

## Appendix

### Interview Protocol for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Agents

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I believe that Rick Gibson of the Pinal County Cooperative Extension office emailed you a message that I would be calling to talk to you about your past experience with training and professional development in the area of sustainable agriculture. We will need about 15 to 20 minutes to complete this process. I will take some notes and any information that you provide will be summarized with the responses of others. No one person will be identified by name, position or location. Is this a good time to talk or would you like to set an appointment for me to call you back at a more convenient time?

(The interview will either continue then or at a future time.)

1. Over the last ten years or so, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension program has received some funding to hold conferences, send people to conferences, distribute information and provide sustainable agriculture professional development opportunities to Extension faculty and staff. This is called the SARE professional development program. I would like you to take a minute to think about the things you have done or conferences you have participated in under this program. You may remember the NACAA meeting in Albuquerque in 2001 or the training in Phoenix at the Wigwam Resort sometime before 1997.

In what SARE-related meetings, training events or conferences have you participated? What was the focus of each?

Can you remember any others?

Have you received support to travel to any regional or national meetings or conferences? What were they?

Any other participation that you remember? Any books or journal articles that you read?

2. I understand that a central concept of sustainable agriculture is the three-legged stool consisting of environmental safety, economic viability and social acceptability.

What professional development have you had in this central concept?

What professional development have you had dealing specifically with environmental safety?

What professional development have you had dealing specifically with economic viability?

What professional development have you had dealing specifically with social acceptability?

3. We are also interested in learning about how you have used the information or skills you may have gained through your professional development experiences.

How do you include the concepts of sustainable agriculture in your daily interactions with farmers and ranchers?

What information and/or skills regarding sustainable agriculture have you used with farmers and ranchers?

Have you done any presentations or workshops based upon what you learned? Who did you train? What were your intended outcomes?

Have you produced any fact sheets or publications based upon what you learned? How have you used them? Who was the audience? What were the intended outcomes?

Of the three legs of the sustainable agriculture stool, how is your work proportioned? Do you spend more time and focus on one or two legs or is it balanced among the three?

Of all the professional development activities you have participated in over the last several years, which ones stand out as the most valuable or useful to you in your work? Why?

4. The last set of questions deals with future needs in the area of professional development and sustainable agriculture.

What topic, research or content area of professional development information would be most helpful to you in your work in sustainable agriculture today and tomorrow?

Who are the people or organizations that are leading the way in development of sustainable agriculture that could inform your work?

In your opinion, who or what organization is the leading expert in sustainable agriculture?

If you were given unlimited funding to develop a sustainable agriculture professional development program for Arizona Extension, what would you include?

What can we do today, with little or no funding, to support Extension faculty and staff in their work in sustainable agriculture?

How many years have you worked in Arizona Cooperative Extension?

Thank you for your time and thoughtful answers. I have one last question. Are you interested in working with others to create future professional development opportunities and plans in the area of sustainable agriculture? If so, may I list your name, separately from your responses to these questions to submit to Rick Gibson? Thanks again.

Revised 7/1/02