For several years, Iowa State personnel from Agricultural Engineering and CIRAS have been participating in an industry organized effort to create ISO 9000 guidance materials for agriculture. Quality management systems have great potential to address a number of emerging needs for agriculture – biosecurity procedures, food traceability, regional identity, product isolation (eg biotech and non biotech), and identity preservation for consumer value. Traditionally, organizations instituting quality management systems have also increased operating efficiency.

In July 2005, ISO nations approved a new work item, ISO 22006, Quality Management Systems: Guidelines for the Application of ISO 9000 in Crop Production. This created Working Group 12, of ISO Technical Committee 34, Food and Agriculture. Presently the standard is at Working Draft 2, open for comment. There has been one International Meeting and several meetings of the US Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Iowa State has played a major role to this point, and Dr Hurburgh represents the US on the panel of designated experts (International Working Group). The next international meeting will be in the early winter 2006, at a site to be determined. The entire process, through to an approved ISO document, is expected to take 2.5 years. The existence of this standard will facilitate business and trade, especially with countries having special food safety or production practice concerns. The agribusiness firm that has been developing an ISO outline for its grain handling business (Farmers Coop Co, Farnhamville Iowa) will be using the draft standard to configure the quality manual for its agronomy supply business. QMS development for FC begins January 1, 2007.

**Objectives for FY2007**

1. Support participation of Iowa State University representatives in the ISO Working Group 12, TC34 process, and the related US TAG.
2. Initiate development of a quality management system based on the ISO 22006 standard.

**Expected Outputs**

- Committee drafts 3 and 4 of ISO 22006 with documented Iowa State input.
- Draft quality manual for FC Agronomy, with documented use in modifying the 22006 standard.

**Supporting Project**