
2002
NASDA's Farm Policy Initiative

Working Document

on

TECHNOLOGY

NASDA Mid-Year Meeting
March 3-6, 2000

U.S. Agriculture Profile	Opportunities	Constraints	Tools to Succeed (Policies/Options)
TECHNOLOGY (access)			
<p>Research and Development (need to define)</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Pesticide Regulation Committee</i></p> <p><i>Environment and Natural Resources Committee</i></p> <p><i>Animal & Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><i>Food Regulation & Nutrition Committee</i></p> <p><i>Rural Development and Financial Security Committee</i></p> <p><i>Marketing & International Trade Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>Development of New Technologies</i></p> <p><i>Value-added products</i></p> <p><i>Adoption of Uniform Quality Standards</i></p> <p><i>Federally Approved</i></p>	<p>Research priorities for new production technologies.</p> <p>Renewable resources, healthy environment & economically viable alternatives for agriculture.</p>	<p>Unclear and inconsistent environmental standards, marketing strategies, need research, extension and market development with limited resources.</p> <p>Foreign competition and lack of international marketing</p> <p>Limited resources/ access to Land Grant Institutions.</p> <p>Lack of basic research funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of improved processing technologies and new products development. • Value-added products can contribute to domestic and foreign markets. • Adoption of uniform quality standards. • Need federally approved chemicals, vaccines, and therapeutic compounds to increase productivity. • Increase research funding. • Change basic misconceptions in Congress and make research and development a higher priority • Crop Insurance for Aquaculture • Permits for water discharge (cost is too high) • Availability of the Internet • Ag Research, Extension, and Education (14.1) • Aquaculture (1.9) <p>1.9 Aquaculture – the business of farming aquatic plants and animals</p> <p>NASDA believes aquaculture should be considered a form of agriculture in the broadest sense and aquaculture products should be viewed and treated as agricultural commodities. NASDA believes regulatory constraints imposed upon the aquaculture industry should be clarified, streamlined, and consolidated.</p> <p>NASDA believes the development of improved processing technologies and new products development represent important opportunities for the aquaculture industry. NASDA endorses the HACCP principles for aquaculture processing and encourages USDA and FDA to provide on-going training for the industry that is both cost effective and focused. NASDA believes the process of development of minimum health standards by USDA should be with the direct involvement of the major aquaculture organizations, insuring coverage of all species groups and uses for the interstate and international movement of aquatic animals and plants.</p> <p>14.1 INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act (the 1996 Farm Bill) began the process of fundamental change in agriculture. The seven-year phase out of commodity programs which the legislation initiated, emphasizes the need for greater global competitiveness in agriculture. This increases the demand for sound, progressive agricultural research.</p>

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<p><i>Vaccine and Chemicals Ag Research, Extension, and Education Aquaculture</i></p>			<p>In the past, public investments in agriculture research have paid large dividends to society, and the global, high-tech, environmentally-sensitive era we have now entered requires support of public research. The nation's land grant universities must remain a strategic resource for agriculture and the general public. They must be used wisely and fully to support the needs of an ever expanding domestic and worldwide population.</p>
<p>Global Information System (GIS)</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Natural Resources & Environment Committee</i></p> <p><i>Pesticide Regulation Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>Increase funding for Research Precision Farming</i></p>	<p>Improve productivity and stewardship through precision farming.</p>	<p>Cost of equipment and technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase state and federal research and support for new production technologies • Precision Farming.
<p>GMO's / Biotech</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Food Regulation & Nutrition Committee</i></p> <p><i>Marketing & International Trade Committee</i></p>	<p>Marketing of products through biotechnology.</p> <p>Enhance quality & quantity of food for both humans/animals Pest & parasite resistance.</p> <p>Better nutrient content.</p> <p>Improve marketing of products through biotechnology.</p>	<p>Consumer acceptance.</p> <p>Labeling and "right to know" requirements.</p> <p>Gov't approval of crops. Consumer acceptance.</p> <p>Trade restrictions and labeling requirements..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased state and federal efforts to educate consumers • Work with FDA, EPA and USDA to update biotech policies. • Internat'l negotiations to eliminate non-science based barriers to trade in biotech products • Oppose state level labeling requirements. • Needs to be a different term for GMO • More independent public research • The administration must inform state departments of agriculture, or work in partnership. • Federal and State cooperation. • Biotech product testing. (3.2, 3.4) <p>3.1 INTRODUCTION</p>

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<p><i>Animal & Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>Consumer Education Update Biotech Policies Biotech and Trade Labeling Product Testing Federal & State Cooperation</i></p>		<p>Biosafety Protocol.</p>	<p>The American agricultural industry has developed the world's safest, most productive, economically competitive and stable source of food and fiber by using the most advanced scientific knowledge available.</p> <p>3.2 BIOTECH'S IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE Modern biotechnology is the fast-growing science that allows researchers to link traditional biology with new technologies incorporating chemistry, genetics, engineering, biochemistry, cell biology and computer science. Biotechnology can confer desirable traits to enhance pest and parasite resistance, improve nutrient utilization, improve the efficacy of biocontrol agents and reduce production inputs into the environment to assure the sustainability of agricultural production.</p> <p>3.3 COMMERCIAL MARKETING OF PRODUCTS The first products of modern agriculture biotechnology have entered the commercial market. Companies are actively marketing genetically-engineered crop plants, plant products and animal products. Even though federal agencies are defining the appropriate regulatory process and labeling of bioengineered products, public interest and concern continue to be heightened as increased visibility of these products and issues develop. This broadening scope of perception, based on misrepresentations of the value, safety and usefulness of biotechnology, is affecting the availability of bioengineered tools for producers and new products reaching consumers.</p> <p><i>Biotechnology Products and Food Labeling</i> — Informed consumers are the best customers. NASDA supports the principle that information relevant to the safety and healthfulness of foods should be widely disseminated. NASDA supports the policy of the Food and Drug Administration that foods produced through modern biotechnology should be labeled as such only if the foods differ from similar foods in ways that are significant and relevant to the issues of safety, efficacy, and purity. It is particularly important that labels convey useful and accurate information in a way that is not misleading to the consumer. Suggestions that biotech foods be labeled as such without regard to data demonstrating their substantial equivalence to other, unlabeled foods are unsupportable.</p> <p>3.4 BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION It is critical that federal and state officials be informed, knowledgeable, and included as working partners in all phases of the ongoing biotechnology regulatory policy process. It is essential that state agencies be active partners, sharing oversight responsibilities with federal agencies, while carrying out their responsibilities to the state's agricultural community and the consuming public at large.</p>

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<p>Food Safety</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Food Regulation & Nutrition Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>HACCP System</i> <i>Tracebacks & Recalls</i> <i>Single Food Agency</i> <i>Meat & Poultry Inspection</i> <i>State Inspection Programs</i> <i>Federal Preemption</i> <i>New Technologies</i> <i>Irradiation</i> <i>Imported Food</i> <i>Domestic Food Assistance</i> <i>Food Stamp Program</i> <i>Child Nutrition</i> <i>School Lunch Program</i> <i>WIC Program</i></p>	<p>Improve food safety productivity through technologies.</p> <p>Enhance farm to table food safety system.</p> <p>Enhance marketing and competition. Market foods as safest, wholesome, abundant, and affordable.</p> <p>Harmonization of food safety standards among trading partners.</p>	<p>Consumer confidence and acceptance.</p> <p>Food scares and disparagement of agricultural products.</p> <p>Harmonization of food safety standards.</p> <p>Used as trade barrier. Cold-chain limitations. Potentially unsafe imported foods. Competitive edge for foreign growers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of new technologies (i.e. cold pasteurization and irradiation, enhanced packaging and indicator strips). • Increased research on nutraceuticals and phytochemicals. • Harmonize international international food safety standards. • Review federal dietary supplements policy. • Increase education on dietary habits. • Collaborate with CDC on data collection. • Identify preservation, recall, and tracebacks. • Work with President’s Council on Food Safety. • Promote safe food technologies. • Multilateral Financial Institution funding for cold-chain infrastructure improvements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASDA policy 4.1 and 4.2 addresses food regulation and “farm to table” food safety system. • NASDA policy 4.3 and 4.4 supports use of science and risk-based HACCP system, including microbiological testing, preharvest, harvest, wholesale and retail food safety, and tracebacks • NASDA policy 4.5 deals with state food inspection programs, federal preemption, amenability, state egg inspection and quality assurance, and dairy product safety. • NASDA policy 4.6 addresses Imported Food. • NASDA policy 4.7 deals with transportation. • NASDA policy 4.8 supports research and policy 4.11 supports education. • NASDA policy 4.9 addresses salvage food. • NASDA policy 4.10 deals with disparagement of agricultural products. • NASDA policy 5.1 to 5.5 addresses nutrition and food assistance, including child nutrition programs, school lunch, breakfast, and milk programs, food stamp program, WIC program, WIC farmer’s market nutrition program, food distribution and emergency assistance programs, and gleaning and food recovery.
<p>Internet</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Rural Development & Financial Security Committee</i></p>	<p>e-commerce info access e-commerce info access</p>	<p>privacy/security availability in rural areas state sales taxes</p>	<p>Oppose e-commerce taxes.</p> <p>Improve bandwidth availability in rural areas.</p>

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<p><i>Marketing & International Trade Committee</i></p> <p><i>Pesticides Regulation Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>E-commerce Availability Affordability</i></p>			
<p>New Uses</p> <p>Committee(s) Assigned:</p> <p><i>Marketing & International Trade Committee</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>Availability of Capital Biotech Pharmaceuticals Renewable Biomass</i></p>	<p>new products/ new markets</p> <p>*chemicals, fuels, plastics, pharmaceuticals and biomedical products</p> <p>* renewable and biomass new products/ new markets</p> <p>*chemicals, fuels, plastics, pharmaceuticals and biomedical products</p> <p>*renewable and biomass</p>	<p>*availability of capital</p> <p>*economically competitive</p>	<p>11.9 NEW USES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS</p> <p>Throughout history, agriculture's primary purpose has been to provide a source of food and fiber. Agricultural policies reflect that purpose by focusing more on increasing yields for traditional uses and on expanding international markets, rather than finding new uses for farm commodities. That focus has changed recently, as yields have expanded and supply of food and fiber commodities have begun to exceed demand. International trade competition has increased. At the same time, the use of non-renewable resources, such as fossil fuels and petrochemical plastics are causing environmental concern.</p> <p>The high environmental costs of retrieving, transporting, using, and disposing of non-renewable resources has become increasingly apparent. There is an increasing industrial need and demand for agricultural-based products as an alternative to those produced from fossil fuels. Also, many other non-renewable resources have to be imported, increasing the nation's trade deficit. NASDA believes that industrial and pharmaceutical uses for agricultural products offer U.S. farmers an opportunity for market growth. In order for new uses of agricultural products to be realized to the greatest extent practicable, NASDA believes that additional crop research is needed to develop alternatives to traditional uses of agricultural products. Agriculture's expansion into non-traditional industries will boost rural economies, with a positive economic and environmental ripple effect throughout the nation.</p>