

Get AgSmart: An Evaluation of a Program Building Capacity in Smart Agricultural Technologies for Underserved Communities

Garrett S. Brogan PhD Student
 Dr. Kim Dooley
 Texas A&M University

<p>Problem</p> <p>Adoption of smart agricultural approaches is needed to help build resilient food systems (Nyasimi et al., 2014). Need to train current and future agricultural workforce</p>	<p>Grant Purpose</p> <p>Develop capacity of underserved communities of 6-12th grade students and active professionals in smart agricultural technologies.</p>
<p>Methodology & Sample</p> <p>Participatory evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluative needs assessment of stakeholder meeting • Three different groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Youth Development, University/Academic, Industry • Facilitators asked open-ended questions and recorded conversations shared • Field notes • Focus groups analyzed through axial coding 	

Results

University/Student	Industry	Youth Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time when students determine potential careers • What skills are needed • Program content and delivery methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What skills are needed • Connecting with youth • Connection between producer and consumer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method and content delivery of RLO's • Gaining rapport and interest of youth • Seeing into the future

Figure 1

Word Cloud of Stakeholder Focus Groups



Recommendations

- Shift from RLO's to YouTube or social media videos
- Videos should include student ambassadors
- Videos should be engaging
- Clear goals of projects future