

Iowa State University BioEconomy Initiative 2004-05 Annual Report

• Scientific Activities

- 60+ faculty and research staff from 12 academic departments, 3 colleges and 8 centers are participating in research and development activities organized around technology platforms
- New research projects in biobased products funded by NSF, DOE, USDA, and industry

• New Faculty Positions / Teaching Activities

- Collaboration with academic departments in FY 05 resulted in two new hires and one new position with emphases in biorenewables (ABE, Agronomy, and ME)
- 16 students are currently pursuing BRT degrees (3 M.S., 10 Ph.D., 3 Ph.D. minor)
- A regional academic consortium of six universities has begun offering courses on-line through distance education
- A US/European Union academic program is exchanging students with three European universities
- In April 2005, five students and five faculty members participated in a two-week intensive learning program at the National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse in Toulouse, France

• Use of FY05 Funds

- Day-to-day operations of the OBP and salary of the Program Coordinator
- Support of the BRT graduate program and recruiting efforts of the Director of Graduate Education
- Sponsorship of the Biobased Industry Outlook Conference
- Representation at national biorenewable meetings and development of communication materials including the official Web site located at www.biorenew.iastate.edu
- Iowa State funding — **\$170,000 in FY05** — helped leverage over **\$15 million** in extramural funding

• Outreach Accomplishments

- Submitted a proposal to the IDED BioSciences Alliance of Iowa to build a state-wide effort in biorenewables
- Faculty members are serving on review and advisory boards for various federal programs and initiatives in Iowa and other states
- Supported the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program, which recently designated the first six products for federal procurement

• Future Plans and Goals

- Strengthen core capabilities by attracting new faculty to ISU and partnering with other universities
- Prepare and submit a NSF ERC proposal for a Center for Biorenewable Chemicals
- Build support at the Sloan Foundation for a Center for Biorenewables at ISU
- Work with the Cargill Foundation to develop new undergraduate and graduate education programs in biorenewables
- Broaden outreach to the state through the IDED BioSciences Alliance of Iowa and the BIOWA Development Association
- Work with the College of Engineering to identify new space for OBP administrative offices, the BRT graduate program, common laboratory space, and the FB4P certification program