



2023 ARD-SAAESD Joint Meeting

Agenda

Atlanta Airport Marriott

August 9-10, 2023

***“Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”***

- Henry Ford -

Wednesday - August 9

12:00 pm - Buffet lunch

12:45 to 5:00 pm – Programming

12:45 – 1:00 Welcome and Setting the Tone – Gary and Alton

1:00 – 2:00 Session 1: Building Relationships with Trust and Mutual Respect

Dr. Donovan L. Segura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Inclusion, & Title IX, Southern University

Session description: Building relationships based on trust and mutual respect among 1890 and 1862 colleges of agriculture is essential for effective collaboration. By establishing open lines of communication, fostering a culture of cooperation, and recognizing and valuing the expertise of each institution, we can more effectively work together towards common goals. This collaborative approach not only enhances the quality and impact of agricultural research but also strengthens the overall agricultural community, facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

2:00 – 3:00 Session 2: Getting to One LGU System

Dr. Doug Steele, Vice President of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

Session description: Developing collaborative programs in 1890 and 1862 land-grant universities requires recognizing and leveraging the unique strengths and needs of each institution. By understanding our distinct expertise, resources, and regional contexts, leaders can tailor research programs to address specific agricultural challenges effectively. We'll explore examples of formal agreements between 1890 and 1862 institutions, focusing on what is working and ongoing challenges. Included will be the importance of state and federal advocacy partnerships among our institutions for the betterment of the land-grant system.

3:00 – 3:30 Networking Break

3:30 – 5:00 Session 3: Communicating Within, Among, and Beyond Our Institutions

Ms. Latasha Ford, Research Communications Specialist, Fort Valley State University

Ms. Cassie Ann Kiggen, Chief Communications Officer, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia

Ms. Faith Peppers, Director of Communications, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Session description: Effective communication of agricultural research is vital to the success of our land-grant university research programs in colleges of agriculture. Fostering strong communication channels promotes transparent and accessible communication with external stakeholders, including policymakers, industry leaders, and the public, enhances the dissemination and application of research findings, driving innovation and sustainable practices in the agricultural sector. This panel of communications professionals will discuss our shared communications goals, including giving a voice to the impact of our work at the state, regional and national levels.

6:00 – 7:30 Dinner

Featured Speaker: Dr. Manjit K. Misra, Director National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Thursday - August 10

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast

8:00 am to 12:00 pm – Programming

8:00 – 9:00 Session 4: Justice 40 and Environmental Justice

Dr. Kevin Kephart, Deputy Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Session Description: Two executive orders will have an ongoing impact on how NIFA-supported programs will be developed and delivered to stakeholders. The Justice 40 Initiative (J40) was issued in January 2021 through EO 14008. This instructs agencies to identify J40 covered programs and determine benefits derived with a goal of 40% of the benefits realized in underserved communities. NIFA identified 14 programs that are authorized to benefit minority-serving institutions. More recently, EO 14096 was issued in April 2023 on Environmental Justice (EJ). Each agency will need to develop an EJ strategic plan by October 2024 and partner input and involvement will be important for NIFA. The goal of this presentation will be to begin NIFA's outreach to the Land-grant partner community, explain what has been done so far, and begin an important conversation for moving forward.

9:00 – 10:00 Session 5: Building Interdisciplinary Research Teams

Dr. Amy Grunden, Assistant Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service, North Carolina State University

Dr. Greg Goins, Interim Associate Dean for Research, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Session description: Creating interdisciplinary research teams and fostering collaboration between 1890 and 1862 land-grant colleges of agriculture is a powerful approach to tackle complex agricultural challenges. By leveraging the diverse expertise and resources of our institutions, researchers can combine scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and practical experience to develop holistic solutions. This collaborative effort promotes innovation, enhances the efficiency of agricultural practices, and contributes to the overall advancement of the agricultural sector, benefiting both rural communities and the broader society.

10:00 – 10:30 Networking Break

10:30 – 11:30 Session 6: Engaging stakeholders in the Southern Region

Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dean, College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutritional Sciences, Tuskegee University

Session description: Engaging stakeholders in the southern region is crucial for the success of agricultural research. By actively involving farmers, local communities, industry representatives, and government agencies, researchers can better understand the unique challenges and opportunities specific to the southern agricultural landscape. This collaborative approach promotes knowledge sharing, innovation, and the development of sustainable solutions that address the region's agricultural needs while supporting economic growth and environmental stewardship. This session will focus on best practices to engage the broad spectrum of our stakeholders across the region.

11:30 – 12:00 Meeting wrap-up: Take-aways and Future Steps – Gary and Alton

12:00 pm – Meeting adjourns (lunch-to-go)



Dr. Manjit K. Misra, Director National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Dr. Manjit Misra is the director of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA's extramural funding agency in the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area.

Dr. Misra is a world-renowned scientist who has had a transformational impact on food security through the application of engineering principles to seeds, the most vital and fundamental element of food security. Prior to joining NIFA, he was the director of the Seed Science Center at Iowa State University, a position he held from 1991 to 2023. He also was the Endowed Chair of Seed Science, Technology and Systems.

Dr. Misra was the 2018 recipient of the Sukup Global Food Security Award for his distinguished contributions to global food security through research, outreach and teaching in post-harvest seed science, technology and policy.

His interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to leadership has been effective at state, national and international levels. He has been a member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for 37 years. He is a past chair of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council with the USDA. Dr. Misra is author or coauthor of 137 publications and co-inventor on 10 patents.

Throughout his career, Dr. Misra has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award for Leadership, Vision and Exemplary Service to the U.S. Seed Industry from the American Seed Trade Association. He received the Outstanding Achievement in International Agriculture Award from Iowa State University. He also received the Global Academic Leadership Award from the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering from Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology in India, Dr. Misra earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from the University of Missouri. He joined the faculty of Iowa State University in 1979 as an assistant professor in seed science and technology. In 2005, he was named director of Iowa State's Institute for Food Safety and Security and was the founding director of the Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products.

Dr. Misra was sworn in to a six-year appointment as Director of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture on May 8, 2023.