

# AgNIC Strategic Goals and Actionable Strategies, 2023

**Summary:** The Agriculture Network Information Collaborative (AgNIC) is a voluntary alliance of partner institutions with the common vision and goal to collaborate and cooperate in the areas of agricultural information and data management. Institutional partners have one or more representatives who serve on the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee elects the members of the Executive Board, supports the overall direction of AgNIC, attends annual meetings, keeps their institution informed of AgNIC news and events, and coordinates the institutions' contributions to AgNIC.

The USDA's National Agricultural Library (NAL) supports the AgNIC programs by acting as the AgNIC Secretariat, assigning an NAL-affiliated staff person as the AgNIC Coordinator, and providing other forms of support. Currently, these positions serve to coordinate programs, assist working groups, and administer AgNIC's online presence.

Current AgNIC working groups include:

- Ag. Data Working Group
- Ag. Information Literacy Working Group
- Collection Development Working Group
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group
- Historical Ag. Publications Working Group
- Open Educational Resources Working Group
- Systematic Reviews Working Group
- Web Archiving Working Group

**Vision:** AgNIC coordinates agricultural information and data management by providing collaborative opportunities amongst partner institutions.

**Mission:** AgNIC facilitates cooperation among worldwide institutions and organizations that are involved in and committed to the identification, discovery, management, delivery, and preservation of information and data related to agriculture, food, and all related sciences.

## **Values:**

- *Collaboration:* We embrace a culture of collaboration through partnerships amongst agricultural information organizations.
- *Openness:* We value the open availability of agricultural information across institutions, borders, and cultures.

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:* AgNIC is a welcoming organization for all people. We believe that the study of agriculture is at its best when diverse voices participate and are a part of the research, efforts, and conversations in this space. AgNIC strives to facilitate cooperation among worldwide institutions and organizations that are involved in and committed to the identification, discovery, management, delivery, and preservation of information and data related to agriculture, food, and all related sciences. AgNIC acknowledges the legacy of racism and colonialism within the history of agriculture and acknowledges the negative impacts of land grant universities, the USDA, and many other institutions have had. We welcome all people to our organization and amplify voices from historically excluded communities in our work, and we believe that diversity and equity require a commitment to social justice.
- *Knowledge:* We value agricultural librarianship and related information professions and experts, as well as those who work with agricultural information and data.

### **Strengths, Weaknesses, and Potential Opportunities**

The strength of AgNIC is derived from collaboration of agricultural information professionals from diverse backgrounds and institutions. Such collaboration helps partners create strategies for serving the agricultural community, develop research projects, implement information sharing strategies, and utilize best practices within the profession.

Current weaknesses within AgNIC may include a lack of participation from some partners who are listed as active (but do not actively collaborate within the organization or working groups). Additionally, AgNIC would like to solicit more partners from diverse backgrounds (such as 1890 land-grant institutions, tribal colleges, and international information professionals).

Potential opportunities within AgNIC involve growing partners, further developing working groups, and better utilizing online resources (such as the Open Science Framework, the LISTSERV, and the website) to share resources and collaborate amongst partners.

### **Strategic Goals**

#### **1. Growing partnership and increasing engagement across membership**

- A. Broaden and strengthen AgNIC at national and international levels and explore the feasibility of strengthening relations with partner organizations.
- B. Intentionally expand partnership with institutions centered in diverse cultures to create a more inclusive and equitable collaborative.

## **2. Pioneer innovative practices in agricultural information and data management**

- A. Emphasize and promote topics of interest, leveraging expertise through collaborative groups to advance research universities and organizations and support commitments to agricultural data and information.
- B. Increase visibility of collaborative work through virtual delivery methods.
- C. Intentionally connect programs and activities across functional areas of the collaborative and the member institutions to support and accelerate adoption of best practices.

## **Actionable Strategies**

- 1. Supporting and Growing Partnerships
  - a. Enable partners to share information online with collaborative resources (such as the Open Science Framework and LISTSERV).
  - b. Promote benefits to partners and potential partners to grow membership, with an emphasis on diverse organizations.
  - c. Develop outreach strategies regarding recruiting new members.
  - d. Complete annual survey of partner needs and capacity.
  - e. Continue and broaden efforts to work with NAL, United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), Rangelands Partnerships, and other like-minded organizations.
- 2. Strengthen Collaboration
  - a. Utilize working groups to achieve collective priorities.
  - b. Encourage development of regional and multi-partnership activities.
  - c. Promote active leadership opportunities to solicit diverse representation within governance.
- 3. Maintain Online Presence

- a. Update and monitor the website (agnic.org) to provide up-to-date content regarding partners, events, and other organizational information.
- b. Establish Open Science Framework as a platform to create, share, and preserve working group and organizational content.
- c. Verify and maintain currency of online content, including Twitter and Wikipedia.

The AgNIC Strategic Goals and Actionable Strategies, 2023 was approved and adopted by the AgNIC Executive Board on XX/XX/202\*.

### **Tracking Progress**

1. Evaluate the growth and retention of partners within AgNIC.
2. Track the goals and progress of working groups through updates to the Executive Board and via the Annual Meeting.
3. Annual AgNIC website review and compilation of statistics.
4. Gauge degree of working groups collaboration and sharing of resources via the Open Science Framework.
5. Provide a space for partners to share projects and find collaborative opportunities through the Annual Meeting.
6. Recognize outstanding work of individuals and partners via annual awards.
7. Update the Strategic Plan through regular evaluation by the Executive Board.
8. Ensure partner buy-in and a shared organizational vision through an updated partner needs and capacity survey.

### **Communication**

Updates regarding the operation and governance of the organization will be provided by the Executive Board during the Annual Meeting and via the LISTSERV when appropriate. Information pertaining to upcoming events, partners, organizational structure and history, working group lists, and award recipients will be provided via the AgNIC website (agnic.org). The website will be monitored and updated with current information by an agreed upon member by the Executive Board. Information regarding elections to the Executive Board will be shared during the annual meeting and via the LISTSERV.

Progress and updates from the working groups will be provided at least once a year to the Executive Board by a working group liaison. Additionally, working group updates and goal assessments will be provided via the Annual Meeting (by the working group leaders). Virtual periodic meetings, the Open Science Framework, and working group email lists will serve as the primary ways which working groups

will communicate and share resources. The LISTSERV will serve as the predominant way partners can share relevant information intended for the entire organization.