

## **Breakout Session: Strengthening the Role of the Land Grant and Extension System**

September 9, 2003, 2:30pm

- EDEN has a growing relationship with FEMA. EDEN has also been invited to a natural hazards workshop in Colorado. Extension is getting some outside recognition, but not necessarily the connection to land grant universities.
- EDEN could be strengthened by greater state participation, going beyond just the official delegate.
- Expansion beyond agriculture agencies – the viewpoints of communication and city regional planning professionals are beneficial.
- Funds for bioterrorism have been targeted to specific levels of government. As part of EDEN, is it possible to approach the people that have this money?
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency – Department of Agriculture has been able to tap into some of these funds by building relationships. Funds were used for protection of research facilities. Now trying to apply some of these funds for training.
- How do you build channels between the university and community if they don't already exist? Homeland security and economic development?
- Spend time building local relationships, then move on to state and federal. If people at the local level don't know what is going on during an emergency then it doesn't matter what the other levels do. How do you build those local relationships? Who are the players and what expertise do they bring? What can you bring to the table to help them? Let people know the full spectrum of what extension can do, they may have pigeonholed it.
- But if you can't get funding for the next five years then these relationships may be difficult to build.
- Schedule exercises to get everyone at a local level together so everyone knows what resources are available and what everyone else can provide.
- Train people within extension, so that people can take a leadership role during an emergency. Trained people can go and make the contacts in the county to offer what they can. Define what you want to do in your specific community.
- EDEN shares resources and offers a good jumping off point to starting your own training program.

**Role and Responsibilities of the Land Grant System in Building Community Strengths to Address Biohazards  
September 8-9, 2003, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**

- Role of the state / state interaction. Money comes from federal to state offices, and the states have to say how they would spend money in order to get it. So tell the state what you can do before they write their proposal for federal funding.
- Citizens Corp program, neighborhood watch, etc. FEMA funding. State encouraged cooperation at local level.
- Make sure people within the system are aware of the EDEN network, and what it has to offer, i.e., resources, contacts, etc
- Funding for EDEN. Very politicized, some proposals get shot down, but keep working through friendships.
- Videoconference funding.
- Using youth to help do assessment in county.
- USDA County Emergency Board – Extension is automatically on it, but many people don't know this. Tell people that you're already involved in emergency planning.