Presentation to USDA Agriculture Outlook Conference

SARE is the future of U.S. Agriculture

A Grantee’s Perspective
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The First 20 Years of SARE

Development of farmer research grants

Out-of-the-box thinking within university research grants

Train the trainer; effective development of university Extension and NGO’s
My Story: Small Grant, Big Change

SARE awarded a $4,000 farmer grant in 1996 to encourage a fundamental environmental change in production.

Shepherd’s Grain has grown into a $6 million business with 33 producers involved marketing that production change.
U.S. Agriculture of the Future...

- Is diverse
- Is environmentally sound
- Produces more nutrition
- Is more efficient (energy & water)
- Is connected to its region (food, fuel, feed or fiber)
- Rewards quality (and quality producers)
- Has a plan
The SARE Model is Critical to Achieving the Ag of the Future

- SARE has four ecosystem and geographic developed regions in place
- SARE has research programs mandated to think outside the box
- SARE has research programs that recognize and reward innovation
- SARE has had huge successes with “federal budget dust” in the past as its funding
Looking Forward

- Fund SARE at requested levels, not with leftover dollars
- Develop a U.S. agriculture policy centered around diversity, stewardship, and nutrition and built from the innovation of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and fishermen
- Use existing university research with direction from SARE
- Recognize that a nation that cannot feed itself cannot defend itself
- Place agriculture – food, feed, fiber and fuel production – into the future of America
- Allow an existing program (SARE) to be the leader in the development of innovative research