

Updates from the Sustainability Working Group (SWG)

Josh Young

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Charge to Sustainability Working Group

RCN Aim 4.2: Conduct a detailed analysis and modeling of sustainability solutions for representative AgBioData member databases. This includes:

- Exploration of New Funding Avenues
- Investigation of Cost Reduction Techniques
- Assessment of Policy or Procedural Revisions Pertaining to Grant Funding

Sustainability Working Group Members

- Tanya Berardini
- Chuck Cook
- Christine Elsik
- Dorrie Main
- Fiona McCarthy
- John McNamara
- Lukas Mueller
- Sushma Naithani
- Surya Saha
- Shabari Subramaniam
- Karen Yook
- Josh Young

Prior Activities of Sustainability Working Group

- Survey of AgBioData membership regarding sustainability (2022)
- Identification of possible exemplar resources (2023)
- Invitation of selected resources for further sustainability modeling (2023)

Current Activities of Sustainability Working Group

- Interviews with 7 principal investigators for AgBioData resources
- Interview format: semi-structured interview to explore perceived strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the future of their resources
- Results will be documented for each PI summarizing the conversation with them with a request for them to edit/comment and provide more data/information as needed at their discretion.
- **Please Note:** the names of the PI's interviewed and resources represented are confidential

Current Activities of Sustainability Working Group (cont.)

Continuing Work

- Review completed interview transcripts and send to the PI's
- Schedule remaining resource PI interviews in mid-May
- Complete analysis and synthesis across interviews
- Share draft report with the SWG for review by the end of May

Preliminary themes

- Without sufficient funding- prioritization of what is done, loss of knowledge when staff leave
- Organizational constraints to competitive salaries, time it takes to hire, and flat funds
- Excitement around the opportunities for databases (with sufficient funding)
- Supportive of being part of AgBioData

Future Outputs of Sustainability Working Group

- Annual report on SWG activities to NSF
- Whitepaper
- Opinion piece publication (e.g. Nature/Science)
- Presentation on Impact of Community Databases at Plant Biology

2024 Bioinformatics Workshop, June 2024

Possible Future Activities of Sustainability Working Group

- Workshop/community of practice for staff of AgBioData resources focused on demonstrating value (e.g. scientometrics and usage)
- Development of scientometrics workflow

Thank you!

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