



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Research Education and  
Economics

National Institute of  
Food and Agriculture

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW  
Washington, DC  
20250

09/22/2021

To:  
State Agricultural Experiment Stations: MS SC OK KY LA FL TN AR VA AL NC TX

From:  
Mike Fitzner  
Acting Director, Planning, Accountability and Reporting Staff (PARS)  
National Institute of Food & Agriculture, USDA

**Subject: Participation in New and Revised MRF Project**

The abovelisted stations, agency, university, institution and/or other participating organization(s) are listed as participants in S1090: AI in Agroecosystems: Big Data and Smart Technology-Driven Sustainable Production by the Executive Directors on behalf of the Regional Directors Association and concurred in by NIFA for the period beginning 10/01/2021 through 09/30/2026.

The project outline may be accessed from the following URL address:  
<http://nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/18868>. If other retrieval assistance is required, please contact the appropriate Regional System Administrator as indicated here:  
[http://www.nimss.org/directory/regional\\_offices](http://www.nimss.org/directory/regional_offices)

**Important:** All participants whose participation will be supported in full or in part by Hatch Multistate Research Funds (MRF) must document their participation on this project in NIFA's REEport system before such funds may be expended. Guidance for submitting a Hatch Multistate Project Initiation in REEport may be found in the REEport Guide for Project Directors. Note that corresponding multistate number must be selected from the down menu in REEport in order to begin the Project Initiation; do not proceed unless the correct multistate number is available to select. Also note that you will need to indicate the specific objective(s) of the MRF on which your station will conduct research.

Additionally, we request the following actions:

**1. ADMINISTRATORS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES (EXCEPT USDA-ARS):**

Please forward the URL address for this outline to the person(s) in your agency who is actually participating in the project (they are indicated on the "Resources" page of the project outline).

**2. USDA ARS-NPS:**

Please forward the URL address for this outline to the person(s) in your area who is actually participating in the project (they are indicated on the "Resources" page of the project outline) and facilitate updating the ARS project files to reflect this cooperation.

**3. USDAARSNPS (J. Stetka):**

Please forward the URL address for this outline to the person(s) in your area who is actually participating in the project (they are indicated on the "Resources" page of the project outline); and, in submitting the necessary information to update the ARS project files to reflect this cooperation.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISER:**

If there are participants outside the U.S. and/or State Agricultural Experiment Station system participating on this multistate project (indicated on the "Resources" page of the project outline), please forward the URL address for this project outline to the individual(s).

**5. RESEARCH DIRECTORS OF EVANSALLEN PROGRAM:**

If your university is participating on this multistate project (indicated on the "Resources" page of the project outline), please forward the URL address for this project outline to the appropriate person(s) at your university and, if appropriate, ensure the submission of a Project Initiation in the REEport system to document such participation.

If you have any project documentation or reporting questions, please contact NIFA at (202) 720-4423 or email [mbroussard@nif.usda.gov](mailto:mbroussard@nif.usda.gov).

Mike Fitzner  
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