Winter’s Trees: Resoluteness

Jim Murren, International Extension Program Coordinator

Trees in winter are one of my favorite things. Seeing them without their leaves, standing dark-lined in the crisp light of a winter’s morning, or the pink and purple pales of sunset, or touched with a soft layer of snow, they have a resoluteness that inspires me.

Resolute: marked by firm determination (Merriam-Webster).

Are each of us determined to be leaders in our own way, like Gebisa and Phil, in addressing the new global food security challenges that are highlighted in Chuck and Jess’ message?

How can we bring that understanding into our work, and transfer it to our fellow Hoosiers? For the long haul? Throughout all of 2010?

Determined. Resolute.

How might we get started?

Educate ourselves.

If you’ve not already seen it, take some time to check out Robert Paarlberg’s seminar so that you may gain new perspectives on the global food picture. The link to the archived video is on page two.

Next month, if you’re on campus, join us for Andre Jooste’s seminar on Thursday, February 25th in the Dean’s Auditorium, where he will present: “The linkage between policy reform and competitiveness of the agricultural sector in an economy in transition: the case of South Africa.”

What can we do? Lots.

With initial funding from USAID, a new Worldwide Extension Study is being conducted. If you are able to assist in that study, it is but one way in having a footprint in the international extension arena, one that will reach out in addressing global food security.

International 4-H has been a major success and is going strong. Can we make it stronger?

We have our highly successful international gardens study trips. How might they serve as models to develop new programs?

PICS is taking off in West Africa. Where else might it land?

Who’s ready to get their boots on and go abroad to do Extension work with Farmer-to-Farmer programs?

The opportunities to meet the global challenge of food security are endless. With some creativity and imagination, we’ll develop more opportunities.

2010 is here. Let’s celebrate it by being like winter’s trees. Let’s view the challenges before us with excitement!

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PEGAT Strategic Plan—Objectives

Purdue Extension Global Awareness Team

1. PEGAT will offer ongoing professional development opportunities that strengthen educators’ appreciation for the impact of global changes and the role Extension can play to help communities adapt to that impact.

   A) Educators will see the importance of addressing local issues related to globalization.

   B) Educators will increase programming in this area.

2. PEGAT will develop and deliver programs that assist Extension educators and community leaders in engaging with and addressing the needs of immigrant communities.

   A) Educators and community leaders will be able to engage immigrant communities.

   B) Immigrants will be better able to access and navigate resources available to them.

3. PEGAT will coordinate programming for businesses (i.e. farming industry, small farms, small businesses, artisans, chambers of commerce, etc.) on topics directly related to their ability to be sustainable in a global market-place, such as immigrant employment legalities, import/export opportunities, and cross-cultural competency.

4. PEGAT will partner with statewide and regional organizations to host multicultural educational events and cross-cultural cooperative efforts.

For more details regarding PEGAT’s strategic plan, please contact Susan Tharp:

tharps@purdue.edu
Our Common Future
Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd

Global food security is a top priority of the new USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA). This is a major issue as projections suggest that we will need 70% more food by 2050 if our planet is to be fed.

Purdue Agriculture is deeply committed to this initiative and to the solution. A great example is our two World Food Prize recipients, Dr. Phil Nelson and Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, who will be the highlight of the Fish Fry on February 6, 2010. These two scientists have contributed way beyond expectations to the production and distribution of food for our planet.

We are all in a position to contribute to this effort, I encourage you to be part of the solution. Our planet’s future depends on it.

Chuck Hibberd is Director of Purdue Extension.

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

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Int’l Ag Speakers Forum: Andre Jooste

Andre Jooste will be visiting Purdue from South Africa during the week of February 22nd as part of our International Agribusiness Speakers Forum.

Andre obtained his MSc (Agric) in Agricultural Economics from the University of Pretoria in 1996. He also worked at the University of Pretoria as lecturer, after which he joined the Standard Bank of South Africa as Information Manager in the Agricultural Department. In 1998 he left the employment of the bank to accept a position as lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State. He completed his PhD in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003. He was chairperson of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State from 2004 to 2006. On 1 January 2007 he joined the National Agricultural Marketing Council as Senior Manager in the Market and Economic Research Centre and was also appointed as Affiliate Professor at the University of the Free State.

He has extensive experience in conducting market, policy, rural and industry analysis. This includes, amongst others, implementation of management information systems, identification and use of applicable market research methodologies, compiling industry wide strategies, conducting surveys and value chain analysis. He also specialises in international trade issues and their implications from a country and firm point of view.

For more details on his visit to Purdue, contact Jim Murren at: jmurren@purdue.edu

“Biotech Crops in Africa” Seminar

Robert Paarlberg came to Purdue in December to give a very interesting talk on why the use of biotechnology in Africa hasn’t got the foothold it has in other regions of the world.

Paarlberg’s principal research interests are international agricultural and environmental policy. His latest book, Starved for Science: How Biotechnology Is Being Kept Out of Africa (Harvard University Press, March 2008), explains why poor African farmers are denied access to productive technologies, particularly genetically engineered seeds with improved resistance to insects and drought. In this study, and in his forthcoming book, Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press), Rob frequently challenges the conventional wisdom.

A leading scholar on the role of science and technology in agricultural development, and a popular teacher and public speaker, Paarlberg has served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, National Intelligence Council, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Rob graduated from West Lafayette High School and maintains deep roots in the Purdue community.

His Purdue seminar, “The Politics and Potential of Biotech Crops in Africa,” (December 9, 2009) is archived here: mms://video.dis.purdue.edu/bns/agriculture/paarlberg_091209.wmv
England’s Gardens
B. Rosier Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist and IN Master Gardener State Coordinator

Garden enthusiasts from around the nation to explore the history of British Gardens

Purdue Extension’s “England and its Gardens” 2010 travel-study program offers a unique opportunity for Extension Master Gardener volunteers from across the nation to study the history of garden design and some of the best contemporary gardens and plants while sampling British culture.

Participants will experience a full range of historical and modern garden designs and settings including Stourhead, Hidcote Manor, Hestercombe, Iford Manor, Westbury Court, Sissinghurst Castle, Beth Chatto Garden, and Bloom’s of Bressingham. The fabulous Hampton Court Palace gardens and Flower Show, the largest such show in the world, caps the itinerary.

This year’s participants will come from various states, including Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Idaho, Maryland, North Carolina and California. The program is organized and led by Dr. Mike Dana and Ms. Rosie Lerner of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue.

Now in its 6th year, the Purdue Master Gardener Study Abroad Program has visited England and France in previous years. The 2010 program runs from July 1 – 14 and still has a few openings available. For more information on the program, please visit: [www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/EaiG/Main.html](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/EaiG/Main.html)

PICS: Update on Niger
Dieudonne Baributsa, PICS Team Manager

Niger
Currently, the PICS technology is helping farmers to overcome some of the difficulties they had to access loans from microcredit banks. Cowpea loss during storage had made the lenders more reluctant to accept cowpea as a guarantee. Now, since the PICS technology has proved to be effective in protecting cowpea during storage, many lenders have opened their doors to cowpea farmers. Farmers are able to borrow money against their harvest and sell their commodities when the price is high. Cowpea is stored in Cereal bank in Gocholo, Magaria - used by farmers to secure loans from YARDA, a microfinance bank.

Questions, comments, requests for additional information can be directed to Dieudonne Baributsa, PICS Team Manager: dbaribut@purdue.edu

Your Help Is Needed—New Worldwide Extension Study

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will begin working to strengthen agricultural extension systems, especially in food insecure countries. To begin identifying the capacity and key constraints in different countries, USAID has allocated some start-up funding to launch a new worldwide extension study and assessment.

In carrying out this study, the plan is to collect and share this information with extension professionals and administrators, as well as donors, worldwide. In the process, the hope is that this assessment of extension systems in different countries will enable USAID (and other donors) to both identify key constraints within each national extension system, as well as how these problems, if properly addressed, could significantly help small-scale men and women farmers increase their farm income and, thereby, improve the livelihoods of the rural poor.

Dr. Burt Swanson at the U. of Illinois is the project director. He is seeking key Extension contacts/individuals/info in some 170 countries. If you have such details, please contact Jim Murren: jmurren@purdue.edu
International 4-H Update
Lee Stanish, International 4-H Programs Coordinator

2009
In 2009 there were 58 participants (44 youth and 14 adults) in International 4-H programs. This represents Hoosiers who traveled to or hosted individuals from Poland, Australia, and Japan.

2010
Applications for 2010 travel programs are open until February 1 (To Poland, Japan, Australia, Norway, Costa Rica)
Applications to host a high school youth from Japan through our Meiji Gakuin program are open until April

To get an application information or brochures on any 2010 programs contact Lee Stanish at: lstanish@purdue.edu or Linda Hines of the State 4-H office at 765.494.8433

Workshop
The State 4-H office is holding an international 4-H programs workshop for 4-H volunteers who assist annually with international 4-H programs, or would like to become involved. This will take place on Saturday January 16th in the Ag Administration Building on the Purdue campus at 11:00AM. Contact Linda Hines for information if you would like to attend, or cannot but would like an information packet from the day.

Make Cheese In Georgia with CNFA

David Botkoveli intends to establish small scale milk processing enterprise that will be equipped with modern equipment needed for the production of "Georgian Cheese" and "Sulguni".

Botkoveli is a CNFA ADA grantee. He intends to set up a cheese making room, as well as milk collection center. Part of the equipment has already been purchased. Within a couple of months the cheese plant will be in full operational condition.

The project will be implemented in the village of Ikalto, Telavi district, Kakheti region 170 km east from Tbilisi. It will include purchase of necessary equipment needed for Georgian Cheese and Sulguni production (milk collecting basin, Sulguni boiling pans, vacuum-packaging equipment, milk pump, basins for cheese maturing, laboratory equipment, distribution vehicle and etc).

These improvements will result in high quality, consumer-oriented processed dairy goods (Georgian cheese will be cut into 400-700 gr. pieces and vacuum-packed, as that is most attractive for customers according to market research results), as well as substantially increased production capacity. The aim of the project is to produce packed Georgian cheese and Sulguni in Ikalto village by processing locally produced milk.

http://www.cnfa.org/farmertofarmer/volunteer-opportunities

Land O’ Lakes Farmer-to-Farmer Opps

For nearly 30 years Land O’ Lakes International Development has delivered successful training and technical assistance to, and through, communities, industry organizations, producer groups, processors, and marketers covering a wide range of food and agriculture industries in over 75 countries. In a key program area Land O’ Lakes implements "Farmer-to-Farmer" volunteer programs in the Middle East and North and West Africa by matching U.S. volunteers with local agricultural organizations.

Although Land O’Lakes successes are largely dependent on the funding and support that it receives from USAID, they are equally dependent on the work of its volunteers—persons who are able to travel to a foreign destination to provide instruction and guidance to individuals and small groups in their particular skill sets. The short-term two to three week mentoring assignments offer the volunteer a unique opportunity to interact with, assist, and befriend counterparts in their field, whose knowledge and practices may be outdated or elementary, and to experience another culture on a very personal level.

Examples of sought after volunteer consultant skills range from dairy and crop production expertise to food marketing and from business planning to agricultural finance and lending.

For inquiries regarding volunteer positions, please visit: www.idd.landolakes.com. Click on Get Involved, then Opportunities, and link to our current list of opportunities.
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...

Assisi Statement on Agricultural Advisory Services Worldwide
22 September 2009
Assisi, Italy
We, the participants, are determined to create a global forum that provides leadership and advocacy to stimulate the latent potential that agricultural advisory services has to address the global challenges of poverty and food insecurity.

In spite of national and international development efforts we have persistent rural poverty and global hunger.

Agricultural advisory services are elemental to improving the livelihoods of rural people worldwide, and have demonstrated positive impacts in spite of under-resourcing.

To better serve their constituency, advisory services need a stronger voice; vigorous analysis on policies, principles, and approaches; enhanced interaction and dialogue; and the synthesis of innovations and good practices.

Due to a confluence of factors—rising food prices, the L'Aquila G-8 statement on the importance of agricultural extension services, renewed donor interest in agriculture and advisory services, and a broad commitment to restructure global agricultural development institutions—this is the transformational moment for the sector.

This is the opportune time to institutionalize a global mechanism to give leadership and support to key stakeholders in pluralistic, demand-driven agricultural advisory services for rural people.

The Neuchâtel Initiative meeting in Assisi in September 2009 confirmed and validated the need for such an initiative.

http://www.neuchatelinitiative.net/english/index.htm