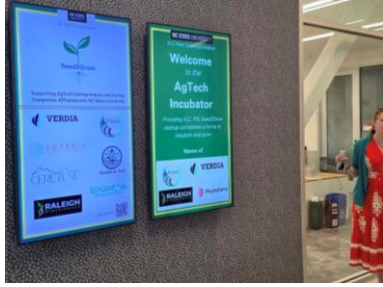
An open discussion followed on collaborative opportunities and future funding strategies. Key topics included potential special issues in Agronomy Journal, Food Science Journal, and Smart Agriculture Technology, the formation of thematic working groups such as AI Plants, AI Animals, and AI Machinery, and funding opportunities through USDA-NIFA and the National Science Foundation. The meeting concluded with a group photograph and a tour of the NCSU Plant Science Building, highlighting advanced research facilities. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 PM.



Group Photo: S1090



Joint Session with S1098



During tour of NCSU



During dinner