

**ABSTRACTS**  
**\* Author Presenting Paper**

**85** Developing collaborative research, education and extension programs among scientists in North and South America. A. Tewolde\*<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas.*

Issues such as globalization of the economy, environment preservation, and biotechnology developments will continue to have marked effect on animal production. The above imply the need for increases in levels and quality of production, and also for competitive and environmentally sound production systems. In Latin America this will mean generating systems compatible to the already ecologically fragile environment, and making them available to producers through extension programs. This will involve a revisiting existing research agenda and the basis for higher education using strategic alliance between institutions and Universities. In order to achieve the above, a proposal is made here to involve research for development, training and institutional building including all sectors associated with animal agriculture in the region. An example of this is the effective and productive agreement between a North Eastern Mexican Technical Consortium in Agriculture and Texas A&M University (NEMTCA); after two years of existence, has involved a bottom up process including all parties in livestock mainly beef cattle, and its relationship with all the components associated with it in north east Mexico and south Texas, such as the range component, marketing of products and alternative uses of the range system. Scientists from both sides have been actively participating in looking critically at the same issues producing strategies and proposals that have clear vision to solving them. Four technical workshops on each component associated with beef cattle were held and recommendations generated from them served as the basis for the regional project that this joined has produced, incorporating producers and decision makers in its process. Based on this, a good program can be built on and proposed objectives can easily be achieved. Furthermore, the model NEMTCA can be applied to other regions of Latin American with the support of their professional organizations.

**Key Words:** Animal Agriculture, Strategic Alliances, Consortium