

# 2012 INFAS Annual Meeting Report

Grove Park Inn Asheville, North Carolina, May 24, 2012

On-site participants: Shorlette Ammons, Molly Anderson, Kate Clancy, Nancy Creamer, Joanna Friesner, Casey Hoy, Tom Kelly, Fred Kirschenmann, Bruce Milne, Helene Murray, Rich Pirog, Paul Thompson, Tom Tomich

On-phone participants: Patricia Allen, Linda Berlin, Alexandra Frantz

Summary of Action Items	Responsible
1. Mission statement- shorten, revise: Add justice? Make shorter 'tagline'? Suggested to contact Anne Tillery, Pyramid Communication (email below)	1. Molly Anderson & Patricia Allen
2. Food Assessment proposal: CDC follow up - get contacts for possible SRN resubmission as NIH grant (angle: public health side)	2. Kate Clancy & Paul Thompson
3. Connect INFAS with SAEA (Sustainable Ag Education Association) to determine if they've done an inventory of current sustainable ag and food systems programs	3. Molly Anderson and Casey Hoy
4. Description of the idea for a project on methods and evidence for local/regional food systems and the economic aspects ( <i>provided, below as footnote 1</i> )	4. Rich Pirog
5. Research agenda and vision Planning Subcommittee to convene (virtually), develop priorities to pursue in the next year ( <i>SC list below as footnote 2</i> )	5. Joanna coordinates

## Discussions: Network Mission and Recent Network proposal to NSF

<p><b>INFAS Vision/Mission</b></p> <p>Discussion on adding 'justice' components; suggestion to develop a shorter 'tagline'. Molly and Patricia will edit current draft. Suggested to contact Anne Tillery, Pyramid Communication (funded by WKKF to help groups like us in communications efforts) <a href="mailto:artillery@pyramidcommunications.com">artillery@pyramidcommunications.com</a></p>	<p><b>Action Item 1</b> <i>Anderson, Allen</i></p>
<p><b>Recent SRN Project Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus by group: worthwhile to rewrite or resubmit the proposal</li> <li>• Agreed we need to highlight strategic hypotheses, hypothesis testing, and methods; expand on risks and vulnerable children, and 'ramp up' ethics/values</li> <li>• Discussion about NIH and public health angle (Kate and Paul, NIH contacts)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decision</b> Pursue project</p> <p><b>Action Item 2</b> <i>Clancy, Thompson</i></p>

## INFAS Priorities for Next Year

<p>A. Education- agenda, curricula, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussed partnering with SAEA to see if they've performed an inventory of sustainable agriculture &amp; food system programs</li> <li>2. Is an RFP to do an educational inventory of INFAS needed?</li> </ol>	<p><b>Action Item 3</b> <i>Anderson, Hoy</i></p> <p><b>Question</b> RFP needed?</p>
<p>B. Methods and Evidence for economic impact of local and regional food systems- project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rich Pirog provides the paragraph in <i>footnote 1</i></li> <li>2. Discussion: (1) conduct meta-analyses of local &amp; regional food systems (synthesis of existing work, critique, methodology for future studies);</li> </ol>	<p><b>Action Item 4</b> <i>Pirog</i> <i>Footnote 1</i></p>

and (2) discussion as to whether there's enough existing work to perform meta-analyses at this time

- C. Drivers of Change scenarios- framing the big picture and vision
- D. Overall Goal for (B) and (C): To articulate a National Food Sustainability research agenda that responds to risks and threats
1. A subcommittee to plan for B and C, with D as the goal, was formed (see footnote 2 for SC member list)
  2. Suggested that the next physical INFAS convening be a working meeting or a series of 2-3 meetings, perhaps with two groups for topics B and C; producing written materials during session.
- E. Creating regional multi-state projects or regional research coordinating committees, which can be national in participation, via USDA and AES. May provide travel funding for annual meetings but research funding is limited. Main benefit- USDA and AES visibility and direct access to administrators.  
*Note- Casey Hoy emailed Tom/Joanna guidelines he found online for informational purposes.*

**Action Item 5**  
*Friesner, Tomich*

**Decision**  
Form Subcommittee

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*Footnote 1*

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Methods and evidence for economics of local and regional food systems (from Rich Pirog, MSU)

Over the past eight years, food and community leaders across the country have been making the socioeconomic case for private and public investment in local and regional food systems infrastructure by citing a handful of community, statewide, or regional economic impact and valuation food studies. Many of these studies use input-output economic models such as IMPLAN; a majority of this subset are based on projected scenarios of increased local/regional food production and consumption and were conducted by university economists or private consultants.

Local, state and federal governments and private investors continue to demand evidence of the social and economic benefits to more localized or regionalized food systems before committing resources. There is a critical need for food systems researchers and economists to come together and examine the recent work and help build consensus on the 'best practice' approaches and assumptions to inform new studies, and to research new tools that are designed to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of these emerging local and regional food systems.

There also is a critical need to increase the quality and volume of peer-reviewed research on the subject, and increase education and practice on the appropriate use of input-output economic modeling and related techniques in food systems research and outreach.

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*Footnote 2*

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INFAS research and education agenda priorities planning Subcommittee Members

- Molly Anderson
- Nancy Creamer
- Tom Kelly
- Fred Kirschenmann
- Bruce Milne
- Rich Pirog
- Paul Thompson
- Tom Tomich

*Note- due to time constraints, the 'Information on Relevant Projects' agenda items, including Agree, 2015 Sustainable Food Pavilion, and INFAS website at ASI, were skipped*

# 2012 INFAS Annual Meeting Agenda

Grove Park Inn Asheville, North Carolina, May 24, 2012  
 Date: May 24      Time: 11:30 am – 2 pm      Location: Roosevelt Room K

*INFAS annual reports to the Kellogg Foundation can be found online:  
<http://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/inf/inf/inf-reports>*

11:30 am	<b>Working Lunch, Welcome and Introductions</b> (including callers by phone)	<b>Tom Tomich</b>
11:40 am	<b>INFAS Vision/Mission Discussion</b> Draft Mission Statement ( <b>Appendix 1</b> ) INFAS Goals, Purpose, Scope* INFAS interaction with agencies, e.g. USDA	<b>Tom Tomich</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Recent Project Proposal (Appendix 1.5)</b> NSF SRN pre-proposal effort/Reviews/Next Steps* ( <b>Action needed</b> )	<b>Joanna Friesner</b>
12:30 pm	<b>INFAS Projects for Next year- Discussion of Priorities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Curriculum development- BHEARD follow-up and concept note; experts list for website (<b>Appendix 2</b>)</li> <li>2. Next INFAS Symposium</li> <li>3. National Research Agenda for INFAS</li> <li>4. INFAS Position Papers- e.g. role of sustainable food and ag in campus-wide sustainability plans; ag's role in renewable energy, etc. Venues for position papers?</li> <li>5. INFAS webinars- e.g. distinguished speaker series- videos to post online; MOOCs</li> <li>6. Connecting PhD graduates with network members; Postdoc funding; INFAS as mentors</li> <li>7. Networking Tools Beyond Email List</li> <li>8. INFAS Institutional Newsletters to Share in</li> <li>9. Expanding INFAS to 1890 LGUs, HBCUs, tribal colleges</li> </ol>	<b>Tom Tomich</b>
1:30 pm	<b>Information on Relevant Projects</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AGree Process- overview, future possible collaborations (Tom)</li> <li>2. 2015 Sustainable Food Pavilion- Milan (Tom)</li> <li>3. INFAS Website at ASI- ideas for expansion- experts list (Joanna)*</li> </ol>	
1:50 pm	<b>Open Floor- Additions, follow-ups, news, etc.</b> <i>e.g. Assistance to WKKF in Recruiting R. Salvador's Replacement?</i>	
2 pm	<b>Adjourn- 30 minute break before Executive Committee meeting</b>	

\* indicates informational slides