



January 2023
Impact Collaborative
Project Acceleration Summit

January 17-19, 2023

Summary & Evaluation Report



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Executive Summary

Twenty-eight new Project and Program teams across Cooperative Extension representing thirty-four institutions attended the Project Acceleration Summit via Zoom for a unique opportunity to create impactful results at the local level by increasing Cooperative Extension's organizational readiness and capacity for innovation and change. During the three days, teams were connected with skills, tools, resources, Coaches, and Key Informants that helped expand and deepen their project's impacts.

On Day 1 of the Summit, [Dr. Courtney Owens](#), Southeast Regional Director of American Farmland Trust and former ECOP chair while at Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension, highlighted opportunities the Cooperative Extension System has to partner with nonprofit organizations like American Farmland Trust to help increase the resiliency of farms across the country while at the same time preserving the landscapes these enterprises encompass. Day 1 of the Summit also featured a resource and partnering session presented by [Shelly Curtiss](#) of the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Shelly's presentation highlighted the capacity of the Lab's resources and discussed opportunities that institutions have to partner around climate and renewable energy.

Day 2 of the Summit featured a panel discussion presented by [Sean Bath](#) from NOAA's Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) / Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) (NOAA CAP/RISA) and [Dr. Julian Reyes](#) from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Climate Hub. The panel discussed the importance of interagency cooperation and highlighted the government's efforts along this line. They also discussed and provided links to a variety of resources from both agencies to support work in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.

The Summit's keynotes concluded on Day 3 with a presentation from [Dr. Amy Ganguli](#), National Program Leader with USDA NIFA Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment. Amy provided attendees with valuable insights into NIFA's various climate related programs, emphasizing key areas where those interested in developing programs and proposals can focus. Amy provided numerous links to NIFA related



resources, calendars, FAQs, and webinars, all aimed at helping current and prospective projects be more successful in their work.

Participating teams were provided 'team time' each day for them to collectively work on their projects as a team. Teams were provided several options for one-on-one coaching by Impact Collaborative Facilitators. These facilitators are trained in the use of the Impact Collaborative Innovation Skill-Building Experience (ISBE) tools, including a shared Mural board for each team to support teams "where they are" throughout the Summit. Teams participating in the New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE program) had pre-assigned Team Mentors, while non-NTAE teams had the opportunity to request on-demand coaching support before or during the Summit.

Twenty-eight Key Informants from across the Cooperative Extension System (CES) and other external organizations consulted with teams on a range of topics, including stakeholder engagement, program development and evaluation; marketing; engaging in difficult conversations; diversity, equity, and inclusion; application development; renewable energy opportunities; and more.

Capping off Day 3 was the [Summit Showcase](#), where teams skillfully presented their project or program to fellow participants, Facilitator Coaches, Key Informants, and other invited guests. Overall, participant feedback indicated both teams and individuals gained valuable insights into how climate resilience is connected to their work and that teams made valuable progress on their programs and projects during the Summit.



Climate Resiliency Theme

The January 2023 Project Acceleration Summit had a special focus on Climate Resilience in partnership with the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy's (ECOP) Climate Program Action Team. A Design Team was assembled from a variety of organizations to help shape the overall design of the Summit (Design Team members are listed later in this document.)

The purpose of the Summit's theme was to catalyze Cooperative Extension's awareness and capacity to implement programming that will increase climate resilience in the communities Extension serves. The Summit helped participants:

- Identify a connection between the work they do and climate resiliency
- Increase awareness of climate resiliency work being done by Extension colleagues nationally and what resources and supports are available
- Receive assistance for projects and programs that are ready to help communities receive and utilize federal funds
- Gain knowledge to improve equity in the impacts of climate resiliency and the benefits of addressing climate resiliency

The keynote speakers, panelists, and resource sharing session were all themed around providing participants with tools and resources to help meet these goals. In the [keynote](#) on Day 1, Dr. Courtney Owens encouraged participants to think about how the three part mission of Land Grant Universities needs to grow and adapt to emerging barriers and opportunities. Highlighted was the importance of partnering with nonprofits and other organizations working within complementary areas, expanding the impact of programs across partnerships. An example of one potential partnership was then presented in the [resource sharing session](#), with the opportunities provided by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory highlighted by Shelly Curtiss.

Day 2 continued the exploration of climate resiliency during a [panel discussion](#) provided by Sean Bath of the NOAA CAP/RISA program and Dr. Julian Reyes from the



USDA Climate Hubs. The presenters highlighted the many areas where cooperative work was being completed across the nation and emphasized the need and importance of interagency cooperation in making climate resiliency projects come to life and work for the intended recipients.

Day 3 concluded the Summit's exploration of climate resiliency with a [keynote presentation](#) by Dr. Amy Gagnuli of USDA NIFA. During this presentation, participants received valuable information on the resources and opportunities available from NIFA in this space.

It should be noted that the Summit included 17 teams from the New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) Program. The NTAE teams are working on a variety of projects and in a variety of program areas, many of which do not have a climate focus. One of the goals the Design Team identified early on was to help the NTAE teams, as well as other non-NTAE, non-climate focused teams, find ways to connect climate resilience education and outreach to their work.



Participant Overview

Teams from thirty-four institutions and eight public and private agencies from across five ECOP regions attended the virtual January 2023 Project Acceleration Summit. Seventeen teams joined as part of the New Technologies for Ag Extension Accelerator and Incubator tracks. Nineteen Impact Collaborative Facilitators from five regions coached teams. Twenty-eight key Informants from all regions and outside of Cooperative Extension institutions asked probing questions as well as gave sage advice for the teams. Nineteen Extension Foundation staff and Catalysts served in a variety of positions throughout the Summit, providing support to teams, coaches, key informants, and each other during the Summit. Total attendance was 287 participants, including participants who registered for the Keynote presentations only.

Participation by ECOP Region

The 1890s - 20 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Florida A&M University
- Fort Valley State University
- Langston University
- Lincoln University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- South Carolina State University
- Southern University
- Tuskegee University
- Virginia State University

North Central - 32 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Kansas State University
- North Dakota State University
- Ohio State University
- Purdue University
- South Dakota State University
- University of Illinois
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Wisconsin-Madison



Northeast - 32 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Cornell University
- Penn State University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland
- West Virginia University

Southern - 26 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Auburn University
- Mississippi State University
- North Carolina State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Arkansas
- University of Florida
- University of Kentucky
- University of Tennessee
- Virginia Tech

Western - 45 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Colorado State University
- Montana State University
- Oregon State University
- University of Arizona
- University of California
- University of Idaho
- Utah State University
- Washington State University

National/Regional - 10 attendees (including team members, coaches, key informants)

- Danbury Public Schools
- Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative
- ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee
- Langdon Group
- Mark Bell Consulting
- Sustaining Natural Circles
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
- United Way of Western Connecticut



Summit Design Team

- Kelsey Buckler, Impact Collaborative Assistant, Extension Foundation
- Harry Chrissy, Penn State
- Sabrina Drill, Ph.D., University of California
- Regan Emmons, Climate Partnership and Development Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Roslyn McCann, Ph.D., Utah State University
- Joel Haskard, Ph.D., University of Minnesota
- Jason Henderson, Ph.D., ECOP Climate Director, Purdue University
- Megan Hirschman, Partnership and Development Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Molly Immendorf, Design Specialist, Extension Foundation
- David Kay, Ph.D., Cornell University
- Shibu Kar, Ph.D., University of Illinois
- Caroline Kuebler, USDA
- Maureen McCarthy, Ph.D., Desert Research Institute
- Chuck Ross, Ph.D., Extension Foundation Catalyst
- Jason Weigle, Ph.D., Impact Collaborative Coordinator, Extension Foundation

Impact Collaborative Coaches and NTAE Mentors

- Tira Adelman, Extension Foundation
- Jessica Beckendorf, University of Wisconsin
- Karl Bradley, Extension Foundation
- Karin Bump, Cornell University (Emerita)
- Steve Hadcock, Cornell University
- Danielle Hautaniemi, Cornell University
- Angell Jordan, Southern University
- Kiyana Kelly, Southern University
- MaKelia 'Keshia' Mitchell, Charleston County (SC) Government
- Cheryl Newberry, Oklahoma State University
- Mark Platten, Colorado State University
- Melanie Pugsley, Extension Foundation
- Trudy Rice, Kansas State University



- Kit Sanders, North Carolina A&T State University
- Molly Soeby, North Dakota State University
- Bekah Sparks, Mississippi State University
- Chuck Stamper, University of Kentucky
- Rosie Stewart, University of Arizona
- Ann Taecker, South Dakota State University

Key Informants

Key informants consulted with teams based on questions asked prior to and during the Summit on Wednesday. They then reported back to the Key Informants and staff to help each other learn about the teams, their needs, and progress plus any resources they shared with the teams during their consultations.

- Mark Bell, Consultant, Mark Bell Consulting
- Alicia Betancourt, County Extension Director, University of Florida
- Karl Bradley, Leadership Development Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Sabrina Drill, Climate Fellow. National Extension Climate Initiative; Urban Resilience Deep Dive Fellow, Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research; Research and Teaching Affiliate. University of Oklahoma Biological Survey; Emeritus Urban Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Zena Edwards, Extension Assoc Professor, Washington State University
- Regan Emmonds, Climate Partnership and Development Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Nav Ghimire, Associate Director of Extension & Program Evaluation Leader, University of Idaho
- Julie Halverson, Evaluation Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Rose Hayden-Smith, Publishing-Digital Engagement, University of California (emerita)
- Joel Haskard, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) Co-Director, University of Minnesota



- Jason Henderson, Senior Associate Dean & Director of Extension, Purdue University
- Megan Hirschman, Development Leader, Extension Foundation
- Jerri Husch, Coordinator, Delaware Climate Change Coordination Initiative (DECCCI), University of Delaware
- Ed Jones, Executive Director, ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee
- David Kay, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University
- Richard Klemme, Catalyst, Extension Foundation
- Jeffrey Lewis, DEI Consultant, Sustaining Natural Circles
- Amy Patillo, Field Specialist In Labor And Workforce Development, University of Missouri
- Brian Raison, Associate Extension Professor, Ohio State University
- Chuck Ross, Strategic Initiative Advisor/Catalyst, Extension Foundation
- Eli Sagor, Program Leader and Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota
- Fred Schlutt, Catalyst, Extension Foundation
- Hellina Tadesse, Partnership & Development Specialist, Extension Foundation
- Cathy Techtman, Environmental Outreach State Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension
- Victor Villegas, Technology & Media Support Coordinator, Oregon State University
- Karen Vines, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Virginia Tech
- Aaron Weibe, Communications & Engagement Manager, Extension Foundation
- Adena Wilson, Online Instructional Specialist, University of Illinois Extension

Extension Foundation staff

- Beverly Coberly, Ph.D., Interim Chief Executive Officer (Day 1 and Day 3 Host)
- Kenny Elston, Web Specialist (Tech Host)
- Ashley Griffin, Interim Chief Operating Officer (Day 2 Host)
- Mark Locklear, Web Developer (Tech Host)



2023 Summit Team & Coach Information

Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Arizona Urban agriculture production, small-scale and beginning farmer program	University of Arizona	Ayman Mostafa* Colleen Hanley Kyle Harrington Antonio Ugarte Mark Platten (Colorado State University)***	<p>The <i>Urban Agriculture Production, Small-Scale and Beginning Farmer Program</i> provides research education and support to urban, small-scale, and beginning farmers in Arizona with a focus on underserved producers. This year the project will host monthly virtual "Urban Ag Hours", launching their People's Demonstration Farm and implementing trials specific to urban agriculture, and will host 2 Urban Ag Field Days and 2 technical workshops.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>
Digital Ambassador Program	University of Missouri	Alison Copeland* Wayne Prewitt Joe Lear Noah Washburn Trudy Rice (Kansas State University)***	<p>The <i>Digital Ambassador</i> program leverages public resources to quickly stand up a cadre of community volunteers ("Digital Ambassadors") who can quickly and efficiently address the adoption hesitancy problem in every community statewide.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Building Capacity to Address Broadband Access and Digital Skills in NC Cooperative Extension	North Carolina State University	Kenneth Sherin* Roberto Rosales Louie Freeman Travis Hoesli Heather Schaffer Cintia Aguilar Liz Mauney Scott McCollum Trudy Rice (Kansas State University)***	The <i>Building Capacity</i> project is focused on building the systems and structures needed to impact the digital transformation that is taking place. The program helps NC residents EARN, LEARN and BE WELL by offering educational resources for digital literacy and digital skills. Showcase Presentation
FREES - Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability	Utah State University, Langdon Group	Terry Messmer* Angie Jensen Dan Adams Kiyana Kelly (Southern University)	The <i>Free-roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability (FREES) Network</i> was organized to bring together a disparate audience to discuss - face-to-face - the hard realities of wild horse management. FREES exists to foster new community connections by creating a safe space for conversations - psychological safety. Only by being more inclusive, can those with opposing views explore reality-based strategies. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
A Program Team for Multimedia IPM Outreach	NC State University, University of Idaho, Virginia Tech, Texas A&M, Migrant Clinicians Network, Cornell University, Montana Department of Agriculture, EPA Region 10	Wayne Buhler* Ronda Hirnyck Daniel Frank Joellen Lampman Janet Hurley Alma Galvin Paul Curtis Stephen Vantassel Marie Hallinen Molly Soeby (North Dakota State University)***	The <i>Multimedia IPM Outreach</i> project believes the adoption of integrated wildlife damage management practices will reduce unnecessary pesticide use, increase economic sustainability and create/maintain a healthier environment. Improper management techniques, devices and methods is an overarching concern of the project. The Team is working on tools to conduct an "information and resource" needs assessment of Extension Educators/Agents. Showcase Presentation
Lincoln University Show Me How Resource Library	Lincoln University	Callie Newsom* Susan Jaster Anon Anderson Felicia Anderson Mariann Wright Bekah Sparks (Mississippi State University)***	The <i>Show Me How</i> project is developing an app and kiosk to address and increase re-engagement with the community. This will allow readily available extension resources such as videos, fact sheets, and other publications to be disseminated to community members where they are and when needed. Showcase Presentation

Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Pima County Extension/ Smartscape	University of Arizona	Karen Hanshaw* Deborah Lesko Nelva Valenzuela Celeste Gamble Melanie Pugsley (Extension Foundation)***	<p><i>Smartscape</i> is a landscape water conservation education outreach program that was launched in both the Tucson and Phoenix areas in 1994 to increase landscape water efficiency in Arizona’s urban corridor. The program in Pima County provides education to landscape professionals as well as residential water users. The team is working to better reach and engage people in their community to be part of the water shortage solution through the use of efficient irrigation and sustainable landscaping practices.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>
Promotion of Penn State Extension: Utilizing Cooking Demonstrations to Encourage Healthy Dietary Practices	The Pennsylvania State University	Samantha Zlotorzynski* Olivia Lawler Mary Alice Gettings Penny Kris-Etherton Amber Denmon Dyremple Marsh (Extension Foundation Catalyst)***	<p>The <i>Promotion of Penn State Extension Program</i> utilizes food demonstrations at farmers markets to encourage vegetable consumption and promote Penn State Extension services and programs. The team is developing best practices for doing a food demo at farmer’s market involving their educator tool kit to help increase adoption by educators throughout Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
NexGen Mentorship	University of Missouri	Matt Pezold* Amy Patillo Karl Bradley Cheryl Newberry (Oklahoma State University)***	The <i>NextGen Mentorship</i> project is developing an intake process and portal for Extension professionals to be hosted on the Extension Foundation's Connect Extension website. Beyond the portal, the team is developing mentorship curricula to help support new CES professionals. Showcase Presentation
Box Elder Jr. Online Stock Course	Utah State University	Ashley Longmore* Marci Borg Cheyenne Reid Katlyn Barsnick Bekah Sparks (Mississippi State University)***	The <i>Box Elder</i> program is creating an online course for youth participating in the FFA/4H Jr Livestock Program. The course is intended to support them in the development of portfolios and other participation documentation, a sometimes confusing and complex process. Showcase Presentation
University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership	University of Minnesota	Heidi Roop* Nathan Myer Jamie Mosel Greg Klinger Danielle Hautaniemi (Cornell University)***	The <i>University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership</i> is focused on developing and delivering dedicated climate resilience extension across Minnesota. As part of this, the team seeks to develop programs focused on climate information use and scenario planning for agricultural and natural resources audiences. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
UConn SNAP-Ed Food Security	University of Connecticut, United Way of Western Connecticut, Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative, Danbury Public Schools	Heather Peracchio* Tida Infahsaeng Peggy Zamore Marlene Ho-Yen Jacqueline Kowalski	<p>The <i>UConn SNAP-Ed Food Security Project</i> has a number of collaborative partners in the greater Danbury, CT area working to improve food security, improve access and consumption of local produce. The project seeks to explore innovative educational programming to reach the SNAP target population with bilingual SNAP-Ed/Urban Agriculture programs.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>
Pinal & La Paz County AZ Health Zone Program	University of Arizona	Sybil Peters* Amanda Rowse Kyle Lucas Victoria Iniquez Mary Gonzales MaKelia Mitchell***	<p>The <i>UA Pinal & Laz Paz AZ Health Zone Program</i> is working to improve the long-term sustainability of Health Zone programs through the development of a sustainability guide detailing practices so that work can continue, unlike programs that cease to exist without direct involvement of Educators.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
FVSU Ag	Fort Valley State University	Niki Whitley* Ralph Nobel Stephan Price	<p>The <i>Fort Valley State University Ag</i> team is developing a program to work with producers to form cooperative structures to increase the number of salable cattle in spring and fall calving seasons, increasing both marketability and sale price. The importance of herd health and wellbeing are integrated as part of the herd management program.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>
WSU Extension Climate Change Integrators	Washington State University	Kristine Perry* Brad Gaolach* Patricia Townsend Martha Aiken Sarah Bergquist Joseph Hulbert Tracy Morgan Ann Taecker (South Dakota State University)***	<p>The <i>Climate Change Integrators</i> are working on a program to integrate climate change education, mitigation, and adaptation throughout WSU Extension programs. Through a combination of assessment, program adoption, communication, and support materials, the team will help lead the discussion of climate work throughout the Washington State system.</p> <p>Showcase Presentation</p>



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
University of Idaho Virtual Forest	University of Idaho	Sunny Wallace* Jean-Marc Gautier Ken Udas Melissa Hamilton Karl Bradley (Extension Foundation)***	The University of Idaho's <i>Virtual Forest</i> program is part of larger degree program bringing together the University's Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire science, the University's Extension services, and local communities to build experiential activities into the on-line curriculum via the university's laboratory forest, virtual reality, and community internships. Showcase Presentation
Nourish and Flourish	University of Minnesota	Abby Gold* Mary Schroeder Kelly Kunkel Kate Welshons Angell Jordan (Southern University)***	The University of Minnesota <i>Nourish and Flourish</i> team is developing and delivering conversation guides for use by community support programs in order to spark conversations with clientele around healthy lifestyles and mental health. Showcase Presentation
FarmerTech	University of Maryland	Vernelle Mitchell-Hawkins* Mark DeMorra Erika Crowl Santana Mays Angell Jordan (Southern University)***	<i>FarmerTech</i> is an interdisciplinary Extension program aimed at supporting digital literacy in the agricultural community. Teen mentors will be trained using the research-based 4-H curriculum to teach farmers the digital literacy skills needed to increase knowledge, skills, and attitudes around technology. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Reimagining InterConnectivity Between Langston University and Selected OK Historical Black Towns: Model for Expanding Diversity and Opportunities in Food and Agriculture	Langston University	James Arati* Joshua Davis Kit Sanders (North Carolina A&T State University)***	The Reimagining InterConnectivity team seeks to expand opportunities for diversity and increased participation of the underserved population in food and agriculture production, employment, access to quality shelter and education. Showcase Presentation
Cultural Competency for Municipalities	West Virginia University	Tony Michael* Adeola Agunade Denis Scott Tira Adelman (Extension Foundation)***	<i>Cultural Competency in Municipalities</i> partners with West Virginia cities and towns to provide education and cultural competency outreach and build DEIA understanding and awareness in communities. Showcase Presentation
Seeing Yourself in the Future	West Virginia University	Lisa Ingram* Megan Kruger Sabrina Beal Susan Gamble Alyson Carozza Jamie Mullins Jodi Smith Cheryl Newberry (Oklahoma State University)	The <i>Seeing Yourself in the Future</i> pilot program focuses on providing West Virginia students with the knowledge and tools necessary to help them prepare for post-secondary training and education. <i>Seeing Yourself</i> is based around a successful series of career exploration and career readiness lessons that were being delivered as standalone workshops. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
High Plains Alternative Crops Conference	Oklahoma State University	Sumit Sharma* Karin Bump (Cornell University Emerita)	The <i>High Plains Alternative Crops Conference</i> is piloting a conference focused around identifying alternative crops of interest to producers. These crops will help producers adjust to varying conditions in both markets and climate. Showcase Presentation
National Extension Climate Initiative (NECI) Leadership Planning	Utah State University, Montana State University, University of Florida, Purdue University	Roslynn McCann* Betsy Newman Paul Lachapelle Jennison Kipp Hans Schmitz	The <i>National Extension Climate Initiative (NECI) Leadership Planning Team</i> is working to expand the reach, content, and membership of the Initiative throughout the Cooperative Extension System. Showcase Presentation
Developing Climate Relevant Content for Extension Programs	University of Illinois	Duane Friend* Shibu Kar Karen Winter-Nelson Trent Ford Eliana Brown	The <i>Climate Relevant Content</i> team is developing a suite of training for Extension educators working on issues of climate change. The program will build confidence and knowledge about climate change, enabling immediate action within the communities they serve, unlike current diffuse and ad-hoc efforts. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Climate Change and Family Resource Management	Mississippi State University, University of Wisconsin, University of Arkansas, South Dakota State University, University of Tennessee, Kansas State University, Auburn University, University of Connecticut	Becky Smith* Jenny Abel Betsy Garrison Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head Christopher Sneed Elizabeth Kiss Portia Johnson Faye Griffiths-Smith Chuck Stamper (University of Kentucky)***	The <i>Climate Change and Family Resource Management</i> team is using outreach, education, and research to empower families to become resilient through risk management and adaptation to climate change impacts for optimal health and well-being. Showcase Presentation
Climate Smart Landscaping	University of Florida	Hamutahl Cohen* Henry Mayer Ryan Klein Yvette Goodiel Steve Hadcock (Cornell University)	The <i>Climate Smart Landscaping</i> program is a Florida-wide collection of programming around climate change education, mitigation, and resiliency for the commercial horticulture industry. Showcase Presentation



Team Name	Institution(s)	Members *Team Lead ***Catalyst/Mentor/Coach	Project Description
Creating a Multi-State Meat Consortium for Producers	Tuskegee University	Clarissa Harris* Rui Chen Frank Abrahamsen Karin Bump (Cornell University Emerita)	The Tuskegee <i>Multi-State Meat Consortium</i> team recognizes a need exists to increase awareness for opportunities in the meat processing industry for small scale producers. Creating the multi state consortium would help institutions and constituents make conscious decisions about doing further processing and provide resources to help smaller producers compete with the commercial meat industry. Showcase Presentation
Florida A&M University	Florida A&M University	Ciara Holloman Allen Vanerson Cheyenne Martin	The FAMU team is working on partnering with other agencies and institutions around improving health, equity, and well-being.



Summit Goals and Participant Feedback Overview

The overall goals of the climate resiliency themed Project Acceleration Summit were to help participants

- Identify a connection between the work they do and climate resiliency;
- Increase awareness of climate resiliency work being done by Extension colleagues nationally and what resources and supports are available;
- Receive assistance for projects and programs that are ready to help communities receive and utilize federal funds; and
- Gain knowledge to improve equity in the impacts of climate resiliency and the benefits of addressing climate resiliency.

Beyond this, the overall team outcomes for the Project Acceleration Summit and support provided by coaches and Key Informants included helping teams:

- Strengthen community engagement for each project or program
- Collectively engage partnerships for new capacity for each program
- Strengthen project or program plans
- Increase project or program innovation
- Develop strategies to effectively engage new audiences
- Strengthen organizational context and readiness to support change needed by their projects and programs

Participants were asked to complete a daily feedback form for Days 1 and 2 and an end of Summit feedback form on Day 3. The daily feedback form solicited input on their main takeaway related to their project as well as their main takeaway from the climate resilience information provided that day. Additionally, respondents were asked to provide open-ended responses to three questions:

I like...

I wish...

I wonder...



These simple questions gathered feedback on what went well for participants during the day, what they wish might have happened differently, and what they are curious about.

The end of Summit survey focused more on the goals of the Summit. It asked participants to rate the helpfulness of different aspects of the conference along 22 items assessing their progress against the goals of the Summit listed above. The end of Summit survey was used to create the pie charts in the following section.

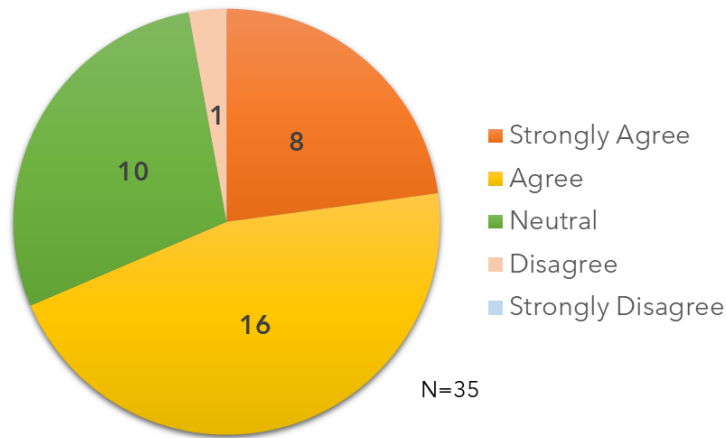
Forty-eight participants provided responses to a daily feedback form and 35 provided responses to the end-of-Summit survey. Additionally, 5 Key Informants provided feedback on their experience at the Summit. Due to the complete anonymity of the surveys, there is no way to tell if the same individuals provided feedback on multiple days or if different individuals contributed to the feedback each day. This limitation needs to be kept in mind when reviewing the data in this summary.

Climate Resilience Theme

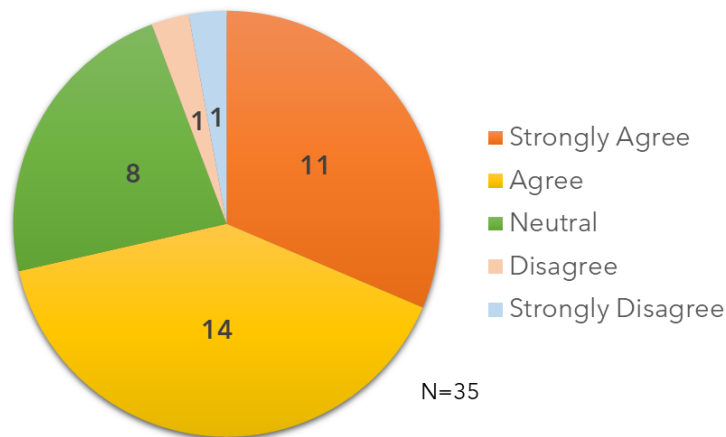
Goal 1: Identify a connection between the work they do and climate resiliency

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has increased confidence in integrating climate resilience into our programming



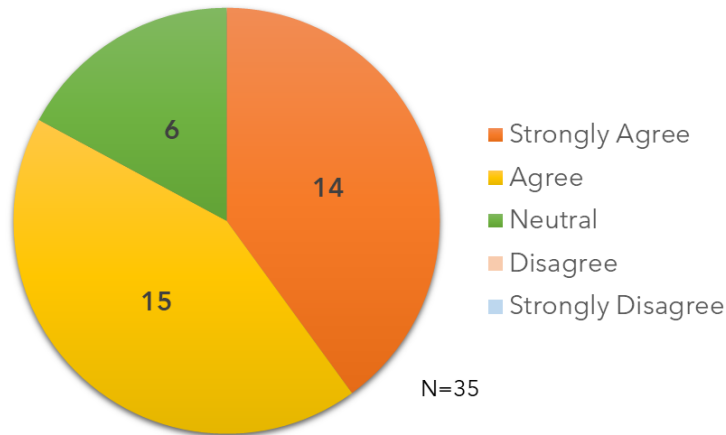
My team has increased knowledge and skills in integrating climate resilience into our programming



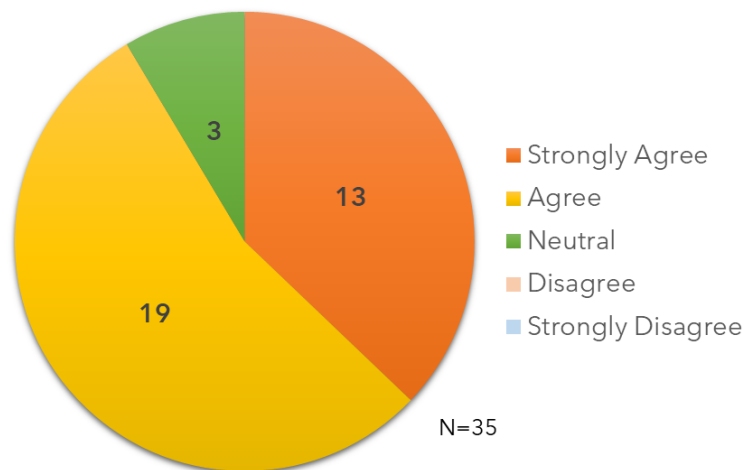
Goal 2: Increase awareness of climate resiliency work being done by Extension colleagues nationally and what resources and supports are available

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has increased awareness of climate resiliency work being done by Extension colleagues nationally



My team has increased awareness of what resources and supports are available

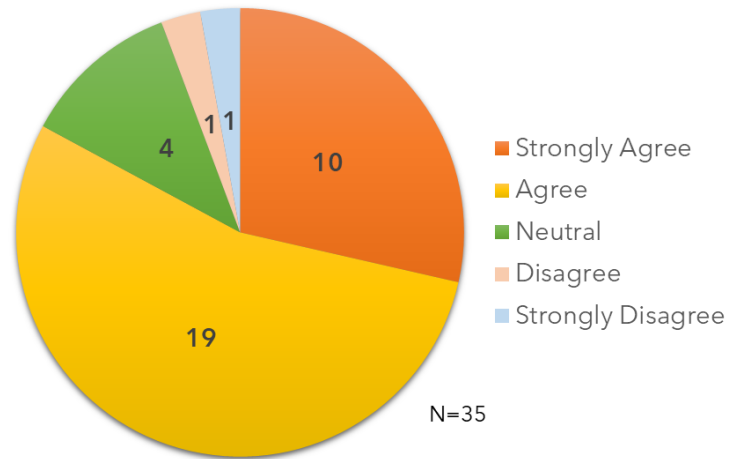




Goal 3: Receive assistance for projects and programs that are ready to help communities receive and utilize federal funds

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

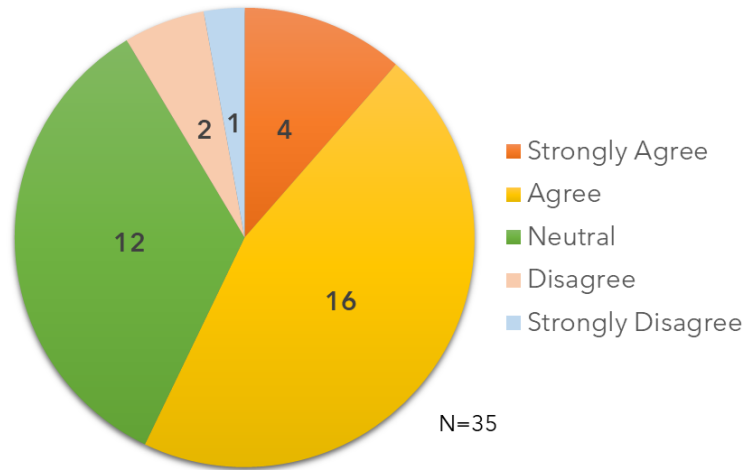
My team has increased awareness of funding opportunities and resources



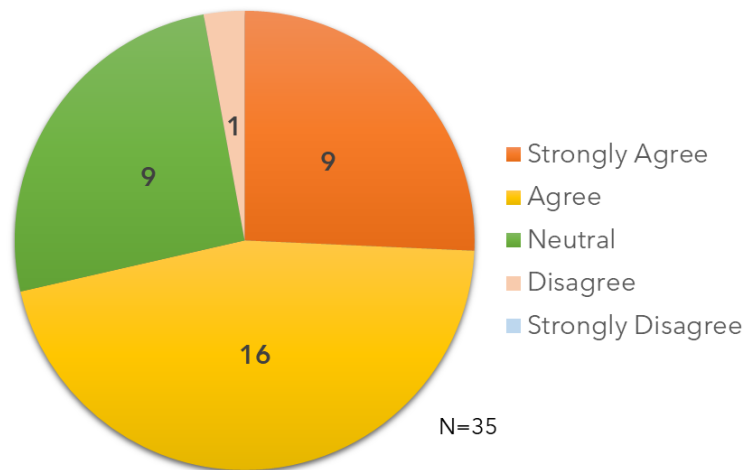
Goal 4: Gain knowledge to improve equity in the impacts of climate resiliency and the benefits of addressing climate resiliency

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has increased knowledge to improve equity in the impacts of climate resiliency



My team has increased knowledge of the benefits of addressing climate resiliency





Overall, respondents gained positively across all four of the Climate Resiliency goals. The daily feedback survey responses with respect to the Climate Resiliency goals helps provide context for the end of Survey responses.

What is your biggest take away from the climate resilience information and resources provided?:

- "The many resources that are out there and how it impacts all areas, many I hadn't thought about before."
- "How the various areas of extension can work together on this problem"
- "There are a lot of resources available to us."
- "Definitions concepts and terms need to be clearly defined and followed to keep the public informed and there are SO many resources - organizing them for our proposal will be an important step"
- "Everything is connected. You never know when you may hear about an excellent resource that is relevant to your work."
- "There are resources to help individuals engage at the level that is best for them."
- "Appreciated knowing that while silos are real, there are others trying to take a true systems approach to climate resilience"
- "We have opportunities to work together!"

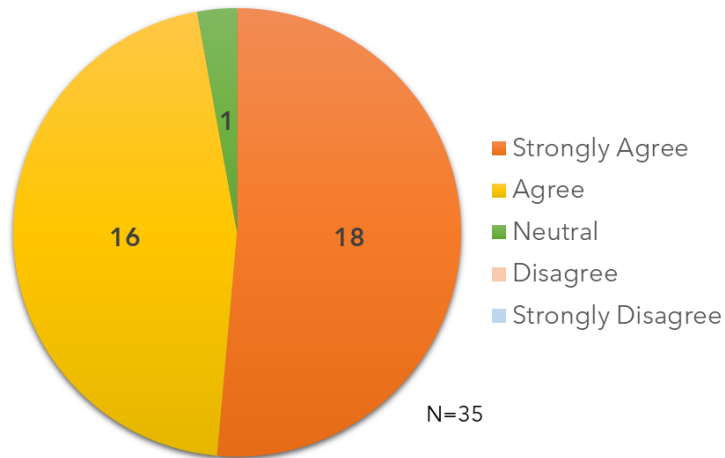
Team Development and Program Acceleration

Team development and acceleration goals were asked in a battery of 9 questions in the end of Summit survey. These 9 questions can be organized into the following categories.

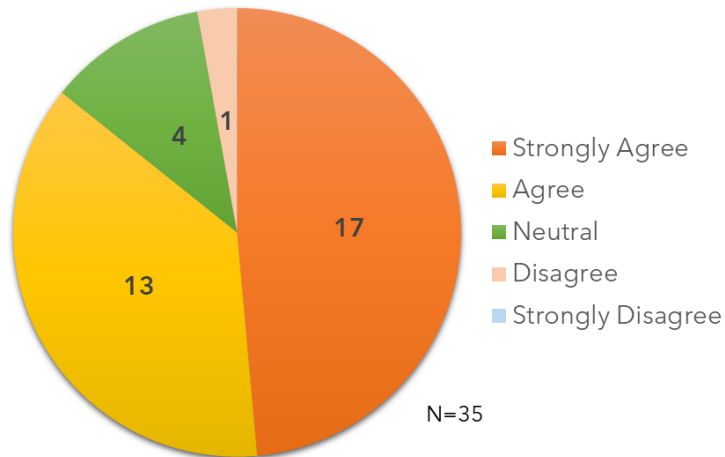
Clarity and Innovation

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has increased clarity in our project goals



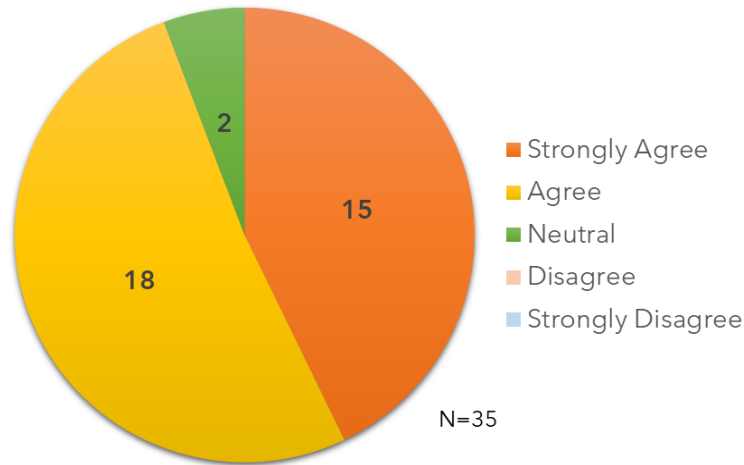
My team has increased innovation in our project goals



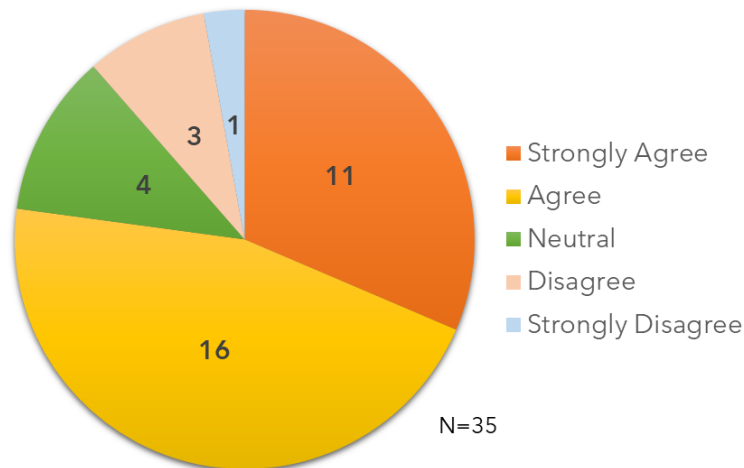
Awareness

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has increased awareness of others working on similar issue topics



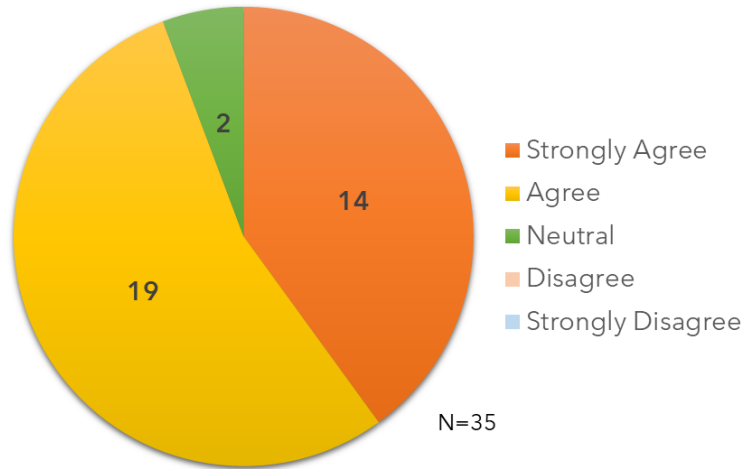
My team has increased understanding of funding opportunities and national priorities



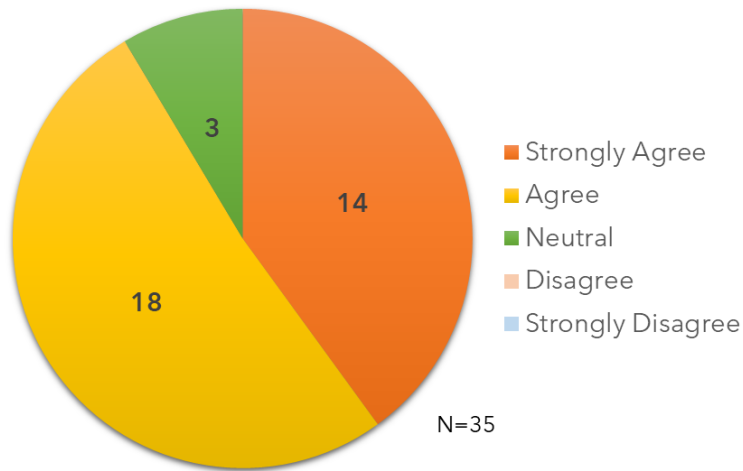
Accelerated Development

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has accelerated project/program development



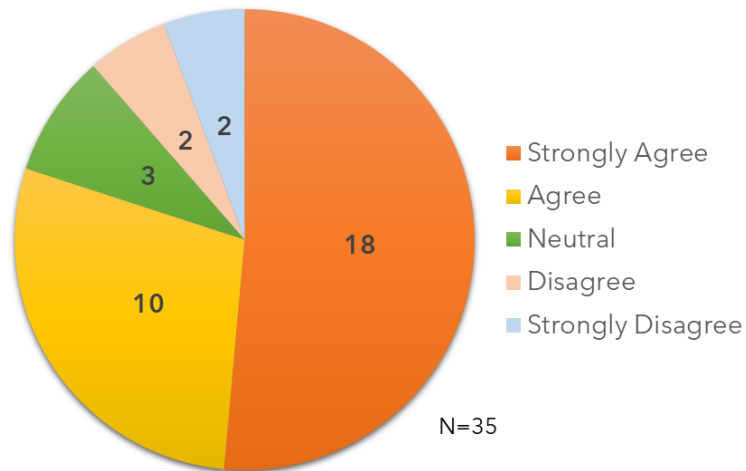
My team has accelerated team growth and development



Support

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

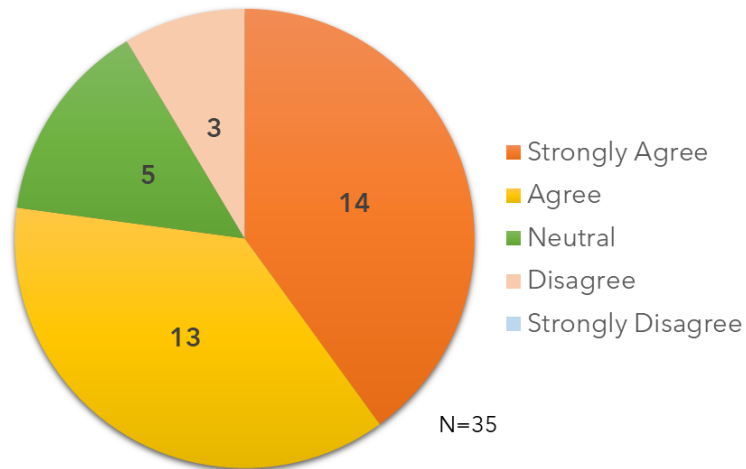
**My team has gained insight to their project
from knowledgeable Key Informants**



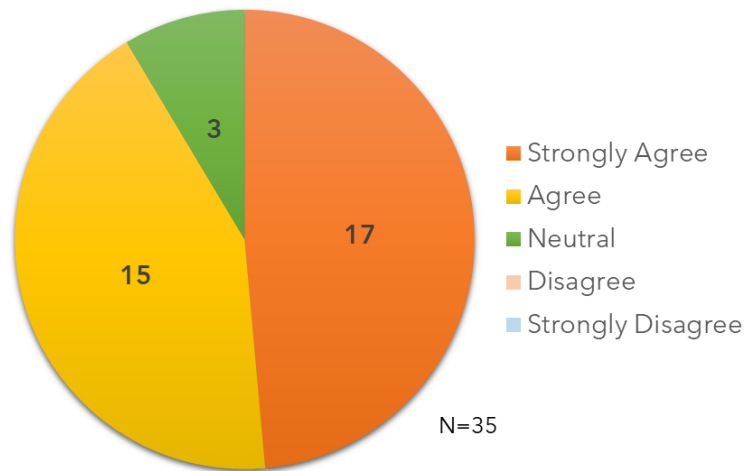
Next Steps

As a result of participating the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit:

My team has established new relationships to follow-up post-Summit



My team has next steps for their project implementation





As with the climate resiliency goals, respondents and their teams indicate they have positively gained from their time in the Summit. The daily feedback responses with respect to the overall team goals help provide context for the end of Summit responses:

- "There are substantial resources/organizations working to help individuals/organizations work together to address issues."
- "Setting Goals and Timelines is important to keep us on track"
- "How to work together on the Mural board as a team and what we were able to get done during the team time working part."
- "The need to determine how the project will be evaluated while developing the project was really reinforced."
- "Use the resources in your community to help inform your project/Stakeholders have good ideas and can help cheerlead for you"
- "The NTAE Grant program provides access to a variety of expertise that can truly strengthen programming efforts! We need to take advantage of that expertise and skill."
- "The one-on-one coaching and key informant support was invaluable! In the ten years I have been with Extension, this is the most relevant and targeted information I have ever received, even though I have attended many events and been proactive in trying to find the support we need in order to innovate and do better outreach. Wow."
- "[I like] The interactive nature of the summit. Lots of listening and speaking opportunities for cross pollination of ideas, hence iteration."



Summit's Unique Value

Participants were asked the open ended question “[w]hat did the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit provide that you can’t get anywhere else?” on the end of Summit survey. Responses included focused time with team members, support and resources, being able to see and provide 1 minute pitches, and connection with others across the country working on similar projects. The following is a representative sample of the responses to this question.

- “Connections with others working in this arena and the space and time to make initial introductions. Pathway to develop our ideas and messaging.”
- “Designated networking time with colleagues”
- “Coaches and Key Informants provided amazing feedback and support.”
- “Time and opportunity for focused meeting time with real-time input from coaches and key informants”
- “Awareness of what is happening in extension across the country. Amazing.”

Recommending the Summit

Respondents were asked whether they would recommend the Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit to others. Of the 35 respondents, 34 answered yes and 1 answered “Maybe depending on the team’s situation and purpose”. Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response. The following is a representative sample of the responses provided.

- “Last year I participated as part of a team. This year as a key informant and getting to visit multiple teams it really hit home how special the IC approach is.”
- “It is an experience different than many other professional development experiences.”

- “We achieved mentoring by a coach and the ability to have experts in the field through this experience. We have made huge strides in our project in a short time frame”
- “I really learned a lot and gained great tools for my career and impacting my community, everything I could have wanted.”
- “I felt that this really focused our team and gave us a lot of tools and resources we can use moving forward.”

Feedback from Key Informants

Key Informants were asked to provide feedback on their experience at the Summit using a Key Informant specific survey instrument. Similar to the general daily feedback summary, the survey asked them to identify their key takeaway from their experience, offer an open ended response to “I like/I wish/I wonder”, and provide any additional feedback that may come to mind.

Responding Key Informants noted positive engagements with the teams they helped during the KI session. Many noted that they enjoyed sharing what they knew in helping teams, even if it wasn’t exactly what they were looking for. As one respondent noted:

You don't necessarily have to be an "expert" or "specialist" nor do extensive preparation. Just share what you know and the knowledge you have gathered doing your own Extension work. Be honest about not having answers. And it is helpful to have a few tangible resources in mind to share, however I mostly listened to my teams and then considered what resources would be most helpful.

Several Key Informants noted an interest in the Summit team's next steps and what was to come for them. One also noted that they wished there was a way to see the “approximation of the aggregate impact of this work”.

Feedback on Design and Delivery

Participants were provided an opportunity to provide feedback on Summit design and deliver in both the daily feedback summary (“I wish” and “I wonder”) and in the end of Summit survey (open ended question for thoughts, feedback, comments, and shout-outs).

Many of the comments revolved around personal preferences, including:

1. Timing of Summit in January
2. Cadence of Summit (e.g. one day over 3 weeks rather than three consecutive days)
3. Break numbers and length (not enough, not long enough)
4. Technological concerns (dislike of certain tools)

Daily comments were reviewed and utilized to provide feedback during the introductory remarks on all three days of the Summit. The focus of some comments, such as technology and location of materials, were part of the focus of pre-Summit correspondence as well as the Summit’s dedicated orientation session on Day 1.

Beyond these comments, several participants provided helpful insights into missed opportunities and potential considerations for future Summits.

Speaker Connection to Extension

Three commenters on Day 1, one on Day 3, and three verbal commenters noted a disconnect between keynote and panel presentations and the work of Extension. While the information was valuable, it was perceived as missing the mark in terms of tying the presented materials into Extension programming. As one commenter remarked:

[I wish] the theme addressed an issue closer to my professional focus. Shelly's presentation was very interesting, and I'm excited to know that the work is being done, but I'm not sure how many participants have programs that could work with NREL. The aforementioned topic of developing programming amidst climate deniers would be a fantastic presentation that many of us have likely had to navigate.

While not negative toward the overall impact of the Summit, the comments provided in



writing and verbally indicate a future opportunity to manage expectations with speakers as well as the expectations of participants in terms of connections.

Participant Preparation

Feedback received from Participants on all three rounds of surveys noted a perceived need to better acclimate them to the structure and demands of the Summit. Some noted not being aware of the time requirements, some not being able to understand the various tools provided, and others not being prepared as a team to utilize the time they had available. Despite much of the information being provided prior to Summit, there are still disconnects (a consistent item across all Summits). The comments indicate an opportunity to refine marketing and information sharing with teams in a way that ensures they 1) open the informational emails provided to them (HubSpot records show an average email open rate around 50%), 2) understand at registration the general structure of the Summit (perhaps provide a mock agenda on the registration page), and 3) ensure that Team Leads are communicating information with participants prior to signing them up for the Summit.

As one person suggested:

“[I wonder] if you could prepare a short video about this opportunity to show others in Extension how they can benefit from participating. I had seen it mentioned before, but I didn't understand how awesome it would be!

Future Topics

A number of comments indicated ideas for future Summits and workshops:

- “[I wonder] If there will be another summit that can help Extension personnel be better at marketing, communication, outreach, social media, measuring results [sic]. Seriously, there is so much we've never heard of and we were stuck, even though we've been doing this for many years. Not even our sponsor [redacted] knows so much about this. We will teach them of course...for instance, chat.openai.com...who knew? Or even just moving toward finding our personas in order to target them better. We were floundering and now we are going to flourish!



- If there are other opportunities for program development utilizing this process in the future! I wish I had known about this NTAE grant and associated programs sooner!

One respondent captured elements of all three in one comment - plus provided an affirmation that despite everything, this was a positive experience for them:

"First thought: Poster sessions were either hot or frozen. In rooms that had representatives, they were informative and inspiring. However, several rooms were empty. Could participants open a second zoom link to post an unstaffed poster/summary/notes while they visit other rooms? This would provide something.

Second thought: This was my first IC summit. I had no idea what to expect. An introductory session a couple weeks in advance would be so helpful for getting people, especially new ones, up to speed.

Third thought: Can you do an entire workshop series on the workbook? Great stuff in there.

Finally, WOW!!!! Amazing. I have been in extension for 10 years and this is the first time I am getting a full understanding of the impacts of extension across our country."



Conclusion

The January 2023 Impact Collaborative Project Acceleration Summit was a valuable experience for everyone who attended. Teams were introduced to valuable information and resources related to climate resilience. Participants were also introduced to other programs from across the country who are working on similar projects and issues, helping to create new networks and connections.

The Summit's structure provides teams with valuable, focused team time. The provision of Impact Collaborative Coaches and Key Informants continues to provide teams with valuable insights and support in developing their ideas and aspirations into real, on-the-ground programs and impacts. Keynote speakers and panels help participants make connections to a wide variety of opportunities and resources. The virtual format of the Summit continues to allow participation from a wide range of institutions.

In 2023, the Extension Foundation will be conducting a needs assessment of the Cooperative Extension system to shape the next evolution of Extension Foundation products in tandem with the needs and challenges of the Cooperative Extension system. The Summit's participants have provided a valuable snapshot of why programs like the Summit are important to them, as well as provided the Extension Foundation with insights into where they have challenges and opportunities.

To echo the sentiment of many participants, there are many opportunities to partner, to learn from each other, and to help support each other. We hope you will continue to be a part of the Summit and continue to support the Cooperative Extension System nationwide.