

# NRSP Midterm Review Form

Project Number:

Dates Covered (list the 3-year period since last renewal/inception):

Reviewer Name:

***According to the National Guidelines, all NRSP projects shall undergo a midterm progress review according to the following criteria:***

## **Mission and Relevance:**

### **1. Mission:**

The activity of an NRSP focuses on the development of enabling technologies, support activities (such as to collect, assemble, store, and distribute materials, resources and information), or the sharing of facilities needed to accomplish high priority research, but which is not of itself primarily research. Ideally, an NRSP would facilitate a broad array of research activities. The primary purpose of NRSPs shall not be solely to conduct research, as there are other available mechanisms for creating these types of projects including the multistate research projects and the National Research Project (NRP) options. Examples of NRSP activities might include collection of data that are widely used by other research groups and efforts; development of databases; or development of critical technologies."

***Are the activities of this NRSP consistent with the mission of the NRSP program?***

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

### **2. (20 points) Relevance to National Issue:**

All NRSPs must involve a national issue, relevant to and of use by most, if not all regions. These projects draw on the best minds and resources within and outside the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) system to address the issues.

***Does this NRSP address a national issue?***

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Total Points: \_\_\_\_ / 20

**3. (20 points) Relevance to Stakeholders:**

Is there evidence of stakeholder use of project outputs? **Yes** \_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_

Are there project outcomes that aide in development of or contribute to the discussion of public policy? **Yes** \_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_

If so, please describe:

Total Points: \_\_\_\_ / 20

**Implementation of the NRSP:**

**1. (15 points) Management and Business Plan:**

Each NRSP must have a well-developed business plan that describes how the project will be managed and funded for a five-year period. This plan includes a management structure to adequately integrate the efforts of multiple participants. The plan should include provisions for linking multiple sources of funding and leveraging those sources with the limited off-the-top research funds. The plan should demonstrate that alternative funding sources have been sought. This plan should include efforts to bring in new agencies, organizations, industry, foundations, etc. to help address the issues and provide funding for the project. All project proposals must provide evidence of contributions from experiment stations across the nation beyond what is available through off-the-top funds.

The midterm review must reflect progress toward meeting funding expectations. Failure to meet funding goals may result in alterations to the off the top budget contribution provided by the SAES system.

Comments:

Total points: \_\_\_\_/15

**2. (15 points) Progress Toward Objectives and Projected Outcomes:**

- a. Objectives, milestones and deliverables should be described in sufficient detail such that progress can be measured.
- b. The midterm review of the project must demonstrate productivity, progress toward original objectives and the relationship between projected goals, actual accomplishments and any impacts to date. As appropriate, this assessment must include an evaluation of stakeholders' use of project outputs to date.

Comments:

Total points: \_\_\_\_/15

**3. (15 points) Integration:**

- a. Project proposals should indicate how efforts are integrated with extension or academic programs and how results might be of use by other potential stakeholders.
- b. In the midterm review, the project must address actual collaborations and any new partnerships built during the project period. The report should address the degree to which the full team is engaged in project planning and implementation. Discuss plans to correct any weaknesses that may have been identified.

Comments:

Total points: \_\_\_\_/15

**4. (15 points) Outreach, Communications and Assessment:**

All project proposals must have a sound outreach, communications and an assessment plan that seek to communicate the program's goals, accomplishments and outcomes/impacts. The communication plan must detail how results will be transferred to researchers and other end users and contain the following elements:

- a. Clear identification of the intended audience(s) of the NRSP. Since this is a Research Support Project, in most instances the primary beneficiary of the results will be other scientists. However, careful consideration should be given to other possible users of the information (such as consumers, producers, governmental agencies (local, state and federal), general public, etc.) **Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_**
- b. Clear description of the engagement of stakeholders in the definition and/or conduct of the research support project. **Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_**
- c. Thorough description of the methodology to measure the accomplishments and impacts of the National Research Support Project and effectiveness of the communication plan. Methods such as surveys, town meetings, conferences, analyses of reference data (e.g. citation index, etc.), and use of professional evaluators should be considered. **Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_**

- d. Specific description for development of communication pieces describing the activities, accomplishments, and impacts of the NRSP. The communication pieces will be used with SAES/ARD directors, stakeholders and their organizations, funding sources and agencies, and congressional delegations. **Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_**
  
- e. Suggested mechanisms for distribution of the results of the research support project. Examples include sharing the results at annual meetings of stakeholders, providing material to the Budget and Advocacy Committee of the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly and other appropriate committees within the SAES/ARD organization, and assisting NIFA in preparation of appropriate documents highlighting the impacts of the project.

The midterm review must demonstrate the extent to which the NRSP is working to effectively communicate project results to those who need them and their use by target audiences. **Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_**

Comments: