1890 Institutions Water Resource National Facilitation Project

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Situation

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. And at the same time, drawing upon the diversity of resources and expertise found among the 1862 institutions. The 1890 National Facilitation Project (NFP) was funded in FY 2005. Prior to the funding of the 1890 NFP, 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 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.

Table 1. Recipients of the 1890 NFP Mini-grants FY 2006 & 2007

Institutions	Principal Investigators	Funding Cycle
Virginia State University	Dr. Asmare Atalay	FY 2006
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Dr. Arthur Allen	FY 2006
Tennessee State University	Dr. Jennifer Stewart-Wright	FY 2006
University of Arkansas–Pine Bluff	Dr. Edmund Buckner	FY 2006
Lincoln University	Dr John Yang	FY 2007
Langston University	Dr. Bruce McGowan	FY 2007
Florida A&M University	Dr. Odemari Mbuya	FY 2007

Conclusion

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 enhanced 1890 research and extension scientists in regional programming efforts in water resources.

Actions

1. Extension and Research Capacity Building in Water Resources at 1890s

A watershed Academy for extension agents, specialists and research associates was held in fall of 2006 in collaboration with the Southern Region Water Quality Program Teams.

Outcomes:

Enhanced watershed communication skills among our 1890 agents especially with regards to watershed restoration considerations and septic tank systems.

Increased the awareness of biological and chemical characteristics of streams.

2. Leveraging Research and Extension funds

-The 1890 National Facilitation project uses a mini-grant award process to engage and enhance water resource deliverables from 1890 LGUs. Research, Extension and Education proposals are funded as mini-grants up to a funding level of $10,000, for one year. These funds in some instances are used to leverage other water quality related funding. Also the mini projects are tied to the CSREES National Water Quality Themes.

-1890 scientists are engaged in collaborative proposals writing to garner extramural funds to support water quality and quantity research and extension projects.

Outcomes:

- Funded six (6) mini-grants from seven 1890 LGUs
- Success stories from funded research projects
- Response to EPA request for proposal related to wellhead and source water protection program for small and/or rural water systems.
- Collaborative proposal writing amongst 1890, 1862 and 1994 scientists

3. Students Experiential Learning

Students at 1890 institution are gaining experiential training from funded research. They are also sponsored to attend conferences such as the National water conference. **Outcome (s):** Development of future workforce in water quality and quantity.

A student at Alcorn State making a presentation at a conference.

A ditch filtering system for P, N and sediment at the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore.

Students at Alabama A & M University testing water samples.

A student at Tennessee State University Collecting a water sample from a spring for analysis.

To determine the effect that mussels are having on water quality in a catfish pond, a student from Delaware State pulls samples weekly to test for nitrogen, phosphorus and total suspended solids.

Students at Alabama A & M University testing water samples.

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