Prerequisites for Maintaining Funding from Producer Organizations

Dr. Rob Gilbert – Professor and EREC Center Director
Sugarcane Agronomy
CP Sugarcane Breeding Program

R.A. Gilbert¹, J.C. Comstock², B. Glaz,² N. Glynn², S. Edme², D. Zhao², C. Chen², R.W. Davidson³ et al.
Sugarcane Variety Release Committee
CP Sugarcane Cultivars

- > 95% of sugarcane acreage in FL

- Major acreage in
  - Argentina (25%)
  - Belize (16%)
  - El Salvador (50%)
  - Guatemala (65%)
  - Honduras (47%)
  - Mexico (15%)
  - Morocco (54%)
  - Nicaragua (75%)

- 20 CP or CPCL Clones released since 2000

Gilbert et al. 2010 J. Plant Reg. 5:318-324.
Gilbert et al. 2005 Crop Sci. 45:2060-2067
Sucrose Accumulation and Harvest Schedule Recommendations for CP Sugarcane Cultivars in Florida

R.A. Gilbert¹, J.M. Shine, Jr.², J.D. Miller³ and R.W. Rice¹
SUGARCANE HANDBOOK

- EDIS – online information system
  - Soils: 4 articles
  - Diseases: 10 articles
  - Weeds: 5 articles
  - Insects: 8 articles
  - Cultural Practices: 9 articles
  - Water Quality: 2 articles
  - Economics & Policy: 16 articles
  - Varieties: 41 articles
- www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu
Faculty Program Principles

- Collaboration vs. Competition
  - Impact
- Creativity
- Grower Relations
- International Opportunities
Everglades Research and Education Center
Early years

Land clearing

Early canal work
Remaining faculty houses circa 1930s, currently used for visiting faculty

Current administration building, built in sections between 1930s and 1940s and used as laboratories and faculty offices

Wedgworth Laboratory building completed in 1990, houses faculty labs and offices

EREC Conference Center for agriculture related meetings, completed in 2001
Research Programs

- Best Management Practices
- Soil and Water Research
- Crop Improvement:
  - Sugarcane
  - Rice
  - Turfgrass
  - Vegetables
  - Corn & Sorghum
- Wildlife Ecology
- Pest Management
- Plant Pathology

- Graduate & Post Doctoral Education
The Everglades Research and Education Center was selected for its historic importance due to the research aiding growers and contributing to the growth of agriculture in southern Florida.

The marker, dedicated in 2008, was the second marker selected in the UF Historic Marker series.
ERECA Recent Impacts

❖ BMP Program
  ▪ Reduction in P loads average > 50% annually

❖ Sugarcane
  ▪ CP varieties grown on > 95% EAA
  ▪ Fungicide recommendations for new orange rust disease

❖ Everglades Soil Testing Lab
  ▪ > 8,000 samples processed annually
  ▪ Recommendations for > 200,000 acres
ERECE Faculty Programs

- Faculty Programs
  - Faculty programs drive EREC
  - Future difficult to predict
    - Hiring decisions
  - Mentoring junior faculty
  - Promote interdisciplinary collaboration
  - Support land grant mission
  - Increased reliance on grants
    - Energycane example
  - CD job to ensure programmatic balance
Keys to Sustained Producer Funding

- Prioritization of R/E Programs
  - Advisory committee
- Communication
  - Planning, implementing, reporting
  - Responsiveness
- Collaboration
  - Funding and in-kind support from industry
  - Faculty program reliability and work ethic
- Impact
  - Field days, surveys
- Recognition
  - Acknowledgements, co-authorship
Thank you very much for your interest.