

SOUTH CAROLINA SARE PDP Model State Program Proposal (2005-2008)

2. Abstract: This Model State Program Proposal is a re-submission that incorporates revisions based on recommendations from Southern SARE PDP and stakeholders. The revised Plan builds upon previous accomplishments and represents a significant expansion of activities facilitated by the half-time MSP Assistant position. The Assistant will work in collaboration with the SC land grant university coordinators and the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) to implement a comprehensive and inclusive strategic planning process. Facilitated by statewide strategic planning retreats, the number of stakeholders involved in the identification of priorities and in the planning process will be increased, with attention to geographic and diverse ethnic representation. Training activities will be planned for Extension, NRCS, FSA and SC Department of Agriculture staff and will be focused to address critical state needs. As a result, the quality and number of educational opportunities for agricultural professionals will increase with a concomitant increase in the professional's subject matter awareness and confidence in addressing issues related to SA. South Carolina State University will expand its role by hosting a series of workshops focused on identified stakeholder needs. The new MSP position will also facilitate comprehensive program reporting and evaluation, and will have oversight for project accounting and budgeting.

Summary of Responses to Reviewer Comments:

1. *Expand the scope of the training to other agricultural professionals:* While Extension personnel have been a major audience for previous training programs, NRCS personnel have also been active participants in program planning and have attended training events in 2002 and 2003 (SARE PDP funded workshop series on high value and organic niche market crop production). To ensure continued involvement, NRCS, FSA and South Carolina Department of Agriculture lead personnel have been added to the Advisory Committee, and will have input into program planning and organization. They will also help to disseminate announcements of training opportunities to their respective personnel.

2. *How will a conference be used as a training tool?* The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) annual sustainable agriculture conference is the premier sustainable agriculture educational event in the Carolinas. In 2004, the 3-day Conference offered over 60 workshops on various topics related to sustainable agriculture, many with hands-on demonstrations (some in the field). Farm tours are offered in conjunction with the Conference. In 2004, these included a Pastured Livestock Tour, a Value-Added Processing Tour, and a Mixed Production Tour. The CFSA Conference represents a valuable educational opportunity for our agents and other agriculture professionals. It also facilitates interactions between agriculture professionals and farmers. The last (2004) Conference schedule is available at: www.carolinafarmstewards.org/SAC2004/index.html#schedule.

Summary of Responses (continued)

3. *The 1890 is not represented in the budget...how will the partnering university access and use the funds for trainings?* Training needs are identified and prioritized annually by the state Advisory Committee. 1890 representatives and stakeholders have direct input into priority setting and allocation of resources for training activities as members of the Advisory Committee. Training events are open to all agricultural professionals, including 1890 and 1862 personnel, and NRCS, FSA and Department of Agriculture staff. In 2005, three training events have been scheduled that directly focus on South Carolina State University stakeholder needs (see Budget Narrative and Subject Matter Training sections).

4. *Incorporate the Logic Model for the evaluation section.* This was done (see Section # 13)

5. *You will need to develop two budgets- one for the assistant and one for the training.* This has been done (see Budget Section)

3. List of members of the Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee

- Edoe Agbodjan, Co-coordinator, SC State University, Orangeburg, SC (Project Cooperator)
- Robert Bett, CU Extension Agent, Marion, SC
- Fred Broughton, South Carolina Dept. of Agriculture, State Farmers Market Representative, Columbia, SC
- Leon Crump, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Farmer, Quinby, SC
- Fran Davis, Farmer, Spartanburg, SC
- Emile De Felice, CFSA (NGO), South Carolina Liaison, Columbia, SC
- Russell Duncan, CU Extension Agent, Manning, SC
- Bethel Durant, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, Columbia, SC
- Danny Howard, CU Extension Agent, Greenville, SC
- David Howle, CU Dept. of Plant Industry, Regulatory Services, Pendleton, SC
- Tony Kleese, CFSA (NGO), Executive Director, Pittsboro, NC
- Azeez Mustafa, Organic Farmer, Sumter Cooperative Farms, Sumter, SC
- Theodore Nesmith, Farmer, Nesmith, SC
- Amy Nichols, CU Sustainable Agriculture Program, Clemson, SC
- Ken Rentiers, SC Farm Service Agency Executive Director, Columbia, SC
- Jim Smith, Farmer, Marietta, SC
- Karen Ward, The Penn Center, Land Use and Environmental Education Program, Beaufort, SC
- Bill Welch, Farmer, Honea Path, SC

**Southern Region SARE
Professional Development Program
2005-2006 Budget (Annual)**

State: South Carolina

9 Model State Program – Training Budget (up to \$20,000)

Item	SARE Funds (Annual)
PERSONNEL	
Major Participant	0
Program Assistant	See PA budget below
Fringe Benefits	See PA budget below
Subtotal PERSONNEL	0
NON-PERSONNEL	
Training Materials (to be provided from Extension funds)	0
Travel	\$14,043
Consultant (Emile DeFelice)	\$4,000
Honorariums/Speaker Fees	\$1,900
<i>Subtotal, Non-Personnel</i>	<i>\$19,943</i>
OTHER	0
TOTALS – Training Budget	\$19,943

Model State Program – Program Assistant Budget (up to \$20,000)

Item	SARE Funds (Annual)
PERSONNEL	
Program Assistant	\$15,745
Hourly Labor	0
Fringe Benefits (27%)	\$4,251
TOTALS – Program Assistant	\$19,996

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST = \$39,939

4. Budget Narrative (2005-2006)

Program Assistant: \$15,745. Half time salary for the MSP Assistant position to be housed at Clemson University. Duties and responsibilities are listed under Section #7 below.

Fringe Benefits: \$4,251. Fringe benefits calculated at 27% based on Clemson University fringe benefit rates.

Training Materials: No funds requested. Training materials will be provided from Extension funds and other sources.

Consultant: \$4,000. Consulting fee to SC CFSA coordinator and farmer Emile DeFelice to provide expertise and assistance with planning and organization of training workshops and educational events (to be billed by CFSA invoice on a per project basis). Mr. DeFelice will work with the MSP Assistant on local arrangements, organization and publicity for all educational events.

Travel: The majority of travel funds will be used for travel expenses associated with the annual state Strategic Planning Retreat, the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) conference, workshops and other educational events. Travel funds will be awarded to participants/attendees including SC State and Clemson extension agents and SA Program personnel, SC DNR and NRCS personnel, farmer educators and state SA Advisory Committee members. A breakdown of projected annual travel expenses are outlined below:

- **State Strategic Planning Retreat** (All Advisory Committee members will be invited; travel reimbursement based on need)
 - ✓ Mileage: 10 people x \$0.345/mile x 150 miles (average) = \$518.00
 - ✓ Meals: 10 people x \$25.00/day (allowable in-state) = \$250.00
 - ✓ Lodging: 10 people x \$75.00/night x 1 night = \$750.00
 - Subtotal: \$1,518**

- **CFSA Sustainable Agriculture Conference (scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis to Extension, NRCS, FSA personnel and farmer-educators based on their stated objectives for attendance and their financial need):**
 - ✓ 10 people x registration (\$170.00) = \$1,700
 - ✓ 10 people hotel (\$80.00 x 3 nights) = \$2,400
 - ✓ 10 people mileage (average 200 miles @ 0.345 = \$690)
 - Subtotal: \$4,790**

- **Workshops (see Section # 8 for details)**
 - ✓ **Legal Issues in Agriculture** (Organized by SCSU 1890 Extension and Federation of Southern Cooperatives). A series of three workshops. 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles x 3 events = \$2,070
 - ✓ **Cooperative Leadership Training** (Organized by 1890 Extension and Center for Cooperative and Rural Business Outreach). A series of two workshops. 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles x 2 events = \$1,380
 - ✓ **Marketing Workshop for Small farm Fruit and Vegetable Producers** (Organized by SCSU 1890 Extension and NC A&T University). One workshop. 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles = \$690

- ✓ **Season Extension Vegetable Production and Marketing** (Organized by CFSA and Clemson University). 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles = \$690
- ✓ **Organic Peanut Production and Marketing** (Organized by CFSA and Clemson University). 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles = \$690
- ✓ **Grazed Livestock Production and Marketing** ((Organized by CFSA and Clemson University). 20 agents/farmer educators x 0.345/mile x 100 miles = \$690

Subtotal: \$6,210

- **Special Travel:** Travel funds for the Sustainable Agriculture Service and Leadership Awards and to enhance extension agent professional development

Subtotal: \$1,525

Travel Expense Subtotal: \$14,043

Total Budget Request: \$39,939 (other budget category totals listed above)

5. SARE Outreach Objectives and Expected Outcomes

1. Expand the existing strategic planning process for statewide sustainable agriculture development. The state co-coordinators will work with the MSP Assistant and with the state SA Advisory Committee to broaden the pool of stakeholders who contribute to the planning process and to the development of educational programs. An annual sustainable agriculture retreat will be organized to identify priorities and to plan educational programs based on needs. Over the 3-year period we will work to expand the number of interested stakeholders/groups who provide input. We will also communicate regularly with North Carolina SARE PDP personnel and will cooperate on programs when possible to leverage resources.
2. Increase the number of Extension agents, NRCS, FSA and state Department of Agriculture staff and other sustainable agriculture educators who participate in the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) Annual Conference. As a result of their involvement, these professionals will gain increased contact with the sustainable agriculture community and will be identified as local experts to be called upon for information on sustainable agriculture. The CFSA annual sustainable agriculture conference is the premier sustainable agriculture educational event in the Carolinas. The 3-day Conference offers over 50 workshops on various topics related to sustainable agriculture, many with hands-on demonstrations (some in the field). Farm tours are offered in conjunction with the Conference. The CFSA Conference represents a valuable educational opportunity for our agents and other agriculture professionals. It also facilitates interactions between agriculture professionals and farmers.
3. Continue to provide support for the CFSA Annual Conference. Funding will be provided on an annual basis from SC SARE PDP funds for a speaker(s) to provide information and insights on topics relevant to the sustainable agriculture community in South Carolina. Priority will be given to speakers/topics who can share information on successful programs with potential for adoption in SC. Ideas from these sessions will be discussed by the Advisory Committee and other stakeholders, and used as a foundation for development of new programs.

4. Establish a process to recognize SC cooperative extension personnel for excellence in sustainable agriculture outreach. Working with Clemson and SC State University administration, beginning in 2005 we will develop a call for nominations and guidelines for a Sustainable Agriculture Service and Leadership award (one award per institution). The awards will be offered annually beginning in 2006 and will include a travel scholarship for winning nominees to attend a sustainable agriculture event to enhance their professional development.
5. The SC SARE PDP Program will continue to organize and conduct in-service training opportunities for Extension agents, NRCS, FSA and state Department of Agriculture personnel, agricultural educators, and for other interested persons as space permits. Workshop topics will be determined annually by the Advisory Committee (see listing of 2005 workshop topics under section 8 below). The MSP Assistant, in consultation with the coordinators and the SC CFSA representative, will have overall responsibility for workshop organization, publicity and evaluation. Depending on Advisory Committee recommendations we expect to offer 3-4 workshops each year with 15-20 agents attending each workshop. Attendance will likely increase each year as new agents are hired in previously frozen positions.
6. Enhance professional development opportunities for extension agents. A pool of funds will be utilized to provide travel scholarships for agents to attend sustainable agriculture conferences and events, such as the Southern SAWG meeting, SA workshops in neighboring states, etc. Professional development opportunities will be announced via email, and scholarships will be provided based on need and on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. The SC SARE PDP Program will offer a web-based, core training curriculum in sustainable agriculture to SC extension agents. This objective will be part of a regional effort supported by Southern SARE PDP to integrate SA curriculum into the overall Extension education system in the southern region through the Cooperative Extension Curriculum Project (CECP). The first competency area currently under development is 'IPM for Organic Crops'. Modules will be available to agents for pilot testing in summer 2005.

6. Expansion of previous State Plans

With SARE PDP support, significant progress has been made over the past four years to increase awareness of sustainable agriculture in South Carolina. The proposed Plan builds upon this foundation and represents a significant expansion of activities facilitated by the half-time MSP Assistant position. The Assistant, in cooperation with the SC land grant university coordinators and CFSA, will work to implement a more comprehensive and inclusive strategic planning process. Facilitated by statewide strategic planning retreats, the number of stakeholders involved in the identification of priorities and in the planning process will be increased, with attention to geographic and diverse ethnic representation. Educational and training events activities will be more focused to address critical state needs. As a result, the quality and number of educational opportunities for agriculture professionals will increase with a concomitant increase in their subject matter awareness and confidence in addressing issues related to SA.

7. Outline how the Program Assistant Position will be used to support and promote the SARE program statewide.

The MSP Assistant will be based at Clemson University. The Assistant will be familiar with the concepts of sustainable agriculture and will have previous experience working with the SC SARE PDP program and with CFSA. Working closely with the SC CFSA representative, the SC state coordinators and the Advisory Committee, the Assistant will support and promote the SC SARE PDP program with the following responsibilities:

- Identify and recruit interested stakeholders and groups to participate in the statewide strategic planning process. Ensure that stakeholders are well-represented by geographic region and to encourage participation by limited resource and minority farmers.
- Create an email listing of stakeholders, Advisory Committee members and all extension agents and use to disseminate information about meetings, events, and other items of interest.
- Maintain regular phone and email communication with the Advisory Committee to provide program updates and to solicit input.
- Maintain and update the state sustainable agriculture program website.
- Organize an annual strategic planning meeting, or “retreat” for the Advisory Committee and stakeholders in order to identify priorities and develop strategies and topics for educational programs.
- Assist with organization of in-service training programs and other educational activities. This will include speaker and facility arrangements, procurement of educational materials, and program promotion and evaluation.
- Keep minutes of meetings, prepare summaries of educational events, and assist with program evaluations (e.g. surveys and project reports).
- Have primary responsibility for program accounting. Maintain records of program expenses, monitor program budgets, and process travel reimbursements for extension agents and other program participants.
- Work with the co-coordinators to prepare and submit an annual program report and budget.
- Assist with development of a PDP competitive enhancement grant in response to the program RFP.
- Assist with incorporation of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Core Curriculum modules to become a primary component of extension agent training.

8. Subject Matter Training, Conferences and Informational events.

Based on Advisory Committee recommendations, a significant part of the state program will be directed towards focused workshops on specific topics. Workshop topics will be determined annually based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Workshop locations will be rotated to facilitate attendance, and will be repeated and updated annually based on input from stakeholders. The following list of topics has been identified for workshop development in 2005:

- **Legal Issues in Agriculture.** A series of 3 workshops organized by SCSU 1890 Extension and Federation of Southern Cooperatives (June 4, July 14, August 25)

- **Cooperative Leadership Training.** A series of 2 workshops organized by 1890 Extension and the Center for Cooperative and Rural Business Outreach (October; date TBA)
- **Marketing Workshop for Small Farm Fruit and Vegetable Producers.** One workshop organized by SCSU 1890 Extension and NC A&T University (June 8)
- **Strategies for Production and Marketing of Vegetables Suitable for Small-Scale Producers.** One workshop organized by CFSA and Clemson University (June 10)
- **Processing Workshop for Small Scale Livestock Producers.** One workshop organized by CFSA and Clemson University (June 22 and 23)
- **Pastured Poultry Workshop.** One workshop organized by SCSU 1890, Clemson 1862 and CFSA (August 11)
- **Organic Peanut Production and Marketing.** One workshop organized by CFSA and Clemson University (September; date TBA)
- **Pastured Beef Workshop.** One workshop organized by CFSA and Clemson University (October; date TBA)

Other Educational Activities

- Provide travel for SC agents to attend the “Producer Managed Marketing of Livestock and Livestock Products” workshop in Greensboro, NC, September 2005.
- Provide travel for SC agents to attend the Grazing Festival held at CEFS in Greensboro, NC, April, 2006
- Provide travel for SC agents to attend the CFSA SA Conference, (November 2006, 2007, 2008)
- SC Sustainable Agriculture Stakeholder Retreat (January 2006, 2007, 2008). (Review of previous year activities, identification of priorities and development of a plan for educational programs to be organized in the coming year).
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Core Curriculum. Agents will participate in a web-based curriculum focused Integrated Pest Management for Organic Crops. The curriculum will consist of a series of lesson modules on various subject matter topics related to biointensive IPM.

9. Training objectives that focus on behavioral changes in the trainees that will enable them to bring about changes in their local audiences

The overall objective of the SC SARE PDP program will be to enhance and expand educational opportunities for Extension agents and other agriculture professionals on topics related to sustainable agriculture and organic production. Strong stakeholder participation and input into educational program development will reinforce trainee participation and enthusiasm for the program. Participants in the educational programs will increase competency and skills in areas related to sustainable agriculture. They will have gained the knowledge and confidence (i.e. competency) which will enable them to respond positively and knowledgeably to client inquiries regarding principles and practices of sustainable agriculture. Their participation will also facilitate their integration into the sustainable agriculture community such that they will be able to refer clients to additional people/resources. We have also observed that participation in educational programs and interaction with other

participants increases the trainee's level of enthusiasm such that they become increasingly strong advocates for sustainable agriculture.

10. Three year event timetable of SARE training and informational events.

Workshop topics and scheduling will be determined annually based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Please refer to the listing of 2005 educational events and workshop topics in Section 8 above. The following is a projected **annual** timetable for training and other events to be held in SC (SC agents may travel to NC for other events as indicated in Section 8):

- January: SC Sustainable Agriculture Stakeholder Retreat and Advisory Committee Meeting
- January: Sustainable Agriculture Service and Leadership Awards announced
- February and March: Spring Workshops
- June: Early Summer Workshops and farm tours
- July (2005): Pilot release and testing of "IPM for Organic Crops: Insect Pest and Disease Management curriculum modules
- July- October: Late Summer, Fall Workshops and farm tours
- November: CFSA Conference and Advisory Committee Meeting

11. A description of collaborative efforts among the 1862 and 1890 Land Grant institutions and other agencies, including NGOs, NRCS, CBO's ...

Clemson and SC State Universities have collaborated on a joint SARE PDP Plan of Work since 2002. This collaboration was facilitated by the appointment of Mr. Edoe Agbobjan as co-coordinator with SC State University. Mr. Agbobjan is a primary cooperator on the proposed plan, and will provide input on planning and organization of the objectives listed in Section 5. 1890 representatives and stakeholders have direct input into priority setting and allocation of resources for training activities as members of the Advisory Committee. In 2005, three training events have been scheduled that directly focus on South Carolina State University stakeholder needs (see Budget Narrative and Subject Matter Training sections).

NRCS personnel have also been active participants in program planning and have attended training events in 2002 and 2003 (SARE PDP funded workshop series on high value and organic niche market crop production). To ensure continued involvement, NRCS, FSA and South Carolina Department of Agriculture lead personnel have been added to the Advisory Committee, and will have input into program planning and organization. They will also help to disseminate announcements of training opportunities to their respective personnel.

CFSA has been an integral partner with the state LGUs in the planning and development of educational programs. Specifically, CFSA has provided organizational and promotional expertise for programs such as the annual SC Organic Growers School. SC CFSA Chapter members have been active participants in educational event planning, and have also organized and hosted workshops with SC SARE PDP support. Thus, SARE PDP funds used to support on-farm workshops are leveraged with stakeholder support. For this proposed plan, the role of CFSA in the planning and organization of events will be expanded through the involvement of the SC CFSA representative Mr. Emile DeFelice. Mr. DeFelice will have input on

planning as an Advisory Committee member, and he will work closely with the MSP Assistant to organize educational events and activities.

As mentioned in the Objectives section, we will work to expand the number and diversity of stakeholder groups who are reached by our programs. This will be facilitated through the involvement of private industry (e.g., agent training workshops held at Garner's and EarthFare Markets).

12. Institutional Commitment to train agricultural professionals in the concepts of Sustainable Agriculture

Clemson and SC State Universities have a strong commitment to sustainable agriculture extension and research through the "sustainable environment" emphasis area (one of eight areas identified for future development). With administrative support, Clemson hosted the "Sustainable Agriculture Futures Conference" in 2002. As part of the conference, an outside panel of experts was invited to review current programs and to develop recommendations for future research, extension and education in sustainable agriculture (www.clemson.edu/scg/sust/conference_2002.html). Despite severe state budget cuts, our sustainable agriculture programs and stakeholder base have continued to grow. As evidence of this, in 2004 Clemson was named "Institution of the Year" by CFSA for programs in support of sustainable agriculture development. Clemson also won the "Campus Ecology Recognition Award" in 2004 from the National Wildlife Federation. Clemson and SC State Universities have also committed resources for development and implementation of a core sustainable agriculture training curriculum for extension agents. Office space and equipment is available for the co-coordinators and the MSP Assistant (including phone, fax and computer).

13. Evaluation Plan

The Logic Model will be used in program planning and evaluation. That is, program inputs, outputs and outcomes will be identified for each training activity. Inputs and outputs are easily determined. Program outcomes are more difficult to assess. The MSP Assistant will have responsibility for collecting and summarizing data to be used in program evaluation. Surveys will be developed for each training event to assess the participant's level of satisfaction, knowledge and competencies gained, and recommendations for improvement. Participants will be surveyed 6-12 months after each event to identify evidence of outcomes and changes in behavior. Program evaluation results will be discussed with Advisory Committee members and at the annual Stakeholder Retreat. Results will be factored into planning for future events. Specific case histories and/or success stories will be highlighted on the SA website.

14. Plans for the South Carolina Sustainable Agriculture website

The Clemson Sustainable Agriculture website is available at www.clemson.edu/scg/sust. The website highlights the Clemson SA Program and provides information about related news and activities, including educational events, and also links to additional resources. The MSP position will enable us to expand the website to include not only information about Clemson programs, but also information relevant to SC State and our stakeholders. This information will include

contact information for Advisory Committee members, a calendar of activities, a listing of subject matter experts who may be contacted for information (including extension agents), links to other resources and funding opportunities, and a link to the Southern and National SARE Core SA Curricula websites.

15. **A description of how various SARE grant program results, SAN materials and core curriculum materials will be distributed and promoted.** A link to the SAN website and funded grant program database will be provided on our website. We will provide consultation to agents and farmers interested in developing a SARE proposal and will direct them to the appropriate SAN resources. Notices of new SAN publications will be immediately disseminated to agents via email. A pool of funds will be set aside to purchase cost publications for agents. Southern and National Core Curricula modules and resources will be available on their respective websites. Agents will be sent regular email updates and reminders with information about the curricula and enrollment information.

16. Linkages with other NGO partners

Collaboration with CFSA and private industry is described in Section 11 above. As described in the objectives, we will work to expand our stakeholder base to include other NGO groups. The SC CFSA representative and MSP Assistant will explore opportunities for partnerships of mutual benefit. For example, involvement with the Slow Food Movement may enhance marketing opportunities for local farmers. We have also begun collaborations with the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Workers Group to extend their training programs into the Carolinas.