Day 1: Monday May 22, 2017

8:00    Registration, Coffee, and Breakfast

9:00    Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions

9:30    The Importance of Communicating Research in Organic
This panel will touch on why it is critical for organic research to help the industry thrive. Topics will include the profitability of organic agriculture, the impact of organic production on rural economies, and how current research can support the success of the organic industry.

10:30   Break

11:00   Case Study 1: Biodiversity
The Biodiversity case study will examine research communication and utilization as it pertains to the NOP Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Guidance. Topics will include an industry perspective on the link between improved ecosystem services and profitability, a review of the research that led to the development of the guidance, and an assessment of the recommendations and tools to help farmers successfully comply with the new guidance.

12:00   Impactful Research and Communication to Farmers
A farmer-based panel will lead discussions on attributes of research that make them impactful, how farmers communicate needs to scientists and government agencies, how farmers learn about research innovations, and what factors increase the likelihood of new technique adoption.

1:00    Lunch

2:00    Case Study 2: Best Practices in Organic
The Best Practices in Organic case study discuss the National Organic Farming Handbook, including research incorporated into the manual and how farmer implementation of best practices can impact profitability.

3:00    Connecting Research with Organic Policies
A panel composed of government agency representatives will examine how science influences organic policies, how farmers and industry members can impact government agency research and policy priorities, and how to improve effective communication between policymakers and researchers.

4:00    Break

4:30    Group Discussion
Attendees will be engaged in an analysis of effective communication strategies, through iclicker polls and open discussions. Information from the day’s case studies and panels will be synthesized to identify potential pathways for future improvement of research needs identification, scientific project design and communication
Day 2: Tuesday May 23, 2017

8:00  Coffee and Breakfast

9:00  Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Introduction

9:30  Case Study 3: Manure Safety
This case study will examine the efficacy of communication, research, and collaboration related to use patterns and safety of animal-based soil amendments following the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) proposed ruling as it pertains to raw manure application and the required time interval between application and harvest of crops. The importance of the research findings and policy implementations will be addressed through the lens of potential economic impacts to farmers and industry members.

10:30  Break

11:00  Mini-keynote: Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
Chellie will discuss the critical need for funding of organic agriculture research, including a discussion of her experience as an organic farmer and her actions in congress to help support organic agriculture.

11:30  Assessing Organic Agricultural Research Funding
This roundtable will include panelists who have experience in a wide array of private and public granting programs, such as industry-supported research, private foundations, SARE, OREI and ORG grants, as well as research funding opportunities directed toward all agriculture.

12:00  Lunch

1:00  Case Study 4: Organic Grain Breeding Programs
This case study will examine current initiatives in organic grain breeding programs, and how they fit in with economic opportunities for U.S. farmers. We will examine ongoing programs and the role of farmers and industry members in identifying breeding needs to fill production gaps, as well as the extent to which new cultivars successfully enter the market place.

2:00  Involving Stakeholders in Research and Outreach
A panel composed of scientists, extension agents and non-profit representatives will discuss and evaluate how stakeholders are involved in the development and implementation of their projects, existing extension, communication outlets, and resources; methods for increasing the efficacy of organic research outreach; and current research result communication strategies.

3:00  Break

3:30  Break-out Discussions
Small group discussions will synthesize information from case study sessions to identify potential pathways for future improvement of research needs identification, scientific project design and communication

4:30  Synthesis Discussion and Development of Recommendations
This discussion session will synthesize information from the entire conference and make recommendations to increase the effectiveness of research needs and results communication among diverse stakeholders in organic to make research count.

5:00  Closing Remarks