

NE1835 Resource Optimization in Controlled-Environment Agriculture Annual Meeting – July 31, 2023, in person and via Zoom

2023 NE1835 Annual Meeting

Date: July 31, 2023

In-person location: Caribe Royale Orlando, Boca I

Zoom link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/94090460922> (passcode: 1835)

Business meeting

9:00am ET:

Welcome and introductions (William Meng)

- William Meng (chair) briefly introduced the NE1835 project, explained the role of the officers and new officer election process, and the annual meeting schedule.
- In-person and zoom attendees did introductions.
- This project has been renewed; new project number is NE2335.

Approval of minutes from 2022

Technical Advisor report (Puneet Srivastava)

- Puneet explained how multiple state projects are organized and the benefits of participating in multiple state projects. He went over funding opportunities (such as Hatch and Capacity fundings from Ag Experimental Stations) to pay for salary, travel, equipment, and publications for members of this group. He also explained some of the changes in project renewal process. He emphasized the importance of networking within the group and submitting high quality station reports.
- Shamim Ahamed: is there funding available for research? How are travel/equipment funds distributed? Puneet: funding allocation is at the discretion of the Ag Experiment Station. Typically, there is not enough funding for research projects.
- John Erwin and Puneet further discussed funding opportunities. Members are encouraged to communicate with Ag Experiment Station directors about funding opportunities.

Updates on collaborative research and grant activities (past, current, and proposed)

Is the hydroponics book still on hold? Who wants to lead the effort? It would be too demanding for new assistant professors to lead. May consider collaborative efforts with other groups such as ASABE. Genhua Niu is willing to participate and potentially take the lead; she will need members to contribute chapters. She also suggested to include aquaponics. AJ has latest version of potential topics and contributors from previous years' discussion. William Meng is willing to assist with the organization of the hydroponic book. Shamim pointed out there is a soilless crop production book by a professor at UC Davis. We need to make sure there is not too much duplicate efforts. Celina Gomez: writing review articles will be a great joint effort for this group.

Membership report and brief introductions from new members

- Current members of NE1835 should migrate over to NE2335 through NIMSS.
- Most Tahera Naznin (University of Nevada), Xinhua Jia (North Dakota State University), Ray Wheeler (NASA Kennedy Space Center), and Simone Valle de Souza (Michigan State University) are interested in becoming new members.

Discussion on joint outputs

- Joint effort to renew this project.
- Stephanie Burnett (UMaine), Neil Mattson (Cornell), and University of Vermont are working with Greenhouse Scouting school for students and growers.
- Yujin Park (Arizona State Univer.) and Kim Williams (Kansas State Univer.) are writing an article on organic hydroponics.

Nomination and election of incoming secretary

- Incoming chair is Shuyang Zhen from Texas A&M University.
- Dr. Stephanie Burnett was nominated as the incoming secretary. She was the only nominee. All approve of Stephanie Burnett being the new secretary.

Announcements and upcoming events and relevant conferences

2024 meeting location

- Joint meeting with ASABE.
- Joint meeting with Cultivate (day before Cultivate) or NCERA101 – may be best not to hold this meeting jointly with NCERA 101 since many members are in both groups and may have to give very similar station reports.
- Joint meeting with National Floriculture Forum (CSU) – possibly in June 2024.
- Joint meeting with ASHS 2024 in Hawaii – Zoom option will be great.
- Chair can ask for funding from their Ag Experiment Station for video/audio fee.

Other new businesses?

10:30am ET: Business meeting adjourned followed by station reports.