

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION CHALLENGES

Timing is a critical factor in stakeholder engagement — both in proactive education and reactive outbreak response. Communication overlaps among tactical science programs can lead to fragmented messaging. EDEN, with its national reach and strong stakeholder ties, could serve as a central conduit for disseminating biosecurity information. However, its current funding and resource limitations constrain its potential. With enhanced support, EDEN could significantly amplify outreach for pest and disease programs, though its utility may be more limited for regulatory efforts.

Federal and state agencies also serve as stakeholders, but their full engagement often hinges on inter-agency buy-in — a challenge compounded by budgetary competition. Industry stakeholders present a different set of hurdles. While individual companies may express interest, proprietary concerns and competitive dynamics can limit collaboration. It remains unclear whether industry partners fully understand the tactical science landscape or see value in cross-program coordination.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NIFA

- » Enhance Communication Infrastructure: Create funding opportunities to strengthen messaging and outreach across tactical science networks and with government and industry stakeholders.
- » Establish a Unified Stakeholder Forum: Convene an annual stakeholder workshop and form a cross-program advisory committee to foster broader awareness and collaboration.
- » Refine ARDP's Strategic Focus: Ensure ARDP solicits highly applied research that benefits industry, regulatory bodies, and producers. Implement a mechanism for public input to guide program priorities.



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