



**Northeast Extension  
Directors  
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**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE  
LOGIC MODEL**

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## **CHARGE TO ANR PROGRAM LEADERS Spring 2006**

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- **Develop Sustainable Agriculture Logic Model for the Northeast region**
- **Intended to direct collaborative between NE state Cooperative Extension programs**



## Components of the Model

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- **Defined issue or need**
- **Situation statement**
- **Outcomes: Conditional, Action, Learning**
- **Activities and Outputs**
- **Assumptions**
- **Inputs**
- **Resources**



## Process Step 1

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- Develop consensus definition of *Sustainable Agriculture*
- **NO EASY TASK!**
- *Defines collective vision of the Ag Resources programs*



## Process Step 1

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- **Approach** (Wilner): Drew on existing parameters that were credible to NE Coop. Extension personnel
- **Platform**: National SARE core curriculum, then added topics from Penn State on-line logic model and UNH statewide Plan of Work (POW)



## **Process Step 1 (continued)**

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- Developed list of relevant topics/subject areas
- Vetted list through ANR Program Leaders for consensus and asked for their additions/changes
- Collected input-revised-and sent again for final consensus



## **Process Step 1 (continued)**

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- **Consensus definition** achieved
- **Develop Situation Statement**
  - How to frame that??
- **Required Needs Assessment**  
and **Resource Inventory**



## Process Step 1 (continued)

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- **Needs Inventory** required fast and comprehensive input that was easily collated and adaptable
- Developed electronic, web-based **survey** for the ANR Program Leaders





## Process Step 1 (continued)

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- **Survey tool:** All states needed to examine all topical areas.
  - To Identify: a) Did that state have **expertise** in that topic?
  - b) If not, was it a **priority** area?
  - c) If yes, would they **share expertise**?

**100% participation yielded comprehensive data.**



## Process Step 1 (continued)

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**Situation Defined:** Few Northeast state

Cooperative Extension Programs have clearly defined sustainable agricultural programming to meet their clientele needs and their existing program strengths and gaps. No collective vision of sustainable agriculture exists on a regional level, nor is there a clear understanding of the human and material resources available in the different component areas to address the regional NE needs. Therefore, coordinated sharing of resources occurs infrequently and does not contribute substantially to generating new applicable knowledge in the relevant component areas.



## Process Step 2

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- **Develop outcomes** based on defined vision of sustainable agriculture and defined situation.
- **Roadblock here:** Outcomes too broad and too numerous to be meaningful.



## Process Step 2 (continued)

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- Determined that specific sustainable agriculture outcomes **MUST BE STATE-SPECIFIC** to be meaningful.

***Not all outcomes relevant for all states.***

- ***Needed mechanism for states to identify their own outcomes, based on collective vision, and then find partners to mitigate resource gaps in priority areas.***



## **Process Step 2 (continued)**

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- **So-identified collective vision, situation, prioritized component areas, human and/or material resources available in region, and individual resource gaps in individual states.**
- **So-State ANR program Leaders will develop their own state-by-state outcomes based on the above criteria.**



## Process Step 2 (continued)

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- Individual state programs will identify state **outcomes** based on meeting priority needs of their clients in shared vision of sustainable agriculture.
- Defined **Activities and Outputs** will be based on the outcomes in each state.



# Defined Outcomes

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## Conditional (long-term)

- Agricultural Extension throughout the Northeast shares a collective vision of sustainable agricultural programming.
- State Coop. Extension programs identify and meet the needs of their clientele in sustainable agriculture by:
  - Sharing expertise (human resources) across state lines.
  - Building capacity of state Extension staff to deliver educational programs in sustainable agriculture.
  - Utilizing existing resources including eXtension, NE SARE, USDA agencies and other organizations



# Defined Outcomes

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## Action Outcomes

- **NE ANR Program Leaders utilize existing resources to deliver education and build capacity of their clients on the needed topics of sus. Ag. for their states.**
- **NE ANR Program Leaders utilize existing resources to build their staff's capacity to deliver educational programs in sustainable agriculture.**
- **NE ANR Program Leaders utilize the collective vision of sus. ag. and the identified resources in the NE when considering adding additional human resources to their staff.**





# Defined Outcomes

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## Learning Outcomes

- NE Extension programs share a collective vision of sustainable agriculture.
- Individual state Cooperative Extension Program areas develop an awareness of statewide needs for educational programs in areas of sustainable ag.
- Individual state Cooperative Extension Program areas increase their knowledge and capacity for sus. ag. programming based on their strengths and resource gaps.
- NE Cooperative Extension programs increase their knowledge of available resources to address gaps in sus. ag. component areas.



## **INPUTS**

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- **Extension specialists**
- **Land Grant researchers**
- **AES and other land grant farms**
- **Farmer educators**
- **Grants**
- **eXtension**
- **Organizations and NGOs such as NOFA, NE Pasture Consortium**
- **Appropriate agencies and agency programs such as NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative**



# Assumptions

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- Educational needs around sustainable agriculture are unique for each state, but many states will have overlapping high priority needs.
- Different state Coop. Extension programs have complementary resources (human and material) to facilitate equitable sharing for mutual benefit.
- Resources exist through the NE that are not fully utilized.
- States can effectively collaborate if they identify and prioritize their own strengths and gaps and share resources to address these gaps/.



## External Factors

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- Limited resources preclude state CE programs from full complement of needed specialists and researchers to meet all educational needs identified in sustainable agriculture.
- Constituents and funders in each state need to see return on investment benefit to approve interstate collaborations or sharing of resources.
- CE is one of several players in arena of building capacity in Sustainable Agriculture.



## **NEXT STEPS**

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- **States with common high-priority gaps engage in collective strategy to determine common program outcomes and identify resources to address needs.**
- **States with common gaps explore collaborative professional development opportunities.**
- **States develop protocol to share expertise.**



# CONCLUSION

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- **Process developed was as important as the logic model.**
- **Process has applicability to address other complex issues in NE CE.**
- **Process iterative, participatory and builds on consensus to define topic/issue/situation. Uses innovative technology to address geographic distances.**
- **Process strength is local focus with regional vision and action.**
- **Process resulted in product usable as reference guide for ANR Program Leaders to address resource gaps and use regional strengths.**