

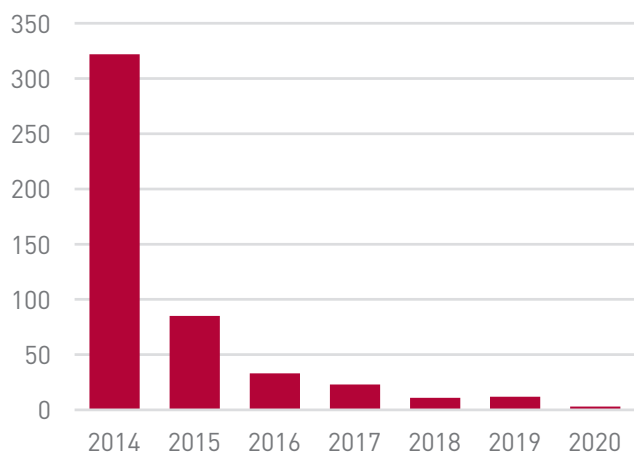
Cooperative Extension System

Cultural connections and international experience

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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In 2013, the US Department of Agriculture, National Institute for Food and Agriculture Center for International Programs and University of Minnesota Extension developed a process to measure within the U. S. Cooperative Extension System (CES) international experience and cross-cultural work with immigrant communities across the USA. The goal was to use this expertise to incorporate relevant global dynamics and cultural knowledge into Extension's education and research programs to increase the value to our clientele. The network formed through this process is better able to respond to the increasingly diverse and interdependent domestic and global needs.

Respondents to the data base: **489** total



Respondents to survey

2014 **322**
2020 **489** (total)

Male **231**
Female **217**
Did not reply **41**



Universities in database

106 public and land-grant universities



90 cultural groups identified

128 CES workers work with both international and recent immigrants
256 CES workers worked in foreign countries
23 CES workers work exclusively with recent immigrants

CES workers have worked with 91 immigrant communities (recent immigrants):

Africa & Middle East: **27** countries
East Asia and Pacific: **17** countries
Europe and Eurasia: **11** countries
South & Central Asia: **9** countries
Western Hemisphere: **27** countries

CES workers have worked in 158 countries

Africa & Middle East: **51** countries
East Asia & Pacific: **21** countries
Europe & Eurasia: **39** countries
South & Central Asia: **13** countries
Western Hemisphere: **34** countries

272 Extension educators speak another language

50 languages spoken at some level of proficiency
Top 5: Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Swahili
153 speak one language other than English
29 speak two languages other than English
5 speak three languages other than English
1 speaks five languages other than English

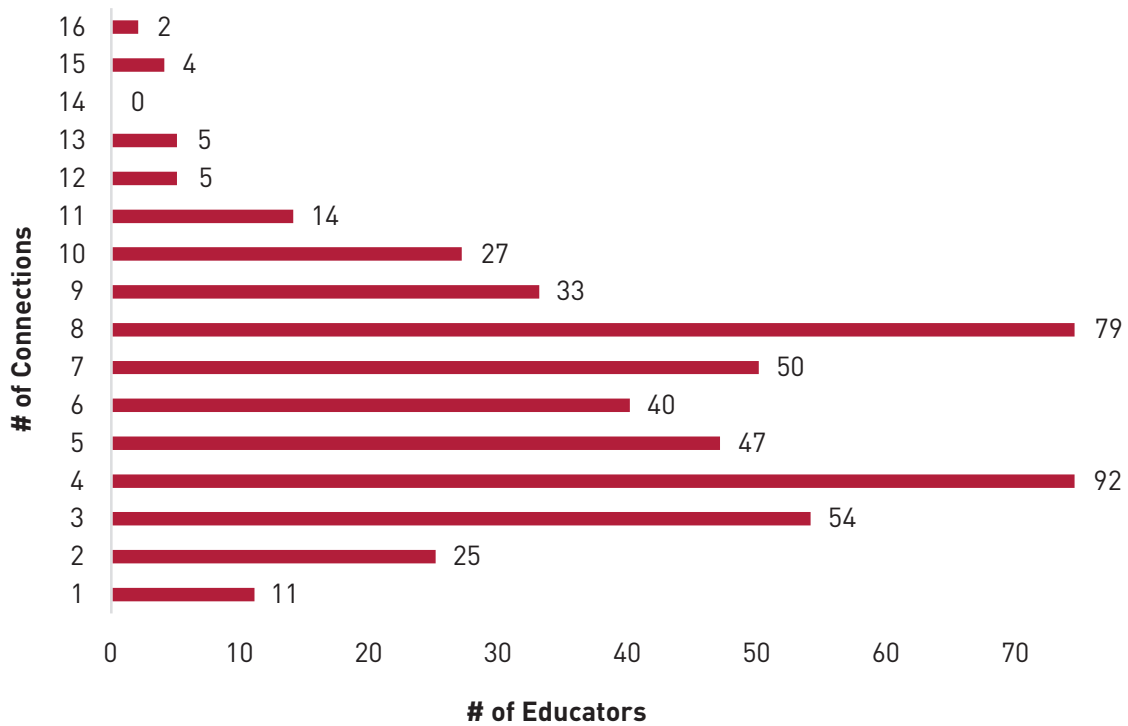


Funding for the project provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

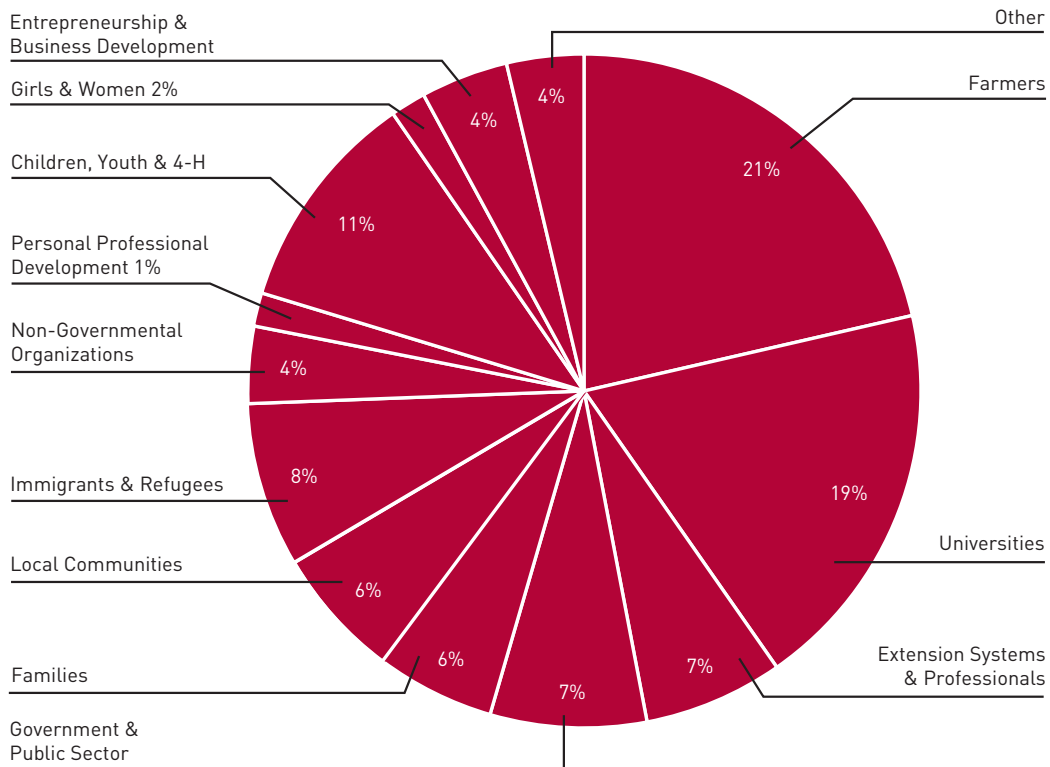


Networking with colleagues

Extension educators list a total of **2,986** connections



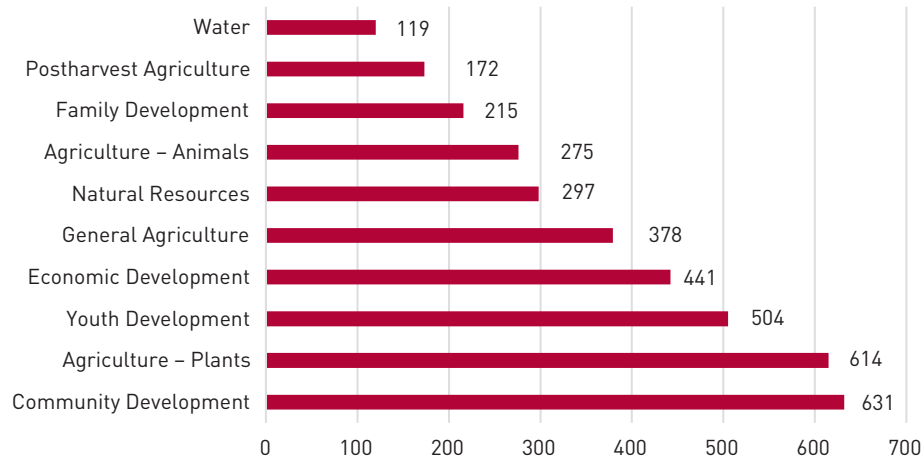
Beneficiaries of programming



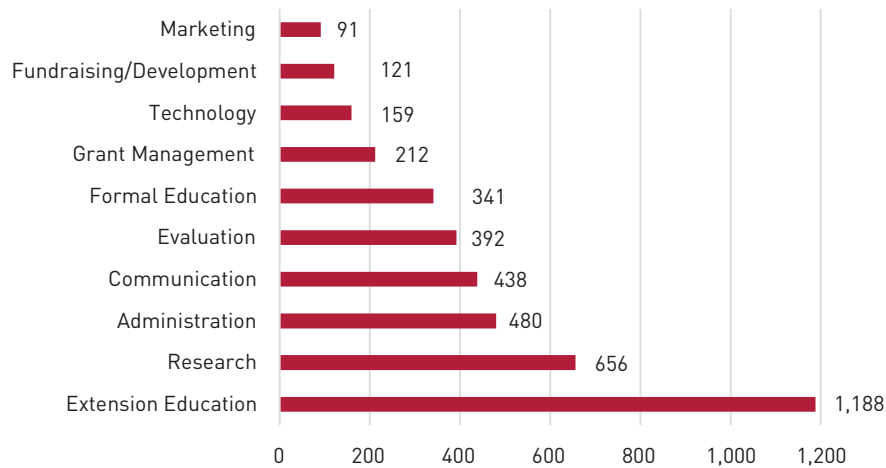


Program areas of global network

Top 10 subject areas*



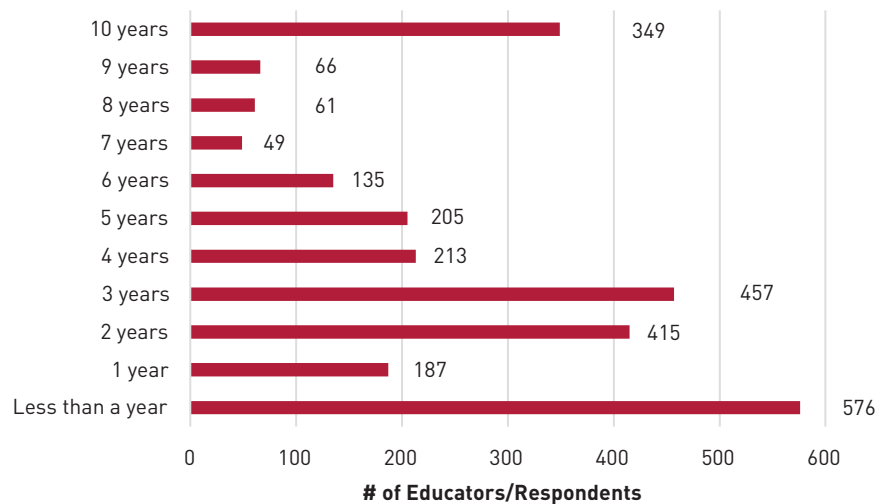
Top 10 types of work*



*Respondents in some cases have listed multiple answers.



Duration for project involvement



The Cooperative Extension System is a partnership between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the network of Extension systems located at land-grant universities. A few opportunities managed through the partnership supported the participation of extension educators found at the university-based extension systems for international programs tapping into their expertise for global collaboration and a well-informed future agricultural work force. The partnership is connected through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture which has the Center for International Programs. The summaries below provide some insight to past projects.

Polish American Extension Project. From 1990 to 1996, NIFA collaborated with 31 land-grant universities to assist the Polish Ministry of Agriculture in restructuring and reorienting its agricultural extension system at the national, provincial, and local levels. More than 100 university extension personnel served in Poland on this project during this period of tremendous change and uncertainty. By the time the project finished, two-person teams from the United States had served in 42 of Poland's 49 provinces. Using a training-of-trainers approach, the project emphasized the skills and knowledge required to succeed during the transition to a market economy, including areas such as business planning, farm management, and marketing. Other programmatic areas included leadership development, extension methodology, agro-tourism, and youth development. <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/polishamerican-extension-project-1990-1996>

The **International Science and Education (ISE)** competitive grants program was designed to strengthen the international content of U.S. university-based teaching, research and extension programs so that graduates, faculty and staff are more globally competent and competitive in the world of agriculture. U.S. success in the global arena increasingly requires U.S. colleges and universities to produce graduates who can operate competently in domestic and international settings. Through their outreach efforts, universities and colleges also play a critical role in helping U.S. producers successfully operate in foreign markets. <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/international-science-and-education-program>

National Initiative to Internationalize Extension. Globalization is having a profound influence on all facets of American society. The challenge for extension is to provide leadership to demonstrate local implications and potential consequences of an interdependent world.

As a result, providing leadership in a global society has been a reoccurring theme recently at state and regional extension conferences; several states have designated staff to act as liaisons for internationalizing extension; and, support for internationalizing extension has grown among Extension's professional organizations.

Since its inception, the U.S. Cooperative Extension System has successfully adapted to societal changes. In recent years, those changes have increasingly been influenced by trends and events occurring beyond our borders. Whether it is increasing market opportunities overseas, understanding international environmental and health issues, or using cross-cultural skills to better serve diverse domestic audiences, extension can play a critical role. <https://nifa.usda.gov/national-initiative-internationalize-extension>



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