

Outputs vs. Outcomes: Definitions and Examples Provided by the Current Research Information System (CRIS)

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Outputs are activities, events, services, and products that reach people.

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- **Activities** include conducting and analyzing experiments or surveys, assessments, facilitating, teaching, or mentoring.
 - **Events** include conferences, demonstration sites, field days, symposia, workshops, and trainings.
 - **Services** include consulting, counseling, and tutoring.
 - **Products** include: audio or video products; curricula; data or databases; equipment or instruments; patent applications; applications for Plant Variety Act protection; models; networks and/or collaborations fostered by the project or activity; physical collections or resources, new animal germplasm, or genetic maps; software; technology, methods, or techniques; train-the-trainer manuals; website(s) with the appropriate URL(s); information, skills, and technology for individuals, communities, and programs; or students graduated in agricultural sciences.
 - Dissemination refers to outreach activities that were undertaken to reach intended audiences for the purpose of advancing knowledge, encouraging positive actions, or changing conditions. Include outreach activities to current and potential partners and collaborators. If educational materials and resources were distributed, describe the distribution method and the intended audience(s).

Outcomes or impacts are changes in knowledge, actions, or conditions.

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- A **change in knowledge** occurs when a scientist, trainee, or citizen learns or becomes aware. Examples of a change in knowledge include: new fundamental or applied knowledge significant enough to be included in a publication; methods and techniques; policy knowledge; improved skills; or increased knowledge of decision-making, life skills, and positive life choices among youth and adults.
 - A **change in actions** occurs when there is a change in behavior or the participants adoption techniques and methods or change their practices. Examples of a change in actions include: application and actual use of fundamental or applied knowledge; adoption of new or improved skills; direct application of information from publications; adoption and use of new methods or improved technologies; use of skills by youth and adults in making informed choices; or adoption of practical policy and use of decision-making knowledge.
 - A **change in conditions** occurs when a societal condition is changed due to a participant's action. Examples of a change in conditions include: development of the principal discipline(s) of the project or other disciplines; development of human resources; physical, institutional, and information resources that improve infrastructure; technology transfer; management and behavioral changes and adjustments; quantified changes in descriptive statistics (trade balance, export sales, etc.); better and less expensive animal health; changes in conditions (e.g., wages, health care benefits, etc.) of the agricultural workforce; higher productivity in food provision; quantified changes in quality-of-life for youth and adults in rural communities; safer food supply; reduced obesity rates and improved nutrition and health; or higher water quality (e.g., increased water

clarity) and a cleaner environment (e.g., measurably reduced pollution).