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Developing and Implementing Integrated Projects

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Integrated
Research
Education
Extension

To bring the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (**research, education, and extension**) around a problem area or issue



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What does optimal integration look like?

Research, extension, and education components complement one another and are truly necessary for the ultimate success of the project

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Research: What are the knowledge gaps?

Research should fill knowledge gaps that are critical to the development of practices and programs that will address the problem

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Education: How will the next generation be trained?

Education should strengthen institutional capacity and curricula and train the next generation of scientists, educators, practitioners, and citizens

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Extension: How will information be delivered to help the target audience make more informed decisions?

Extension should lead to measurable documented changes in learning, actions, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group

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Integrated Project Characteristics

- Stakeholder Driven
- Problem Focused
- Outcome Oriented

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Potential Outcomes/Impacts

<u>Short-Term</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Long-Term</u>
Learning	Action	Conditions
Awareness	Behavior	Human
Knowledge	Practices	Economic
Skills	Decisions	Civic
Opinions	Policies	Environmental
Aspirations	Social Action	

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Knowledge Continuum

Research
Filling gaps
in knowledge

Integrated Programs

Education
Training the next
generation

Extension
Dissemination of knowledge
for decision-making



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How to Begin...

- Identify available programs
 - Relevance, eligibility, deadline dates
- Obtain and read program materials

Contact the National Program Leader with questions, especially about the fit to program priorities!



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Then...

- Begin with the end in mind
- Know what you want to achieve and why
- What agricultural issue are you trying to address?
- How will your project help address the issue?

How will you evaluate the impact of your project? Ask yourself "So What?"



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What is Impact?

Impact is the quantifiable difference a project makes in the quality of life for clients, citizens, or stakeholders.

In other words, what will be different as a result of your project?

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Project Activities (Outputs)

What are the project activities that will lead to the desired impact(s)?

- Do they include research?
- Do they include extension?
- Do they include education?

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Developing the Project

Timing: Begin early

- Building relationships
- Writing your proposal
- Submitting the proposal to your institution for sign-off and electronic submission

Develop a timetable based on the deadline for proposal submission

**Letters of Intent are required for some programs*

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Develop a Strategic Response

Research: What are the knowledge gaps?

Education: How will you train the next generation?

Extension: How will you reach those who need the information?

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Writing the Proposal

All team members should be involved from the beginning

Represent all project functions (research, education, and/or extension) in one or more project objectives

Identify and allocate expenses for all project activities

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Writing the Proposal

Clearly identify the stakeholder community and their involvement in the project

Include letters of support when appropriate

Address the funding program's evaluation criteria as stated in the RFA

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Access the "More Funding Information: Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Programs" Web page

www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated
