

# International Extension Newsletter

## Bigger than Here

*Jim Murren, International Extension Program Coordinator*



While biking the other day out in Battleground, I had the image in my head of me biking down a country road in rural Indiana, a locale outside of a big town/small city with a world-class university. I then pulled back and saw myself on a cutout of the state of Indiana, its borders demarcated in black lines. I was biking across a AAA paper map unfolded on the table.

The image then morphed into a big National Geographic atlas hanging on the wall. There I was biking through the Midwest of the United States of America on a beautiful spring evening, but not only on the road I was physically on, but also I was in a small town, in a state, in a country on a map on the wall.

It didn't stop there! Next up, I was biking on a globe. It was colorful and as big as a beach ball. I was rolling along and didn't fall off, and had the thought:

Battleground. Lafayette/West Lafayette. Indiana. United States of America. World.

You'll see lots of maps in this edition of the newsletter. It wasn't a pre-determined thought. It happened .

I found the Ghana one, and then I started looking for the Afghan one, thinking maybe I'd have a map or two in these pages. When I found the Afghan one, I thought: let's fill this newsletter with maps.

Let's grasp where places are located. Let's pause and place them into our own world maps living inside our heads.

Where are we? Where are we going?

We're on Facebook, which means we're everywhere! International 4-H has a new tool for promoting its programming.

Afghanistan was here, and some of us were there. Together, we all were somewhere in between over the course of several hours the other day.

We're going to Ghana. Two Extension Educators will be there working on the PICS project in August.

We went to Palestine, and we're going back. There's work to be done.

The world's coming to Indiana, and we're going to learn about who's coming and why. And then we're going to strategize on how to build Indiana's communities of tomorrow.

Lastly, we're off to the great plains of central Canada to present our work to our international colleagues.

We're here, but here is bigger than our corner of the world. Our knowledge, our skills, our expertise are to be shared.

To paraphrase Freddie Mercury:

Let's get on our bikes and ride!

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## Int'l 4-H: Find us on Facebook!

*Lee Stanish, International 4-H Programs Coordinator*

As you know more than anyone, preferred methods teens use to communicate are constantly changing. So it's no surprise that we've recently found international 4-H participants building facebook groups to share their international 4-H experiences. To accommodate youth seeking more information about our programs (in more of a guided way), and to start an alumni base in a new venue, we have created a facebook site. So that the site encompasses all that we do, the site

name is "Indiana 4-H Global Programs". Here we can have a venue for inbound programs, outbound programs, domestic international education programs...and anything else that fits! I'm sure that over time pictures and information will build on the site. I encourage you to actively interact with the site.

Of unique interest to the facebook site will be a 7 minute video that I have spent about 6 months working on. The video is a compilation of

information about our programs, and clips from interviews we completed of 4-H youth, their parents, and county youth educators about the benefits of international 4-H program participation. I will also have the video available per request in dvd form. I would encourage you to use this as a tool. Both during 4-H meetings, or other settings where it would be useful to educate youth and their parents in your county about international 4-H opportunities.

## Through a Different Lens

Chuck Hibberd and Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer



On April 22, I enjoyed opening a workshop focused on Agricultural Extension in Afghanistan. Fourteen of our Extension professionals met with 12 Afghan students and visiting faculty to discuss life in Afghanistan/USA, agriculture in Afghanistan/Indiana and the role of institutions in supporting agriculture in Afghanistan/Indiana.

This workshop is a great example of a wonderful opportunity for us to learn and share with our counterparts from Afghanistan. This understanding gives us a different perspective on our world. More importantly, it gives us an opportunity to see our work through a different lens, the lens of someone from another coun-

try (in this case Afghanistan). This learning and introspection is crucial as we endeavor to be responsible members of a global community.

—Chuck Hibberd

Chuck Hibberd is Director of Purdue Extension.

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer is Director of International Programs in Agriculture at Purdue.

## Afghan Extension Workshop

*The Role of Universities in Supporting Agriculture in Rural Communities of Indiana and Afghanistan: An Exchange of Models, Ideas, and Perspectives*



We currently have twelve Afghan Merit Scholar Fellows enrolled in graduate programs at Purdue through a joint Purdue/USAID program. Ten of them are in the College of Agriculture (COA). Additionally, three mid-career faculty members from Kabul University are currently at Purdue participating in a faculty exchange funded by USDA. Their disciplines

are: Veterinary Medicine, Forestry, and Agronomy. On March 9, one Afghan Borlaug Fellow, also USDA-funded, arrived on campus, with expertise in Horticulture.

Having these Afghan guests at Purdue provides an opportunity to enhance their experience by offering them insight into how universities in the U.S. support agriculture outside of the classroom. One way of doing this is by introducing them to Purdue Extension. The Afghans have an opportunity to educate Purdue Extension about agricultural universities

and farming practices in Afghanistan, broadening Purdue's understanding of global agriculture.

A one-day workshop was held on campus on April 22. General overviews of agriculture in Indiana and Afghanistan was presented by the Afghans, Purdue COA faculty and Extension Educators, as well as the role of their respective universities in supporting agriculture in rural communities.

For more information, contact:

Jim Murren, [jmurren@purdue.edu](mailto:jmurren@purdue.edu)

## PICS/Ghana in August 2010



The PICS project is currently seeking two Extension Educators to serve as field technician trainers in Ghana for a period of two weeks in August 2010. Their responsibility would be to facilitate a train-the-trainer program for field technicians, who will then go out to villages to demonstrate the storage technology. Most technicians have the equivalent of a high school education. Trainings will occur across northern Ghana, with each of the trainings lasting approximately two days. All training will be conducted in the English language. Applications are due by April 30, 2010. Questions and requests for an

application can be directed to Jim Murren: [jmurren@purdue.edu](mailto:jmurren@purdue.edu)

The goal of the PICS project is to have 50% of cowpea in West and Central Africa stored with non-chemical hermetic methods by 2011. The project hopes to have activities in 28,000 villages in ten countries. PICS also works closely with plastics manufacturers and the plastics supply chain to insure that cowpea growers have the right kind of containers for hermetic storage. At Purdue, four departments are involved: Agricultural Economics, Entomology, Food Science and Youth Development and

Agricultural Education. The project is led by Dr. Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer, Ag Economics and Director of International Programs in Agriculture. This is primarily an Extension effort, with some research components. The main research role for Purdue Agricultural Economics is work on the effectiveness of alternative extension methods (e.g. village demonstrations, farmer-to-farmer, radio and other electronic communications).

## Bethlehem Workshop Focuses on Water and Horticulture

Mike Mickelbart and Steve Weller, Professors of Horticulture

Several Purdue faculty recently participated in a workshop at Bethlehem University entitled "Horticultural Productivity in Palestine: Current Status and Future Challenges in Education, Outreach, and Applied Research." Water is extremely limited in the West Bank and it represents the major limitation to agricultural production. Participants explored ways in which Purdue can work with Palestinian universities and agricultural institutions to develop more efficient horticultural production systems.

Participants included Horticulture and Landscape Architecture faculty members Robert Joly,

Mike Hasegawa, Steve Weller, and Mike Mickelbart, and International Programs in Agriculture faculty Jess Lowenburg-DeBoer and Kashchandra (Ragu) Raghamaas as well as participants from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and all of the universities in the West Bank: Al-Najah, Al-Quds, Hebron, Palestine Polytechnic, and Bethlehem.

The relationship between Purdue and the Palestinian agricultural institutes is fitting because of Purdue's long history in plant abiotic stress. The opportunity to share our collective knowledge in an area where water is truly limiting provides exciting opportuni-

ties for collaboration. At the conclusion of the workshop, a commitment was made to pursue funding for collaborative projects. There are also plans for Purdue faculty to participate in future plant biotechnology student workshops in Palestine. At least one student from Bethlehem University will attend Purdue to pursue a PhD in horticulture. Student and faculty exchanges are being discussed as a way of further strengthening the relationship between Purdue and Palestinian universities.



## Indiana Multiethnic Conference

With Indianapolis being the 13th largest city in the United States, the Governor and the Indiana Civil Rights Commission are dedicated to educating each other about who we are, why we are here, and how we can help better each other and the state.

Mission: Bring people together to "Build the Indiana 21st Century Communities" by:

-Sharing expertise on how to create welcoming and inclusive communities.;

-Sharing resources and ideas on how to work with diverse ethnic groups;  
-Encouraging dialog among diverse ethnic groups;  
-Strengthen the importance of educating Hoosiers on the role that individuals from Multiethnic backgrounds play in the state on Indiana;  
-Cooperate and share responsibility in providing broad access to research to find new ideas to create the Indiana 21st Century Communities.

The Second Indiana Multiethnic Conference will be held at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and

Suites Monday, April 26, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information and to register for the conference, go to:

[www.indianamultiethnic.org](http://www.indianamultiethnic.org)

The Second Indiana Multiethnic Conference is a Purdue Extension sponsored event.



## AIAEE Conference in Saskatoon

The 26th Association for International Agriculture and Extension Education (AIAEE) conference will be in Saskatoon, Canada from May 16-20, 2010. This year's conference theme is "Innovative Cooperation and Collaboration."

Lee Stanish, International 4-H Programs Coordinator, will be presenting a paper authored by

Stanish, Jerry Peters, and Czeslaw Nowak titled: "The Role of the 4-H Club in Poland."

Jim Murren, Int'l Extension Program Coordinator, will be presenting a poster authored by Jess Lowenburg-DeBoer, Tahirou Abdoulaye, and Murren to share the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) Train-the-Trainer pro-

gram that was implemented in Nigeria by Purdue Extension and International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) in August 2009.

To learn more about AIAEE, the conference, go to: [www.aiaee.org](http://www.aiaee.org)



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**Purdue Extension**

**Knowledge to Go**

**1-888-EXT-INFO**



**International Programs in Agriculture**

Purdue Extension is a service tailored to meet the needs of Indiana, needs we know firsthand. Our educators, specialists, and volunteers live and work in all 92 Indiana counties. We provide the link between Land Grant research and Indiana residents. In doing that we provide practical solutions to local issues. We provide information and expertise that's available in the form you want, when you want it. That's Purdue Extension, Indiana's home team advantage.

International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) at Purdue University promotes and facilitates international activities in the College of Agriculture through collaboration with educational institutions, agencies and organizations throughout the world. These educational partnerships are designed to help improve agriculture, natural resources, and food systems locally, regionally and around the world, as well as enrich communities at Purdue, Indiana and beyond.

## Final Thought...



When I accepted a faculty position in agribusiness at Purdue in the mid-80s, I am not sure working internationally was part of my 'plan'. But given the increasingly global nature of agribusiness, the plan changed. Some of my most vivid extension memories are international: the Polish entrepreneur and his wife who spent an extra half-day with us playing a business simulation after the formal program had ended, just to extract every possible lesson; the group of Chinese managers in Beijing who, after the previous day on strategic management had ended at 10 pm, had me come in early the next morning to discuss franchising; the Cameroon seed executive who taught me something about the importance of job titles....

Like the very best managers in our country, these people wanted to know how they could lead their organizations to even higher places. And, given their passion, energy and enthusiasm—whether in Piura, Peru or Kaunas, Lithuania—I have no doubt they would do everything possible to make that happen.

Looking forward, the challenges agriculture faces are well documented. Feeding a growing planet, providing renewable sources of energy, and doing this while making more efficient use of resources and respecting our environment is no small task. Much is made of the role of technology in addressing this challenge, and technology will play a key role. But local decision makers, managers and farmers must put that technology to work in a way that

respects local conditions. This means education. This means extension. Senator Richard Lugar has said as much in his proposal for a global land grant system. Technology will play a key role in addressing our future challenges. But for me, international extension will play an increasingly important role in putting that technology to work.

Jay Akridge

Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture