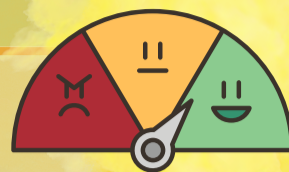


GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY REPORT

MAY 2023

This document provides an overview of the results of the AFRI SAS Soil to Society Graduate Student Survey. OEIE received responses from 8 out of 15 graduate students, for a 53.3% response rate.



Progress and Mentorship

Most (87.5%) students reported they were satisfied with their research. Students reported they were most satisfied by:

- Collaboration/networking across and within disciplines
- The trans/multi-disciplinary nature of the project and teamwork
- Students that received funding reported that they were satisfied with their mentoring experience, especially with providing feedback, advice, and clarification.

75% of students reported that their projects were on schedule or significantly ahead of schedule.

- All students felt confident or very confident that they will complete their research goals by the end of the project.

To improve experiences students suggested...

Increasing opportunities for collaboration (i.e. within-group meetings, student lab exchanges from other disciplines).

"As a mentee, I will very likely benefit from frequent feedback."



Workforce Development & Career Preparedness

Students gains as a result of their participation in the project including:

Personal improvements

- Improvements in soft skills (e.g., communication, leadership, completing applications)
- Improvements in research knowledge and skills

Professional skills

- Critical thinking skills
- Decision-making skills

Career preparedness

- Prepared for a career and increased their interest in agriscience
- Helped clarify the field they want to study

At least 75% of the students expressed an interest in participating in the following workforce development activities.

- ✓ Student discussion groups open to all team members
- ✓ Round table sessions at the annual meeting
- ✓ Poster presentations at the annual meeting
- ✓ Student brown bag lunches
- ✓ Student meet and greets
- ✓ Student presentations at leadership meetings

Additional activities recommended by students included:

- **Dissemination activities** (e.g., publications, podcasts, presenting at conferences)
- Involvement in **Extension activities**
- **Touring** project institutions
- **Writing groups** (e.g., to receive feedback during the writing process)

Career plans continued

AFRI SAS Soil to Society's Influence on Graduate Student Career and Educational Plans

When asked in what ways the project had influenced their career and/or education plans, students shared:

- Their experience promoted exploration of other career/educational options related to project scope
- Provided examples of the benefits of transdisciplinary research.

Students' interest in pursuing different education/career paths after their participation increased in four out of five areas. The project was most successful in raising interest in pursuing a master's degree in agriscience.

