

2007 Michigan SARE PDP Annual Report

- A. Summary.** The Michigan North Central Region (NCR) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Professional Development Program (PDP) has been in a transition phase in 2007. Dr. Susan Smalley resigned from her PDP position and Dr. Dale Mutch accepted the position of NCR-SARE State Sustainable Ag Coordinator. The 2007 PDP Plan of Work (POW) was prepared in July and approved for the project period of August 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008. Five new initiatives were approved for the 2007 Michigan NCR-SARE PDP POW: 1) Create an advisory group to evaluate and develop the activities of the Michigan SARE PDP program, 2) Develop a mini-grant program for educators to use for projects in sustainable agriculture, 3) Promotion of SARE, 4) Bioenergy PDP workshops and 5) Travel fund for sustainable agriculture events and conferences.
- An advisory board was formed with 21 members representing Michigan State University (MSU), MSU Extension (MSUE), farmers, non-governmental organizations (NGO), Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and agricultural consultants. The advisory board met and accomplished the following:
 - Provided input and support for the 2007 Michigan PDP POW.
 - Established processes for the review and awarding of mini-grants and travel scholarships.
 - Recommended and established four subcommittees: 1) mini-grant administration, 2) travel scholarship administration, 3) SARE promotion and 4) report and POW development.
 - Provided support for the continuation of the 2007 POW initiatives in 2008 and input on the distribution of funds between initiatives.
 - Identified additional organizations to be invited to participate in the advisory board.
 - Discussed ways to efficiently and effectively promote SARE within governmental organizations.
 - Updated the Michigan sustainable agriculture contact list for the NCR-SARE website.
 - A website was established for Michigan SARE at www.misare.msu.edu providing SARE information and applications for mini-grant and travel scholarship programs. A call for proposals was issued to the MSU area of expertise (AoE) teams for mini-grants and travel scholarships. The mini-grant program awarded a total of \$9,620 distributed between four professional development projects and five grantees. Two \$500 travel scholarships were awarded.
 - The Michigan NCR-SARE state sustainable ag coordinator attended the Field Crops AoE annual retreat with 35 educators and presented information of SARE and its programs.
 - SARE travel support was provided to educators from Eaton and Gratiot counties, accompanied by 15 farmers, to attend the MSU Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) Sustainable Agriculture Field Day held on September 18, 2007. Support was given for eight nutrition educators from the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Agriculture to tour organic research at KBS. Travel funds were provided for eight educators to attend the Soil Building Workshop for organic agriculture at Morgan Compositing (Sears, Mich.) on August 22 – 23, 2007.
 - SARE farmer rancher grant (FRG) promotion included a meeting before the Sustainable Agriculture Field Day attended by seven farmers. Phone contact, information and/or input was provided to an additional ten farmers interested in the FRG program. SARE promotional efforts contributed to the submission of 16 FRG proposals from Michigan for 2007.

B. Approach and Methods. Our approach to professional development is to engage Michigan sustainable agriculture leaders to foster the expansion of professionals incorporating sustainable agriculture in their personal growth and field of expertise. This group of leaders, the PDP advisory board (representing MSU, MSUE, the farming community, NGOs, NRCS, MDA and agricultural consultants) has been assembled and are listed in Table 2. As the advisory board becomes more knowledgeable of NCR-SARE, they will become spokespeople for SARE, the PDP and sustainable agriculture.

- The advisory board has committed to biannual meetings and monthly conference calls to support and advise the state sustainable agriculture coordinator. A subcommittee structure is being used to focus efforts around mini-grants, travel scholarships, promotion and report/POW development. Subcommittee assignments are noted in Table 2. Subcommittee meetings and conference calls are being used to conduct subcommittee business.
- The mini-grant and travel scholarship subcommittees have developed the following process for award administration:
 1. Applications will be web-based. The application form and system developed and implemented by Kansas State University was reviewed, modified and approved for use in Michigan. We would like to acknowledge and thank Kansas State University and Jana Beckman for allowing the use of their website information and application systems. The application systems have been implemented on the Michigan SARE website (www.misare.msu.edu).
 2. Applications will be forwarded to subcommittee members for review. Discussion and awards will occur via periodic conference calls with the State Sustainable Ag Coordinator and the appropriate subcommittee.
- Applications have been received for both mini-grants (Table 3) and travel scholarships (Table 4). The current processes appear to be working well, but will be reviewed and refined as required.
- SARE promotion is being concentrated in two areas, material development and information dissemination. A portfolio of Michigan SARE materials including brochures, DVDs, PowerPoint presentations, posters and e-newsletters are under development. The multi-media approach will support different venues where SARE information may be extended such as workshops, meetings, conferences, displays and information booths. Previously developed materials from Michigan and other NCR states will be leveraged when possible. The advisory board and the promotion subcommittee are developing strategies to disseminate SARE information to a broader group of sustainable agriculture professionals. MSUE educators are being targeted through the AoE teams and county offices. In addition, opportunities are being identified within NRCS, MDA and soil conservation districts to reach large segments of their employees.
- The report and POW development subcommittee is positioned to assist the state sustainable ag coordinator in the development of the annual reports and POWs.
- The bioenergy PDP workshop initiative is being implemented through the MSUE Field Crops AoE team. The Field Crops AoE is developing programming materials and will hold workshops to train educators on sustainable bioenergy systems.

C. Other Information. The transition to a new state sustainable ag coordinator has resulted in a refocusing of SARE efforts in Michigan during the last half of 2007. The refocused program has not been in place for a sufficient time to produce intermediate outcomes. Therefore, Table 1 Progress Toward Expected Outcomes includes only short-term outcomes.

Table 1. Progress Toward Expected Outcomes

Intermediate Outcomes**	Short-term Outcomes*	Outcome Measures	Activities/Initiative	Output	Inputs
See other information above	<p><u>Advisory group</u> -Advisory group increased awareness and knowledge of NCR-SARE PDP program. -Advisory group is motivated to expand SARE impact through the PDP program.</p>	<p><u>Advisory group</u> - From the meeting evaluation more than half were not familiar with the SARE PDP and after the meeting PDP knowledge gain was 27% - some, 63% - a lot and 10% - a tremendous amount. -Michigan initiatives are identified and current.</p>	<p><u>Advisory group</u> -Meetings: a. NCR-SARE information program. b. Structure. c. Opportunities. d. New direction. e. Review 2007 POW. f. Develop new POW initiatives.</p>	<p><u>Advisory group</u> -Advisory group meeting. -Advisory group reviewed and approved 2007 POW. -Quarterly meetings established. -Subcommittees formed: Mini-grant Travel Scholarship Promotion Report and POW -Administrative and operational processes established.</p>	<p><u>Advisory group</u> -NCR SARE funds three-quarter time graduate student, fall semester. -NCR SARE PDP coordinator time. -Governmental agency time—MDA, NRCS. -Secretary support—MSUE Land and Water program. -Office space, etc.—MSU/KBS.</p>
See other information above	<p><u>SARE promotion</u> -Increased MSU educator awareness of SARE and SARE programs through Michigan SARE website. -Increased knowledge and awareness of SARE and FRG program through educator and farmer meetings and interaction with 10 farmers. -Increased awareness of MSUE Field Crops AoE of SARE.</p>	<p><u>SARE promotion</u> -Michigan SARE website operational. -Three FRG meetings held with educators and farmers. -16 FRG proposals submitted from Michigan. -35 educators from MSUE Field Crops AoE attended SARE presentation and 25 became aware of the SARE PDP.</p>	<p><u>SARE promotion</u> -Develop and implement a Michigan SARE website. -Develop PowerPoint poster, e-newsletter, DVD about SARE program. -Promote SARE at educator meetings. -FRG program promoted and supported.</p>	<p><u>SARE promotion</u> -Michigan SARE website established. www.misare.msu.edu -SARE promotion materials development. -State sustainable ag coordinator presented at Field Crops AoE meeting. -Held FRG meetings. -Supported 10 farmers with FRG information.</p>	<p><u>SARE promotion</u> -MSUE Land and Water program resources. -Governmental agency time—MDA, NRCS. -Funds for promotion material development.</p>
See other information above	<p><u>Bioenergy</u> -Expected outcome is educators increase knowledge of sustainable species and production systems. -New partnership developed between MSUE and NRCS.</p>	<p><u>Bioenergy</u> -Pre- and post-event surveys will be used to evaluate increase in knowledge and awareness of sustainability and bioenergy issues.</p>	<p><u>Bioenergy</u> -SARE PDP coordinator will work with AoE team to develop agenda and workshop.</p>	<p><u>Bioenergy</u> -MSUE Field Crops AoE members identified to lead program development. -MSUE Field Crops AoE team partnering with NRCS to conduct research and bioenergy tours.</p>	<p><u>Bioenergy</u> -Educator time. -SARE PDP funds. -AoE funds.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes**	Short-term Outcomes*	Outcome Measures	Activities/Initiative	Output	Inputs
See other information above	<u>Mini-grants</u> -Five educators will increase their knowledge of sustainable agriculture influencing the direction of their careers and programming strategies. -These five educators will increase the knowledge and awareness of 25 educators directly through their projects.	<u>Mini-grants</u> -Quick and easy electronic web-based application and evaluation system implemented. -Web-based post-event surveys for evaluating educator participation and changes in knowledge and attitudes. -Number of participants.	<u>Mini-grants</u> -Establish a mini-grant program for educator professional development. -Promote the mini-grant program to agricultural educators.	<u>Mini-grants</u> -Processes established for mini-grant submission, review and awards. -Call for proposal for mini-grants posted on the website and issued to MSUE AoE teams. -Four mini-grants awarded for a total of \$9,620. -Five educators complete the SARE National Continuing Education Program on-line course in Sustainable Agriculture	<u>Mini-grants</u> -SARE PDP mini-grant funds. -Subcommittee to review mini-grants.
See other information above	<u>Travel fund</u> -Two individuals will use these funds for travel to increase knowledge, skills and awareness of sustainable agriculture at the SARE National Meeting	<u>Travel fund</u> -Quick and easy electronic web-based application and evaluation system implemented. -Web-based evaluation upon completion of travel detailing how the conference or meeting contributed to their professional development in sustainable agriculture.	<u>Travel fund</u> -Establish a travel scholarship program for educator professional development. -Promote the travel scholarship program to agricultural educators.	<u>Travel fund</u> -Process established for travel scholarship submission, review and awards. -Call for proposal for travel scholarships posted on the website and issued to MSUE AoE teams. -Two travel scholarships awarded for a total of \$1,000.	<u>Travel fund</u> -SARE PDP travel scholarship funds. -Subcommittee to review travel scholarships -County or university support for above \$500 stipend.

* **Short Term Outcomes:** Learning, Awareness, Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, Opinions, Aspirations, Motivations

** **Intermediate Outcomes:** Action, Behavior, Practice, Decision-making, Policies, Social Action

(UW Cooperative Extension-Program Development & Evaluation 2003)

Table 2. Stakeholder/Advisory Group Membership

Member Name	Affiliation	Subcommittee Assignment
Jim Bingen	MSU and MOFFA (NGO)	Mini-grant
Mike Brewer	MSU	
Elaine Brown	MIFFS (NGO)	Travel Scholarships
Betsy Dierberger	NRCS	Report and POW
Tim Harrigan	MSU	Report and POW
Dan Hudson	MSUE	
Jim Koan	Farmer and NCR-SARE AC member	Mini-grant
Dean Krauskopf	MSUE	Promotion
Larry Leach	CSA and farmer	
Gary Manley	Ag consultant and farmer	Report and POW
Laura Probyn	MSUE	Promotion
Dan Rajzer	MSUE	
Natalie Rector	MSUE	Mini-grant
Tom Rorabaugh	MSUE	
Robin Rosenbaum	MDA	Travel Scholarships
Dan Rossman	MSUE	
Mark Seamon	MSUE	
John Simmons	Organic farmer	Mini-grant
Susan Smalley (Past Coordinator)	MSUE	
Hannah Stevens	MSUE	
Greg Vlaming	MSUE	Mini-grant

Table 3. Travel Scholarship Report

Educator Name	Affiliation	Funds Awarded	Attendance	Outcome
Pascal Nzokou	MSU	\$500.00	2008 SARE National Meeting	Pending
Vicki Morrone	MSU	\$500.00	2008 SARE National Meeting	Pending

Table 4. Mini-grant Report

Educator Name	Affiliation	Funds Awarded	Mini-Grant Activity
William Carpenter	MSUE	\$1,620.00	Extending the season in NE Michigan
Ron Goldy	MSUE	\$2,000.00	Minimizing soil borne pest risk in a high tunnel system through soil rotation
Tom Rorabaugh	MSUE	\$2,000.00	Extension educator professional development on SARE
Marilyn Thelen and Jerry May	MSUE	\$4,000.00	Systems approach to the bio energy future