

# 2013 INFAS Annual Meeting Report and Action Items During the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society meeting

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**Room 107, WKKF Hotel & Conference Center** East Lansing, Michigan

Date: June 20, 2013

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:10 pm

**Facilitator:** Tom Kelly; **Chair:** Patricia Allen, *incoming Chair*; **Note-taker:** Joanna Friesner, *Coordinator*

## Meeting Report

### Action Items

1. Friesner: circulate draft priorities by email to entire Network following the EC meeting.
2. Ammons: Please add 'structural racism' priority to the draft list.
3. Research Subcommittee: revise the document that was started in Dec. 2012.
4. Tomich to develop an AGree concept note proposing an 'innovation institute' using the write-shop text. Friesner to set up conference call with RSC members, then with Todd from Meridian.
5. Friesner: follow up with P. Thompson about INFAS: Integrated Network for Social Sustainability-  
**You can enroll in email alerts at: <http://clas-pages.uncc.edu/inss/>**
6. Proposed to involve RFC connections into workshop and network proposals when pursued.

### Present

- Chair: Patricia Allen; Facilitator: Tom Kelly; Notes: Joanna Friesner
- Hunter Francis, Shorlette Ammons, Rich Pirog, Joanna Friesner, Tom Tomich, Paul Thompson, Molly Anderson, Alex Frantz, John O'Sullivan, Linda Berlin, Gail Feenstra, Casey Hoy, Kate Clancy, Mike Hamm, Helene Murray, Marcia Ostrom,
- Observers: Gail Imig, Ricardo Salvador
- By Phone (got disconnected half-way through): Allen Matthews, Bruce Milne

### Discussion Topics

1. Network Design, as an explicit INFAS goal
  - i. Note: following discussion at the Executive Committee meeting on June 22, this topic was determined to be the priority for the coming Fiscal Year.
2. Partnering with the Integrated Network for Social Sustainability- group of engineers who are interested in integrating with agriculture practitioners
  - i. <http://clas-pages.uncc.edu/inss/>; Funded by NSF RCN grant
  - ii. Paul Thompson is an advisor; he encourages INFAS to sign up for email alerts on progress, and to have several members join their next meeting (Charlotte, April 2014).
3. Progress of the Dec 2012 Research Subcommittee write-shop
  - i. Open-ended objective to pursue an INFAS research-related writing project. PCAST report was discussed and attendees agreed on the utility of developing INFAS

alternative recommendations to address PCAST shortcomings, with a focus on food systems rather than agriculture alone.

- ii. Group identified several major research needs and drafted an outline (e.g. complexity in food system needs more complex approaches; resilience and resilience theory; demographics; beacons; new generation of farmers; socio technical and transitions)
- iii. As draft evolved, Tom Kelly proposed an interesting frame w/ Jane Lubchenco's article: Agricultural science has failed as a social contract.
- iv. Current re-design: a short 2-3 page introduction via Lubchenco; fitting pieces within.

**v. Lessons learned**

- i. As a group we want to put forward a much stronger research agenda than the 'legitimized' groups- e.g. PCAST.
- ii. Mistake to leave the write-shop and rely on later inputs; people too busy
- iii. We're not all going to agree 100%; publications don't need to be published under INFAS as a whole, just under the participants there
- iv. Calls for setting of ground rules for future efforts
- v. Revealed the 'shallow connectivity between people' who assume coherence within the Network
- vi. Importance of investing in relationships and connectivity to lead to coherence

**vi. Discussion on these lessons**

- i. View to prioritize tangible products from INFAS to make an identity for INFAS
- ii. View that there is value in identifying priorities and addressing them rather than trying to respond to something timely
- iii. View expressed that vulnerable children as a goal was missing from the activity

**4. Tomich- recent Agree meeting (also there: Milne, Liebman, Salvador)**

- i. Tom has had some success in raising INFAS's profile within AGree via Research Subcommittee. At the meeting an exercise was to design an 'innovation institute' as proposed in PCAST report (\$25 million/year for 5 years).
- ii. Todd Barker-Meridian for AGree- invited INFAS concept note on an innovation institute. Tom thought our write-shop document could be a good frame. PCAST mentions healthy people/environment.
- iii. With Deb Atwood- sees the AGree foundations as an audience for concept note.

**5. Alex Frantz, Real Food Challenge Rep to EC**

- i. RFC is also a network and we can provide our voice to INFAS activities as well as insights and guidance.
- ii. Moving forward keep RFC connections in mind for activities.