

BAA Policy Board of Directors Plan of Work 2017 -- 2022

International Agriculture Section Report

PBD Member: John Vreyens

Reporting Period: October 2018-September 2019
Section Chair: Amrit Bart

Briefly describe any new or modified activities, initiatives, policies or other actions conducted by your section or organization in the past year that directly addressed the PBD planned goals and actions below. Also, list your section's key initiatives/actions planned for next year.

Current and Emerging Issues and Future Directions
Goal: Identify current and emerging local, regional, national, and global opportunities and challenges and facilitate strategic discussions and actions that will impact and guide future directions for the System.
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage strategic approaches to integrate, prioritize, and address existing and anticipated future opportunities and challenges in learning, discovery, and engagement.• Provide forums to engage the System and external partners in strategic dialogues to develop recommendations on policy and System-wide approaches for action to address current and emerging issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in the antimicrobial resistance initiative• Developing white paper on international to be integrated with USDA strategic plan• Supporting the meteorological climate impact report on small farmers• Supporting the North American Knowledge Zone for cross-border programs

Resource Advocacy
Goal: Seek additional resources for the System through collaborations, partnerships, communications, marketing, budget development, and advocacy.
Actions: Support the Budget & Advocacy Committee (BAC) in its budget development and advocacy efforts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing the System's federal budget request and associated messages with target audiences.• Communicating and vetting BAC's message throughout the System and stimulating and supporting dialogue among sections.• Coordinating marketing and communication efforts across the BAA and among learning, discovery, and engagement leaders.• Fostering understanding of the rationale for budget requests and gaining commitment for them.• Using the BAA's contracted advocacy and communication and marketing firms effectively by setting and providing oversight for achievement of measurable goals.• Including System members and constituent groups (e.g. CARET, professional societies, commodity organizations, and other user groups) in the development and implementation of advocacy strategies.

- Facilitating development of a strategic communications and marketing plan to enhance the public's understanding of the System's impacts on social, environmental, and economic issues at the community, national, and international levels.
 - Identifying and cultivating legislative Congressional champions.
 - Building and deepening relationships across all missions with the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
 - Seeking and establishing mission-critical relationships with other appropriate federal and state agencies including the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).
 - Identifying and recommending new national-level collaborators and partners and fostering mutually beneficial relationships.
- As part of IACC engaged in advocacy for USAID funding for Food Security and Agriculture Development; Innovation Labs at \$55 million; \$35 million for higher education university partnerships to build capacity.
 - Included language for authorization of partnerships to build capacity in international agricultural research, extension and teaching (Sec. 7123).
 - Authorization for funding student internship and fellowships in 2018 Farm Bill.
 - Met with Doug Steele and Vernie Hubert to work on appropriating new authorizations for international in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Authorizing Legislation and Associated Action
Goal: Develop and support policies and legislative action and subsequent implementation that enhance the System's ability to carry out its missions and increase the federal investment in the System over the life of the Farm Bill.
Actions: Support the Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) in its efforts to guide Farm Bill and other appropriate legislation development, passage, and subsequent implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning the System for new opportunities. • Developing appreciation within key federal agencies of the System's capabilities. • Identifying and cultivating legislative champions. • Forming implementation teams to work with appropriate federal agencies. • Monitoring rules as they are developed and published. • Keeping the System informed of new opportunities and funding mechanisms presented as new legislation is implemented. • Monitor legislation and policies that may enhance or impede the System's progress and work with decision makers to make modifications where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Erbaugh submitted through BAC targeted ask goals for appropriations of international research, extension and teaching programs as authorized. • Met with NIFA Director and Director of Center for International Programs to begin discussions on joint programmatic initiatives. • Advocated for authorizations in Farm Bill 2018

System Integration
Goal: Enhance integration of goals and activities among BAA members and between the BAA and other groups within APLU's structure to gain synergy from collaborative actions.

Actions:

- Develop a public value message to describe and communicate collective BAA impact.
- Encourage efficiencies between and among federal agencies for learning, discovery, and engagement.
- Continue communication among PBD members to find common ground and enhance integration of efforts.
- Support events and other opportunities that promote cross-Section communication and collaboration.
- Work with APLU staff and BAA Executive Directors and Administrators to ensure appropriate and effective linkages between the BAA and other groups within APLU.
- Recognize excellence throughout the System through support of national awards and recognitions.
- Support leadership development within the System, particularly through the Food Systems Leadership Institute and LEAD-21.
- Support diversity and inclusion across the System in all decisions and actions.

- Began discussions with ECOP International Programs on potential for collaborative efforts.
- Discussed with Doug Steele, Tag Demment, CARET Liaison and IACC for new cross-advocacy position.
- Represent BAA through CII workshops, meetings and Executive Committee.
- Drafted two documents to explain who IAS is within BAA and a one page “ask” document.

Next Year’s Key Initiatives or Actions

Please list your section’s or organization’s key initiatives and/or actions planned for next year.

- Establish the rotating “Henry A. Wallace Memorial Lecture for International Agriculture” at the Board on Agriculture Assembly during the APLU Annual Meeting.
- Finalize and update IAS membership roster.
- Work with ACOP and ECOP on advocacy initiatives around international programs in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Continue to work with NIFA Center for International Programs to strengthen program opportunities.