Commodity Research Programs for the 21st Century

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Commodity Boards are facing a change in the structure for research within the Land Grant system.

Campus Based Ag Experiment Station researchers are being forced to more basic or new discovery research.

Applied research is being given lower priority for AES and CE Specialists.
Commodity Research Needs

- There will always be a need for new discovery research.
- There need to be clearly defined pathways for the movement of information from new discovery to final field application at the grower level.
- Commodity organizations will need to provide the resources for the pathways.
Current Research Paradigm:

- AES scientists develop new technology at the very basic level.
- Field testing is conducted at a very rudimentary level to prove the theories.
- There is often a gap from the lab to the field.
The Problem:

- As more AES personnel retire, the level of research becomes more basic.
- CE Specialists are not being replaced with applied research trained scientists.
- The defined output from most research is a published paper.
- A specific effort must be established to move information from the publication stage to the field.
New Research Paradigm

- Basic Discovery Research
- Lab / Small Field Testing
- Large Scale Field / Grower Testing
- Final Testing and Product Delivery
The Challenge

- Research projects must be analyzed for their deliverable output. What will be the actual product?
Examples:

- New varieties developed through plant transformation: How will they move through the research process to commercialization.
- Function of genes and proteins to be moved into field application programs in order to deliver a functional product to the public.
The Challenge

- Research projects must be analyzed for their deliverable output. What will be the actual product?
- A clear pathway must be developed for all research grants to move the technology from the lab to the grower.
Example:

- Industry needs to work with the University to provide funding for CE Specialists that will work on targeted programs.
Lindcove Model - Current

Center Superintendent

Campus AES Scientists
- Staff Research Associates

Farming Operations and Maintenance

Campus Based CE Specialists
- Staff Research Associates
Lindcove Model - Proposed

Center Director

- Campus AES Scientists
  - Staff Research Associates
- Center Based CE Specialists
  - Staff Research Associates
- Campus Based CE Specialists
  - Staff Research Associates

Farming Operations and Maintenance
Conclusion

- The industry must be prepared to provide the resources for the complete pathway development and execution of all research programs.