



Impact Statement

ProjectTitle:___ Establishment of a “Center of Excellence” Among Multiple Institutions

Issue: The state of Alabama has three land grant universities, two of which are 1890 institutions. Although Auburn University has collaborated with the two 1890 institutions, Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University on many smaller projects, I worked with the Dean of our College of Agriculture to bring Alabama A&M and Tuskegee into a partnership and address the potential of developing a “Center of Excellence” around soil fertility and plant nutrition. The other component was involving an industry partner and for that we worked with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) in Muscle Shoals, AL, whose scientists have expertise in fertilizer technology.

What has been done: Thus far we have held two meetings that included the administration of the three institutions and soil scientists from the three institutions and IFDC. A third, more focused, planning meeting will be held in late August as we plan a seminar later in December 2018 to bring together leading scientists in fertilizer technology as a cornerstone of this Center of Excellence and collaborative effort.

Impacts/New Partnerships: Not only have we been successful in bringing together the three institutions to focus on a common issue/problem, but the inclusion of IFDC has been critical to this effort. We’ also included a second industry partner, Purcell Industries in Sylacauga, AL, as a fertilizer formulator and a partner that has a vested interest in this collaboration.

Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life): Although this project is ongoing, it is obvious that bringing together the leadership from Alabama A&M and Tuskegee has sent a clear message to those institutions that we are a willing and vested partner in solving issues related to soil fertility and plant nutrition for the clientele we serve in the state. It also provided an opportunity for us to work more closely with IFDC, an industry partner that focuses on world-wide soil fertility and fertilizer technology issues, especially in developing countries, specifically in Africa.

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience? The FSLI program has been extremely beneficial to me, especially in how to build consensus among differing groups, how to negotiate leadership and participatory roles and being more aware of global issues related to food production.

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**If you have already written a report for your project and it is available on- line please include the link to the paper. If you have a pdf you can send it to us and we will include a link to that from your summary page.*