



# AREERA State Plans of Work

## 2007 Plan of Work Summary Report Published

This Plan of Work (POW) newsletter takes a look at the recent Planning and Evaluation Mini-Conference, looks back at the 2007 – 2011 Plan of Work, and introduces a new section on the CSREES Information System (One Solution).

### The Planning and Evaluation Mini-Conference

The Office of Planning and Accountability held a Planning and Evaluation Mini-Conference April 23-25 in Seattle, WA in conjunction with the CSREES Administrative Officers' Conference. About 180 people attended some sessions of the mini-conference.

This mini-conference was designed for those planning programs or engaged in performance measurement and program evaluation. Participants learned about the upcoming 2007 Annual Report (AR), what CSREES has learned from the 2007-2011 POW submitted, and how CSREES has used and expects to use information from the AR and POW.

The complete set of mini-conference materials is available on the CSREES web site at [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/strat\\_plan\\_evaluation.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/strat_plan_evaluation.html).

The 2007 POW Summary Report is available on the CSREES AREERA POW web page at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/plansofwork.html>.

This summary report is the first such national report based upon the first POW submitted using the new format. We believe this report not only opens a window onto the important issues that states plan to address over the next 5 years, but also gives the CSREES – Land-Grant partnership information to examine the questions of balance and direction as a unified system. This report, based only on the 2007-2011 POW, opens the window and documents the projected allocation effort among planned programs, general topic areas classified by Knowledge Areas (KAs), and agency portfolios of programs as reported through projected effort. Next year, with the receipt of the first AR under in the new format documenting the outputs and outcomes of the research and extension funded programs, the window should be flung wide open, revealing not only the future allocation of efforts, but also meaningful results from previous efforts

### What is the CSREES Information System (CIS)?

CIS is the name given to the integrated information system of the “One Solution” initiative. Each newsletter will have a section

devoted to CIS to keep you abreast of current issues. The POW and AR software is part of the first phases of CIS and will be integrated into the whole in coming years.

CSREES Administration charged the One Solution initiative team with developing a new management strategy that will improve the quality and completeness of agency reports. Because CSREES accomplishes its mission through federal funding and other assistance provided to partners, rigorous data collection and reporting practices are critical to measuring the performance of agency activities.

Under the One Solution initiative, CSREES will unify its various reporting processes into an innovative integrated system that better aligns the agency budget with performance outcomes across research, education, and extension. Implementing more effective information resource management practices will also simplify the data collection and decrease the reporting burden experienced by the agency's land-grant university partners and other institutions receiving grants and awards.

Once implemented, the new CIS will allow the agency to better manage increasing performance and budget reporting expectations. Additional benefits will include enhanced data quality and analyses; improved national program leadership and planning; decreased reporting burden on grantees; and a focused capability to demonstrate measurable impact, which will clearly show how the agency fulfills its mission and serves the American public.

**What's Next?**

The next POW newsletter will deal with the status of the AR software and its testing, and future improvements to the POW.

**AREERA Plan of Work Dates**

2007 Annual Report due by April 1, 2008

2009 - 2013 Plan of Work Update due by April 1, 2008.

**For more information on the Plan of Work, e-mail the [Plan of Work staff](#) or call Bart Hewitt, 202-720-0747.**