



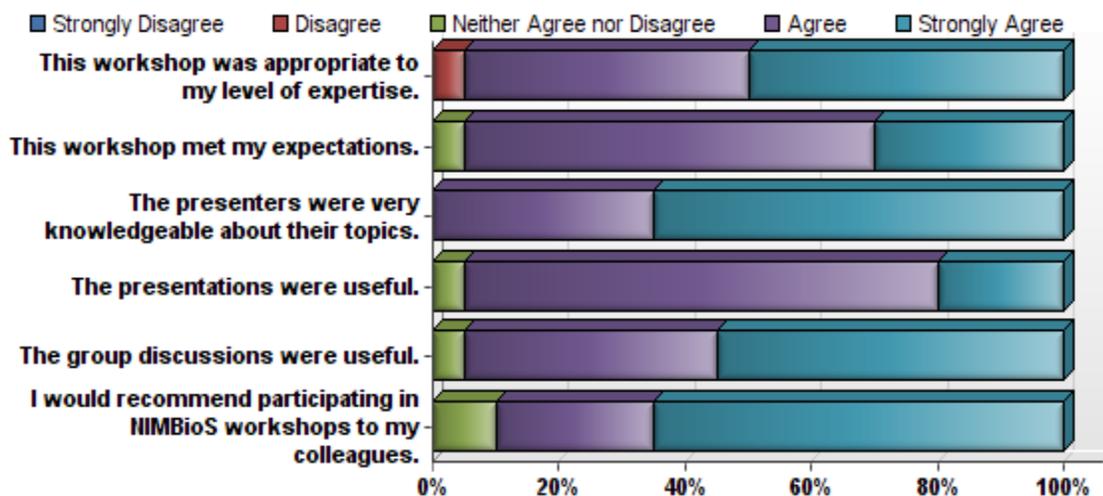
Evaluation Summary Report

Investigative Workshop: *Vectored Plant Viruses*

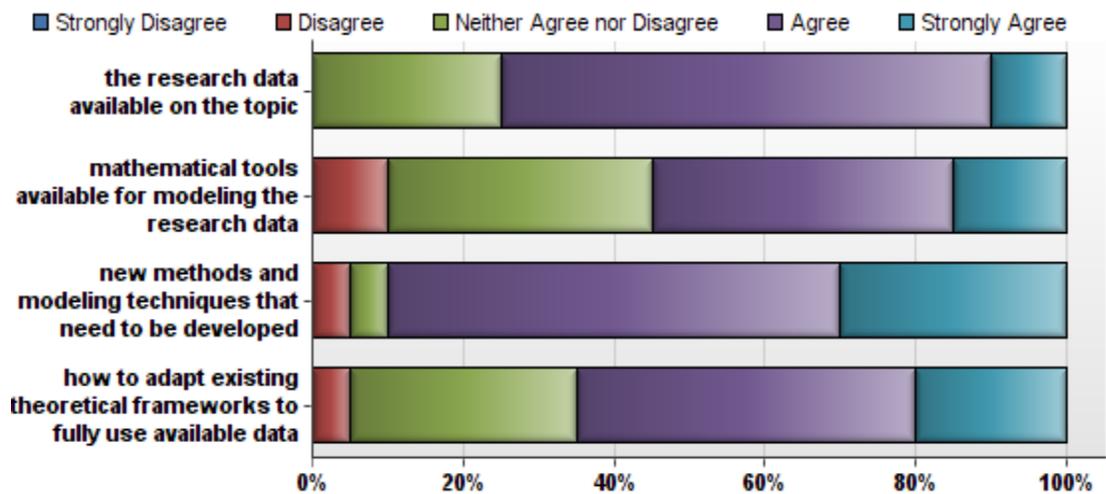
March 17-19, 2014

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National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
April, 2014

1. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this workshop:



2. As a result of participating in this workshop, I have a better understanding of:



3. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the workshop?

The breakout sessions were the most useful. I felt like the talks were not particularly useful to me, and only a select few people asked questions. However, more people were involved in the breakout session discussions and I found their insights to be particularly useful in driving the discussion. I have been to a previous investigative workshop at NIMBioS that was more talk-heavy, and I felt like this format with limited talks was much more useful.

Having a few talks that facilitated discussion and then ample time to discuss these topics

Top notch researchers from both fields (math and biology) and the exchanges of ideas and questions.

Plenty of time for discussions, in small groups mixing senior and juniors researchers, biologists and mathematicians.

Meeting plant pathogen and entomology researchers and discussing their theoretical problems.

The breakout sessions where we discussed specific research gaps

The talks by researchers and Lou were very interesting. The working/discussion groups were a little strange - in the end they were useful but the organization and leadership seemed sketchy at times.

The group meetings with discussion were most useful.

The breakout group that stayed the same over the course of the workshop and really developed some good research ideas to pursue.

That we had productive, goal oriented break-out groups.

Learning plant pathogen

Informal interaction with colleagues

It was amazing learning experience talking with people who are experts in different fields

Meeting some good people. I also thought the organizers did a good job of quickly identifying topics of interest to the participants by taking ideas from introductions on the WordPress site.

The opportunity to interact with other scientists in a meaningful way.

I think the most useful aspect of the workshop is the active break-up discussion sections which potentially stimulates the possible research project and new collaborations.

Small working groups on relevant topics

A chance to meet people from different disciplines with opportunity to share ideas, learn about the tools they are using and how the tools can be combined to solve ecological questions, time to refine ideas and develop new researches aspects

The breakout sessions

4. What would you change about the workshop?

As a modeler it might have been useful to have one of the talks be more focused on empirical work

Adding a talk/seminar going over the various jargons among fields to facilitate discussion in break-out groups.

Maybe allow more graduate students and postdocs?

I feel like we spent most of the time developing a common language, but didn't make much progress on developing research projects. I don't know how to address this.

It would have helped to know ahead of time/with more advance notice what to expect. I was invited to bring a poster and write an abstract just one week before the workshop, with no deadline given for the abstract. We were invited to introduce ourselves and post 'favorite questions', also with no timeline- then those questions (for those of us who jumped on it right away, which was a minority) were used first thing as a framework for the workshop. It seems that the idea was to have the workshop be somewhat participant-guided, but the result was that a minority of participants, perhaps unwittingly, guided the framework for the workshop.

Have a few shorter talks for biologists studying particular systems to explain their system and available data.

While it had its ups and downs, I don't think any top-down change could alter that.

I would have the presentations more carefully coordinated to cover topics useful to break-out groups

It would have been helpful to have had all the presentations on the first day, I believe. I think it also would have been good in some cases to encourage breakout groups within the breakout groups. Some did not fully achieve the purpose of a breakout group because they involved a lot of circular and unfocused discussions involving too many people on too broad a topic.

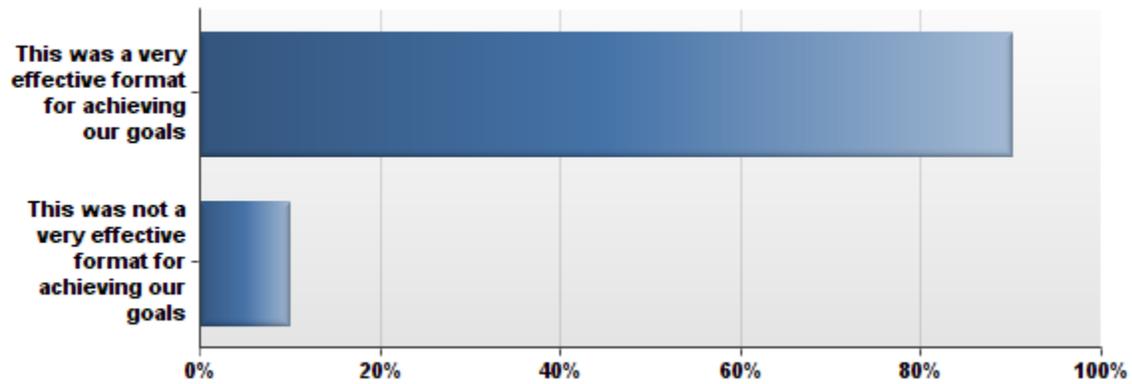
With math, I think it's valuable to have time for people to work by themselves (and then report back to the group) instead of being in a group all the time.

If possible, I would have arranged the very first speaker's talk on plant diseases other than the animal disease.

1-2 more scene-setting presentations

Send outline of approximated program or goals so participants with no experience in such meetings can be prepared better more time as only at the end of the second day the advantages of these disciplines collaborations opportunities are refined

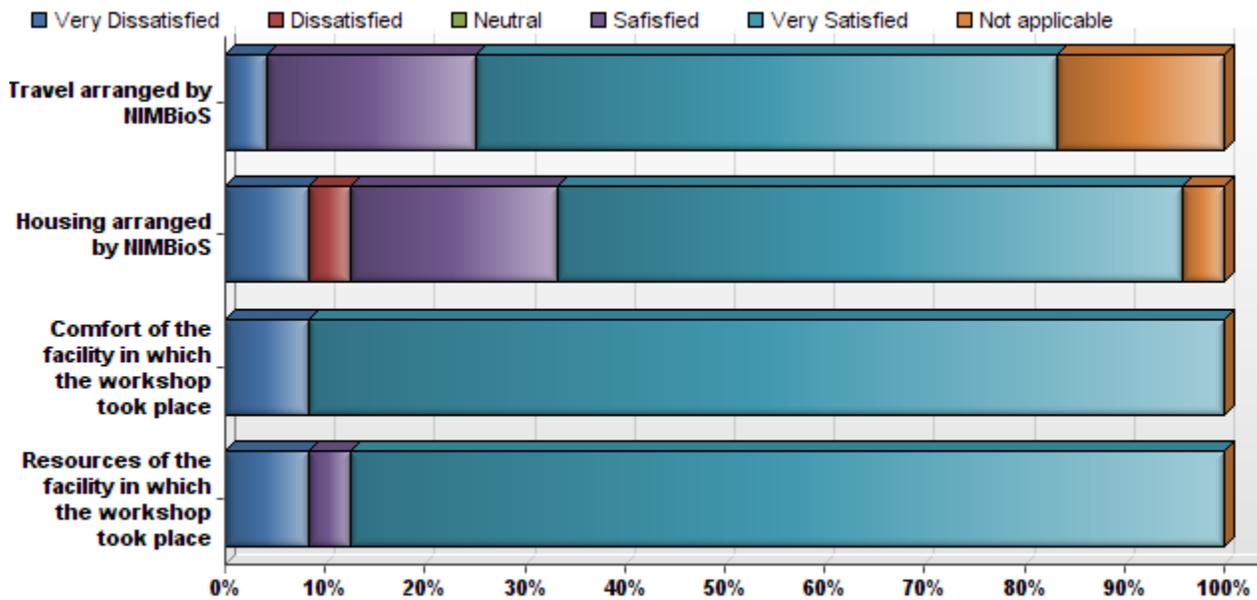
5. How do you feel about the format of the workshop?



6. The workshop format would have been more effective if:

There would have been time in the schedule for people to work either individually, in small groups, or in big groups as best befitted the needs of the moment.

7. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the workshop accommodations:



8. Comments about accommodations:

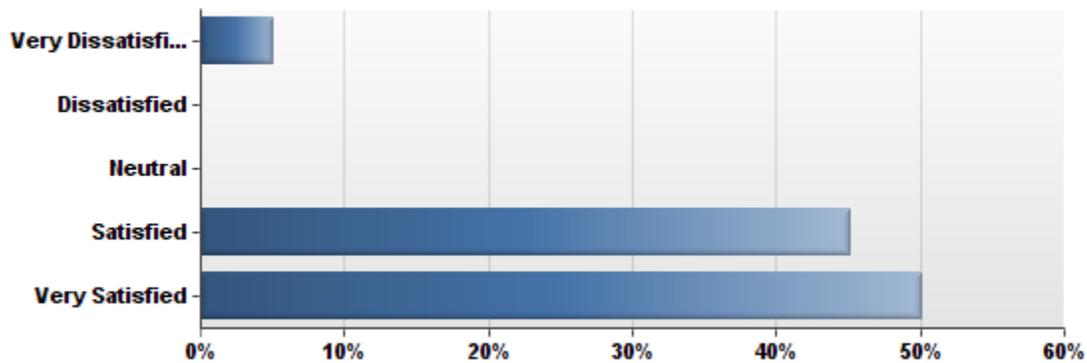
As for meals, more vegetarian options should be ordered as many non-vegetarians appreciate those options as well.

Maybe the breakfast or lunch can be improved to allow more selections.

I am not a fan of breakfast provided at NIMBioS. Breakfast is a breaking of fast, which I need to occur within 20 minutes of waking up. I think that breakfast should be provided at the accommodation site, or some alternate plan made available to those of us who can't wait for breakfast.

Perfectly fine except for one of the participants getting stuck in the elevator in 4 in the morning

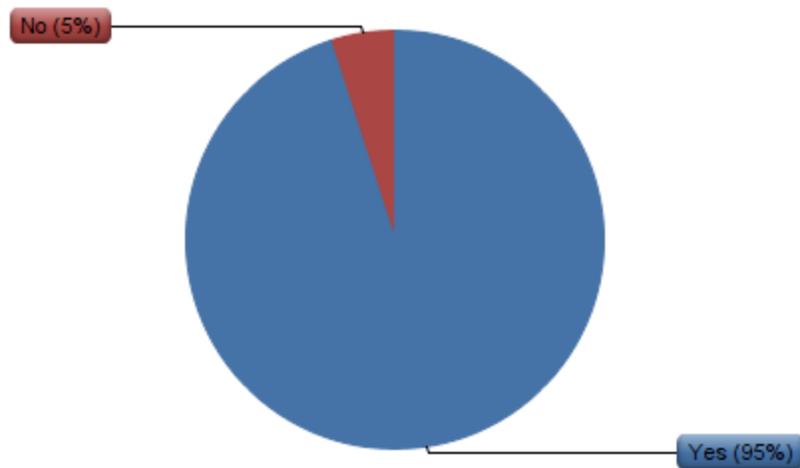
9. How satisfied were you with the opportunities provided during workshop presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments?



10. Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the workshop:

None provided

11. Do you feel participating in the workshop helped you better understand the research going on in disciplines other than your own on the workshop's topic?



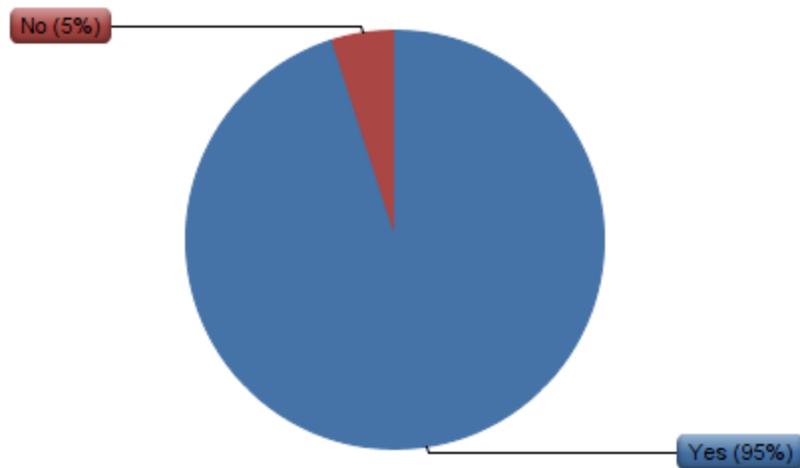
12. Comments:

I don't think that was an express goal of this workshop.

Cross links between vectored plant and animal diseases

Thanks to my workshop colleagues knowledge on modeling and mathematics options and their willingness to share this knowledge

13. Do you feel the workshop made adequate progress toward finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic?



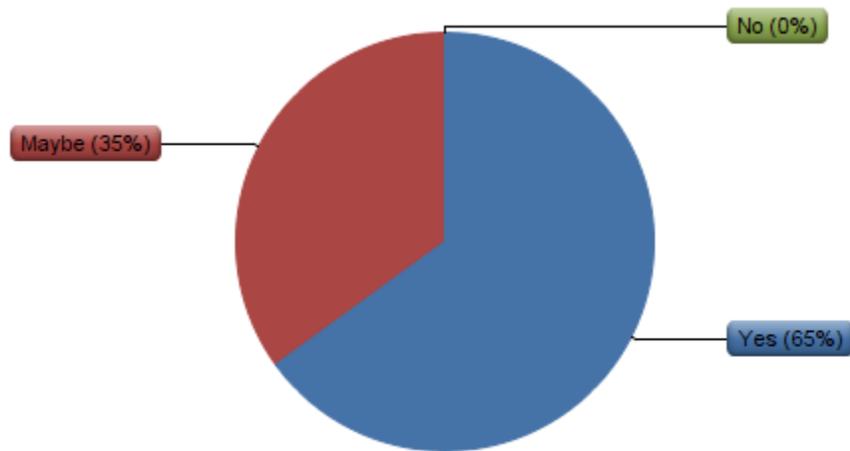
14. Comments:

I wonder if future workshops started that dialogue online prior to the workshop would benefit by facilitating communication and allowing for faster/greater traction on topics

I think that would be difficult to achieve in 3 days. There were some clear differences between how mathematicians and biologists thought about problems, and a connection was not necessarily always made.

Terminology used by plant virologists better understood by modelers

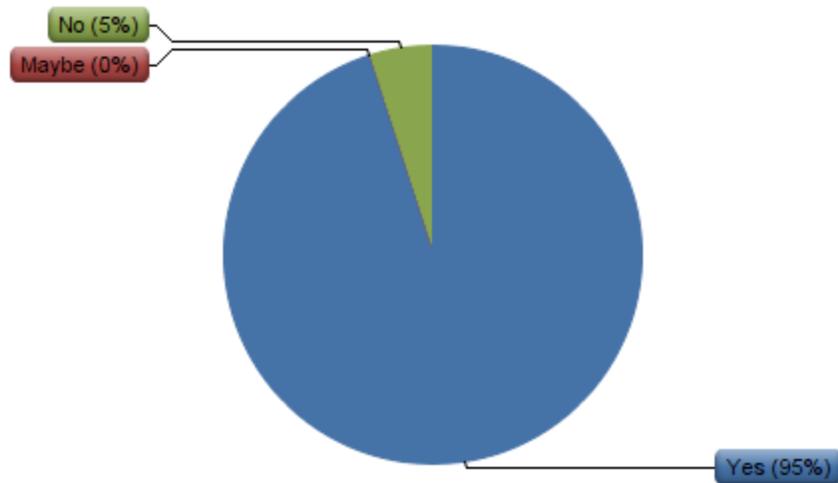
15. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence your future research?



16. Comments:

Collaborative writing of a paper for publication

17. Did you develop plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom you had not previously collaborated?



18. Comments:

I hope that the two groups I am involve with will evolve to fruitful future collaboration

19. Please use this space for any additional comments:

Thank you for helping us make this workshop a success. I've established new collaborations with colleagues from London, France, Virginia, and Tennessee.

Thanks to all the NIMBioS staff, you did a great job, and special thanks to Lou, both for scientific and social feedback!

I found this particular workshop very productive and effective. I have found other NIMBioS workshops much less productive.

We greatly appreciate the excellent support for our workshop from NIMBioS. Everything went very smoothly, and we anticipate some significant outcomes and products.

This experience was very stimulating and novel. I hope that the work groups we discussed will be carried out and the ideas will evolve to more research collaboration. Thanks to the NIMBioS institute director and the support team that made this workshop efficient and most pleasant experience.