

## USDA Foods Creates an Accelerated Solution Environment



*Photo: Participants of the USDA Foods Business Process Reengineering Project*

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On Jan. 28, a group of government and industry professionals participated in a highly-structured and intensive all-day session to gain consensus on the vision and priorities of the USDA Foods Business Process Reengineering (BPR) project.

Participants of the BPR project represent every segment of the USDA Foods supply chain, including producers, vendors, distributors, and transportation service providers as well as USDA agencies (AMS and the Food and Nutrition Service), Native American tribal organizations, and state and lower-level recipient agencies.

Considering the diversity of participants and perspectives involved, seeing consensus was an ambitious objective. However, CapGemini, USDA's facilitator for the project, used a "decision by design" environment to drive idea discovery and exploration, facilitate open discussion, and obtain a clear consensus.

Through a process of organizing, augmenting, and reorganizing information on project drivers and key issues, this collaborative process accelerated the group's decision making, enabling them to accomplish in one day what typically takes weeks or months through traditional meetings.

With its vision and priorities confirmed, the BPR project now moves into the second of five phases, which will culminate in the implementation of improved processes and/or procedures at every level of the USDA Foods supply chain.

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