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1890 Institutions Water Resource National Facilitation Project

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Abstract Text:

There is a strong interest in water resource education, extension and research at most of the 1890 Institutions. Recognizing the strong interest in, and commitment to providing water resource programming to underserved audiences in rural and urbanizing communities nationwide, the 1890s establish a water resource network of education, extension and research personnel. This coalition has helped to increase the involvement of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities (LGUs) in the USDA-CSREES National and Regional Water Resource Programs as well as foster mutually beneficial partnerships with 1862 and 1994 LGUs. Such partnerships have helped to enhance common goals and interests shared by minority-serving land grant institutions with water quality programs, while at the same time, drawing upon the diversity of resources and expertise found among the 1862 institutions. The 1890 National facilitation project was funded in FY 2005. Prior to the funding of the 1890 Institutions National Facilitation project, only three of the eighteen 1890 LGUs participated in both the National and Regional water quality programs. Currently twelve institutions are active in both the National and Regional water programs. The delivery of high-quality programming germane to water quality issues is an integral part of this project. The 1890 National Facilitation project uses a mini-grant award process to engage and enhance water resource deliverables from 1890 LGUs. Research, Extensions and Education proposals are funded as mini-grants up to a funding level of \$10,000, for one year. These mini projects are tied to the CSREES national water quality themes. Four of these mini-grants were funded by the project in FY 2006 and 2007 respectively. Examples of funded grants include: Development And Dissemination Of A Low Cost Ultraviolet Light Technology For Disinfecting Drinking Water: An Alternative To Chlorination; Arsenic Removal from Water by Ferrate [(Fe(VI))] in combination with Fe(III) or Al(III) Salts; Integrating Science, Policy Implementation, And Community Action: A Drinking Water Approach; Aquaculture Pond Water Mitigation And Management: Viability Of A Freshwater Mussel (*Elliptio Complanata*) As A Biological Filter. Results from these mini-grants are helping agricultural producers and rural communities better understand and respond to critical water resource issues.

Impact Statement:

The project is helping to build water resource capacity at 1890 institutions. Thus, enhancing the visibility of 1890 institutions in the mainstream of water quality research, teaching and outreach. Additionally, it has help to foster collaboration amongst 1890 institutions in water resource programming; and to engage 1890 research and extension scientists in regional programming efforts in water resources.