

## **Notional Outline for 2016 AC21 Report**

### **Coexistence—why it's important (including quotes from Secretary Vilsack)**

- **Enables realization of opportunities for farmers**
- **Builds on the strengths of US agriculture**
- **Encourages diversity**
- **Supports rural communities**
- **Demonstrates that issues can be peacefully resolved**
- **Everyone shares responsibility.**

### **Previous work by the AC21 on coexistence**

- **Early work of previous committees**
- **Last AC21 report and its recommendations**
- **Genesis of the current charge for the committee**

### **What this report will do**

- **Provide context for ongoing discussions around evolving pressures farmers face regarding how they grow their crops and which crops they choose**
- **Offer suggestions, not mandates**
- **Provide tools that farmers and local communities may consider to help them in their farming operations or in providing new product opportunities or opportunities for community dialogue**
- **Offer suggestions for increased involvement by a range of local organizations and institutions**

### **Process of preparing this report**

- **Meetings**
- **Outside presentations**
- **Subgroup discussions**
- **Procedures for drafting the report and achieving consensus**

### **Coexistence is an ongoing process but is not new**

- **Role of farmer-to-farmer dialogue and shared responsibilities in coexistence**
- **Part of larger context of increasing complexity of farming**
- **Other examples of cooperation—MP3s, watershed management**
- **Challenge of incentivizing coexistence discussions when issues of gene flow may be of unequal importance across the fence line**
- **Strengthening farmers' natural inclinations to be good neighbors without inappropriate Federal intervention**

### **Challenges for coexistence now and into the future**

- **Increasing demands on producers**
- **Disconnect between expectations of some consumers and farm realities**

- **Challenges of a diversifying marketplace domestically and internationally**
- **Unknown impacts of labeling requirements**
- **Pressures caused by low commodity prices**

#### **Seed issue**

- **Importance of seed quality/purity for all farmers**
- **Role of contract protocols associated with seed purchase or with IP production**
- **Earlier AC21 discussion on seed purity/availability**
- **Current seed law**
- **Challenges of obtaining seed for GE-sensitive farmers**
- **What USDA has been doing to help**
- **What seed companies provide and opportunities for niche markets**
- **Committee members' views on seed purity**
- **General call for increased transparency**

#### **Products with functional traits**

- **Expectations of a commodity market and the challenges of products that challenge commodity and other uses**
- **History of separated products**
- **Types of products that are emerging and challenges for the future**
- **Potential direct and indirect market impacts**
- **Potential mitigations**

#### **Two elements of solutions at the local level (please see draft documents for more details)**

- **Provision of useful information to IP farmers and their neighbors**
- **Promotion of dialogue on a local level: a model to help localities develop constructive local forums to address problems**