



Title: Innovation in Agricultural Conservation for the Chesapeake Bay

Name: Tom Simpson, Connie Musgrove and Ron Korcak **Email:** tsimpson@umd.edu

Organization: Univ. of Maryland, U.S. EPA, USDA-ARS

State: MD **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

Year of Funding:

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The Chesapeake Bay watershed states have committed to removing all nutrient and sediment impairments to the bay prior to the implementation of a watershed-wide TMDL. Nutrient and sediment capped loading goals were established in early 2003. Achieving these goals will require widespread and rigorous implementation of existing Best Management Practices (BMP's) and development of new BMP systems, as well as new or modified crop and/or animal production systems.

Objectives: The objective of this activity was to identify means of improving reductions from implementation of current BMP's and to identify new BMP systems, new production systems and other strategies that will allow agriculture to achieve its portion of needed level reductions.

Methods: A scientific forum or "think tank" was held in the spring of 2003 on innovations in agricultural conservation. Following the forum, the authors wrote a white paper on the topic that was reviewed by a group of six forum participants. The white paper was then reviewed and approved as a consensus document by all forum participants.

Partnerships: The forum and white paper were generated jointly by the Chesapeake Bay Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, USDA-ARS and the USDA-CSREES Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program. The writing team consisted of the CSREES Regional Water Quality Coordinator, the Beltsville USDA-ARS Facility Deputy Director and a senior policy analyst from U.S. EPA.

Research: The forum participants were leading research and extension faculty on the topic in the region as well as leading ARS scientists.

Resources: The U. S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program provided funds for the forum. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, CSREES Mid-Atlantic Water Quality Coordination Program and USDA-ARS provided time and other expenses for white paper development.

Results: The white paper document has been presented to state and regional Chesapeake Bay Program leadership and is being used to revise current BMP assumptions and to guide future research and policy on BMP systems and changes to production systems.



The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.

