

# Creating a New History for Agriculture and Food Science Technology

# GROUP: Learning Environments

**Objective:** Create a vision and identify goals for the future of agriculture and food science technology for Southern Minnesota. Engage the participants, put forth ideas.

**Tasks:**

Identify the most critical issues that currently exist and need improvement to reach this goal. Record each item in the table below (current state column).

1. Pose questions which paint a picture of how the present (current state) might look when improved upon at some specific point in the future. For each item, ask the following questions as appropriate:
  - What would the future look like if the current state were improved?
  - How would you know it was improved?
  - What processes would change?
  - What would it look like for student or other stakeholders?
  - Who would benefit the most? How?
  - What would the outcomes be? How would you measure them?
2. Capture these concepts in the table below (future state column).
3. Review and discuss each item. Select the key point(s) for each current state and record the major actions needed to reach the future state in the strategies for improvement column.

<b>We Listened!</b>	<b>We're Learning!</b>	<b>Together, we are growing!</b>
<b>Current State</b>	<b>Strategies for Improvement</b>	<b>Future State</b>
Classroom space.	Concern of building – plenty of brick and mortar.  Need partnerships with businesses to fill their future needs for people. i.e. Cargill, Land-O-Lakes, CHS, Agrilance.	Greenhouse needed.
Science labs onsite. Classroom onsite. FBM offsite. RTD on/offsite. Scholarships.	Scholarships to fund working farm. Internship/apprenticeship processes/program.  Onsite/real world lab with a partner (business).  Specific tracks for skill development. (i.e. custom applicator training (Willmar).	All-American co-op – site training. Food processors – hands-on application. Hormel Institute.  Flexible use Accessible location Sustainable for costs Scalable for growth.
International expansion • Minimal with Riverland		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand</li> </ul>	Build it and they will come.	The premiere global ag tech training center; that includes integrated programs where people across the globe want to come and learn.
Ag Tech Training Center	Create an integrated training program and/or degree that includes pieces of all in the new programs.	The centrality of water resources and soil science is integral to Riverland Ag programs.
Water education – add/include coursework		State of the science precision ag labs and staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer info systems</li> <li>Geography info systems</li> <li>GPS</li> <li>RS</li> <li>Agronomy</li> </ul>
GIS/Precision Ag Training Facility	Dedicate space and resources to GIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donation of precision equipment</li> <li>?? For GIS computers and services and staff.</li> </ul>	QUALIFIERS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible</li> <li>Flexible</li> <li>Sustainable</li> <li>Scalable (cert/degrees)</li> <li>Connected</li> <li>Attractive</li> <li>Valuable</li> </ul>
Space utilization “too much”. Is it usable? In the right place? Electronics lab?	Connect physical resources. Right size – right place. Distributive learning. *Tap companies (end consumer or grads) To define what’s needed Ag industry map, locate, define the assets Connect farm to fork. Tap global market. Build the premiere ag tech training facility. Water management.	Labs – soils lab. Greenhouse. Not on campus – remote locations, on-site learning. GIS lab – brick & mortar & “toys”  Austin/SE MN – Silicon Valley of Ag. Sustainable lasting partnerships in education and industry. Ag institute – from diaper to death
	Think like a giant! – a green valley giant!	

**Facilitator:** George Brophy.

**Participants:** Belita Schindler, Beth Pagel, Matt Bissonette, Jeremy Mayberg, Jeff Baldus, Jimmy Delano, Don Friend, Sam Roy, Sheri Dankert, Murielle Atewologun, Amy Davis, Dave Marr, Eric Deters, Barry Kurtz.

**Recorder:** Holly Sherman

Conversation notes gathered:

What are the assets on and off campus, for the student body to bring to campus – company needed skills, future state for students.

- Space utilization issue. More space than students. Is brick and mortar in the form or location that is usable? Programs offering – lab space – have. Greenhouse or dirty lab (soils) – need. Have an electronics lab – hard skills in AL and sciences based in Austin. Brick and mortar is there, how to blend so it is unified?
- Acknowledging we have the space (labs), how to utilize is another discussion. What to do that is possible that is not on campus i.e. onsite learning labs. (All-American coop). Distributed learning communities (with companies).
- All-American Coop is feed, grain, agronomy – need students trained in the food safety network – onsite training is needed to learn (on-site industry)
- Cargill – food safety – quality assurance checks
- Others: Select Foods, Central Harvest States, ADM, etc., – interest in coop programs (student learning programs).
- Labor shortage in next 10 years. Need skill sets. People who work in feed mills five/ten years ago won't have the current skills needed to perform the job (technology changes). Tapping the companies to find the need (and pay).
- Consider the companies in the area – query their assets to align with student groups.
- Agricultural industry asset map. Ag financing is huge throughout our area. AgStar, local banks, etc. Understand finance.
- Another area is food sanitation – tie in with Hy-Vee. Training appropriate for all (food producers).
- International expansion and presence – how do we do? Let's build premiere Ag tech training center – build it they will come. What would make someone from Nigeria come here? Make it an integrated training program. Come for one year to learn precision Ag, but obtain hours of Ag business, Ag marketing, etc. Integrate the training.
- Need a dedicated precision Ag computer lab (GIS), need the toys (GPS, drones, etc.).
- Austin area as the Silicon Valley. Think big start small.
- Sustainability. (Hormel funded). A niche for the community college, partner with industry. Create a sustainable lasting partnerships with industry. Culture is here, how to educate the value we believe in.
- Look back at the businesses we have – what is missing, how to integrate into the program.
- What needs to be expanded – if one or two things to say out of this group –
  1. Have the ability to become the Silicon Valley of Ag tech training.
  2. Focus on building relationship with end-users on the Ag tech specialties.
- An Ag institution that serves diaper to death – education programming for entry level, build on existing skills and knowledge, bring in world-wide researchers to share ideas to be that premiere.
- What is the curriculum, why, what is the value? Who? Student, business, farmer. How – what methodologies used to make it happen. Where? Got to be scalable, accessible, flexible, etc., way before we get to what the building looks like.
- How to become attractive internationally. Need the facility to do so.
- Have the local companies, we are the dwarf becoming the giant. Dwarf thinking like a giant.

