

2005-2006 Plan of Work Update

Florida A & M University

During FY 2004, the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA) initiated a long-term strategic planning project. Over 125 internal and external stakeholders provided their input through structured questionnaires. The survey revealed that we are on target as far as current research and extension program areas are concerned. Ongoing program areas were rated high in priority and therefore, we will continue to pursue them. However, some modifications in the existing plan were suggested and three new areas that need attention were also identified.

Modifications

Goal 1

Program Area 2 – Viticulture and Small Fruit Production

We plan to add Genomics to this program area. Scientists from our Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research are working closely with two ARS Scientists from the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Fort Pierce, FL in constructing a cDNA Library and mapping genes of *Vitis shuttleworthii* (12,000 ESTs have already been completed). This will have a major impact on our current and future research on grapes.

Program Area 4 – Herd Health and Food Safety

During FY 2005 and 2006, we plan to provide training programs for small producers in preventing any acts of “Bioterrorism”. Both, research and extension will work together to develop targeted educational programs on this subject matter. Also, research on some of the pathological agents which may contaminate foods, will be initiated.

New Areas

Program Area 2 – Viticulture and Small Fruit Research

Biomass/Biofuels – Efforts will be made to produce biofuels from waste products generated in the processing of muscadine grapes.

Nanotechnology in Agriculture – Research on employing nanotechnology (e.g., biochip) will be initiated in conjunction with our ongoing work on grape genomics.

Program Area 5 – Nutrition, Diet and Health in Florida

Obesity – New programs will be designed to address the problem of obesity, especially in the minority population.

Program Area 3 – Diversified/Alternative Agriculture

Product Development- Emphasis will be placed on developing markets for two Florida commodities (pepper and tomato). The Research and Extension Programs will jointly develop programs to address needs in this area.