



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

USDA Biomass Research Centers – Customer/Stakeholder Workshop

Breakout Sessions Descriptions

The purpose for the breakout sessions is to use your knowledge to identify the most significant challenges an advanced biofuels industry faces that can be addressed by research within the mission of the centers. After being briefed about the *USDA Biomass Research Centers'* capacities, there will be a series of facilitated breakout sessions where you will provide information that will be used to help design research plans for the centers, and specify the kinds of products that would help accelerate the development of a sustainable biomass and dedicated feedstock production industry.

Breakout Session I: Identification of supply chain challenges and needs.

- Self-identify that portion of the supply chain you are engaged in, and those supply chain components that you are most dependent on and have the least control over.
- List in order of greatest need, all challenges that require solutions for your organization to succeed.

Breakout Session II: Alignment of customer needs with research or other kinds of solutions.

- Determine whether each highest priority need has a possible research solution.
- If the need cannot be solved by research, specify what other kinds of solution are required.
- Identify other possible kinds of approaches and solutions that could address those needs.

Breakout Session III: Assessment of *USDA Biomass Research Centers'* direction, activities, and resources.

- Assess how well the direction, research activities, and resources of the centers are positioned to address the kinds of high-priority needs that have been identified.
- Identify gaps in the centers' direction, research activities, or resources to address the highest priority needs.
- Identify any needs other than research that are not being addressed.

Breakout Session IV: Prioritization of customer research needs.

- Prioritize research needs and categorize them based on short-term, medium-term, and on-going/long-term horizons – where there are disagreements, indicate so.

Breakout Session V: Identification of desired solutions and products to be delivered.

- Identify specific research products that you would require be delivered to solve the specific challenges that have identified.

Breakout Session VI: Strategic partnership opportunities identified.

- Return to the identified customer/stakeholder needs that have been prioritized, and indicate where strategic partnership opportunities exist or could be formed to help accelerate progress towards developing solutions.