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Synthesis and analysis of 13 CSREES CEAP projects

J. Boll, L. Kurkalova, B. Mahler, T.S. Steenhuis, G. Vellidis, and J.D. Wulfhorst

Abstract Text:

An overview will be presented of one of two CEAP synthesis projects to summarize and describe lessons learned across 13 CSREES/NRCS-funded conservation effectiveness assessment projects (CEAP). This project includes three phases: analysis, synthesis and outreach to answer key CEAP questions, and produce science-based knowledge to inform policy makers and key stakeholder groups. Emphasis is on the optimal placement of systems of BMPs.

Specific project objectives are to: 1) Develop a web-based data information system; 2) Analyze BMP effectiveness of individual and systems of BMPs; 3) Analyze social and economic factors that facilitate or impede implementation or maintenance of BMPs; 4) Synthesize the findings and develop systems of BMPs for agricultural landscapes; 5) Develop a synoptic approach for geographic prioritization of BMP implementation at multiple scales; 6) Translate findings into science-based knowledge that informs policy decisions to enhance the effectiveness of conservation programs and practices through improved design and implementation; and 7) Conduct targeted outreach activities with key stakeholder groups for improving management of agricultural landscapes.

Final outcomes will include characterization of CEAP watersheds based on an ecoregion classification, assessment and analysis of available data on physical and socio-economic aspects of conservation practices, and synthesis of findings for water-quality assessment and management related to ongoing and future government programs.

Impact Statement:

This project will establish the foundation for continued analysis and synthesis of BMP systems in watersheds by developing a dynamic CEAP watershed assessment toolbox. Research and outreach methods in this project are in line with the goal of National Integrated Water Quality Program to contribute to the improvement of the quality of our Nation's surface water and groundwater resources.