

# Professional Development Grant Program

The North Central Region SARE (NCR-SARE) Professional Development Grant Program supports state professional development programs and competitive grants for training agricultural professionals.

Professional Development Program (PDP) competitive grants emphasize training agricultural educators in extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private, and not-for-profit sectors, using farmers as educators and addressing emerging issues in the farm community. Generally:

- Professional Development Program awards up to \$120,000
- Projects may last up to 36 months.
- About 10 projects are funded each year.

Applicants are educators who often represent, but are not limited to, Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and non-profit groups.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AJAY NAIR



DR. AJAY NAIR RECEIVED SARE SUPPORT TO TRAIN AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS ON CONCEPTS AND APPLICATION OF COVER CROPS IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Before writing a grant proposal, determine a clear project goal and explore previous research. It often helps to contact NCR-SARE, local agriculture groups, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or Extension educators to share ideas and invite participation.

To receive more information about the NCR-SARE Professional Development Grant Program preproposal/proposal process and timeline, contact the NCR-SARE office. Follow the application process carefully. Visit the NCR-SARE website at: [www.northcentral.sare.org](http://www.northcentral.sare.org) or call 612-626-3113 for resources to help you write your proposal.

## PDP State Professional Development Programs

SARE also provides funds to land grant universities to assist extension educators, farmers and other stakeholders in developing education

activities in sustainable concepts and systems. These state programs provide travel scholarships, mini-grants, and workshops to support professional development.

Each state in NCR-SARE has a sustainable agriculture coordinator who directs sustainable agriculture education activities and engages agricultural stakeholders. Because each state coordinator works to meet state-specific challenges, educational programs are designed to fit local needs of agricultural educators, farmers, agency personnel, and others.



# About NCR-SARE

The North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (NCR-SARE) promotes and supports sustainable agriculture, with grants as the primary tool for accomplishing the mission. These grants are offered annually to farmers, researchers, educators, and other people in the agricultural community.

Since 1988, NCR-SARE has awarded more than \$100 million worth of competitive grants to help advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.



TRIBAL EDUCATORS GATHER TO DISCUSS COMMON CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS STRATEGIES DURING A WORKSHOP CONDUCTED DURING THE MOSES CONFERENCE.

PHOTO BY DAN CORNELIUS



MICHIGAN FARMERS AND EXTENSION AGENTS VISIT FIELD TRIALS AT THE W. K. KELLOGG BIOLOGICAL STATION TO LEARN ABOUT DIVERSIFIED COVER CROP MIXTURES.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOK WILKE

The USDA-funded Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program was authorized by the 1985 Farm Bill and was first funded in 1988. SARE operates through four regional offices as well as a national office. The North Central Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The term “sustainable agriculture” means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole

NCR-SARE offers awards for several competitive grant programs, including:

- Farmer Rancher
- Youth Educator
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development
- Research and Education
- Partnership

## For more information on this program, or to be added to our contact list, contact:

612-626-3113  
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[www.northcentral.sare.org](http://www.northcentral.sare.org)

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