Why do international extension work?

Standing side-by-side with our fellow man and woman in a collaborative effort to improve livelihoods is worthy work.

A row of newly planted corn in Peru, South America or Peru, Indiana.

Traveling to see and taste how our common humanity grow and prepare food is one of life's greatest pleasures.

A fresh corn tortilla patted into shape by campesina hands.

Let's pull it all together in the form of a set of questions:

What happens to our common humanity when we travel outside of our current geographic centers to understand how others live their lives?

How do they define agriculture?

How do they prepare food?

What are the commonalities we share with them?

The differences?

How might I be in a position to go beyond my locale to assist others in building a better tomorrow?

How might doing so impact my home community upon my return?

Will going lead us back to a new home?

At the risk of getting too caught up with thoughts taking shape with words, I'll stop there. Instead, I'll offer the words of Hafez, a 14th Century Persian poet that is a friend of mine:

All the Hemispheres

Leave the familiar for a while. Let your senses and bodies stretch out

Like a welcomed season

Onto the meadows and shores and hills.

Open up to the Roof.

Make a new water-mark on your excitement And love.

Like a blooming night flower, Bestow your vital fragrance of happiness And giving Upon our intimate assembly.

Change rooms in your mind for a day.

All the hemispheres in existence Lie beside an equator In your heart.

Greet Yourself In your thousand other forms As you mount the hidden tide and travel Back home.

All the hemispheres in heaven Are sitting around a fire Chatting

While stitching themselves together Into the Great Circle inside of You.

From: 'The Subject Tonight is Love’

Translated by Daniel Ladinsky

Purdue's International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) signed an agreement with ACDI/VOCA to participate in the upcoming Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Program (ADVANCE).

ACDI/VOCA will be starting the new four-year project in agricultural development July 1, 2009. The project will be working in several value chains to help transform Ghana's agricultural sector in the north and the south through increased competitiveness in domestic, regional and international markets. These value chains will include: rice, maize, pineapple, mango, high-value vegetables, cassava, soya, sorghum, and aquaculture. Cross-cutting needs for these value chains will be in areas of ag economics, ag engineering, agronomy, crop and soil science.

Short and long term volunteer assignments with ADVANCE will be available to Purdue COA faculty and staff, graduate students, and Extension personnel.

For more information, contact Diana Roach, ACDI/VOCA ADVANCE Director, at:

droach@acdivoca.org

202-879-0619
What will you do?

*Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd*

Purdue Extension is embarking on a broader mission to engage ourselves and our clientele with the global community. For some, that may mean actual travel to another country to conduct International Extension work or to engage in an in-depth study. For others, hosting international guests and finding ways for local folks to interact. Some may decide to foster a collaborative effort with an international partner to develop some type of mutually beneficial project or venture. Still others may choose to build their global competency by learning a language or studying a culture.

Obviously, there are many ways to engage in a globalization effort.

I have benefitted greatly from my globalization experiences:

- A year in Norway as an exchange student taught me the language and culture and gave me a new perspective.
- Four business trips to Belgium and France resulted in the start-up of a chicory industry in western Nebraska.
- A 12-day study tour in Mexico helped me understand what immigrants from the barrios deal with.
- An 18-day study tour in China helped me understand the fastest growing economy in the world.

You will benefit from a globalization effort in proportion to your investment, potentially a lot!!!

So, what will you do?

—Chuck Hibberd

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Creating New Markets for Local Business

*Amy Shoup Mennen*

Shoup’s Country Foods is a family owned and operated business since 1978 located in Frankfort, IN. We are proud to be State and Nationally certified as a Women’s Business Enterprise.

Our newly trademarked product, Shoup’s Hogburger® was featured at The National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago May 16-19, 2009. Our Goal for the show was to expand our market visibility outside the state of Indiana, and create a buzz for our newly trademarked products.

We offered five new products that have never been showcased before at a national show. Our products were highlighted in the trade show as “hot new products”.

When figuring the cost to attend this event, we were quite surprised at what our total investment would be to our business. When our local extension representative, Susan Tharp, heard of our plans, she suggested we apply for a trade show grant through the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. This grant, which is under the State of Indiana’s Trade Show Assistance Program, was extremely helpful with providing monetary assistance in this global endeavor.

(“Creating New Markets for Local Business” continued on page 4 )

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AIAEE Conference in San Juan, PR

*Bokar Moussa, Ph.D. Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics*

The 25th Annual Conference of the Association for International Agriculture and Extension Education (AIAEE) was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico from May 24 to May 28 2009.

Purdue’s 22 years of applied research with extension for strengthening cowpea storage in Africa was presented as a poster by Bokar Moussa, a Purdue PhD research assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

The poster summarized the research and extension work on cowpea storages in Africa by Purdue scientists and their African research partners. Improvements of multiple storages methods were highlighted. Improved cowpea storages methods including drum storage, ash method, solar disinfections and the triple bagging method which are currently being used by farmers in West and Central Africa were presented.

Among these improved storage technologies the triple bagging storage is proved to be the simplest and cost effective cowpea storage technology for farmers in the region. The poster also showed current efforts by Purdue University research and extension specialists, its African partners and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through an $11.4 million extension project for the triple bagging technology.
Polish 4-H Program Update
Lee Stanish, International 4-H Coordinator

May 26-June 9th 2009 marked the 5th year anniversary of the Poland -Indiana 4-H exchange. In its 5 years of operation, the program has now exchanged 115 leaders and 4-H members between NE Indiana and Poland.

During this year’s program, 27 Polish delegates visited Purdue’s campus, toured Lafayette, visited Indianapolis, stayed with NE Indiana 4-H host families, and toured Chicago. The group was comprised of 16 youth and 11 adults.

Polish 4-H began in 1991, making it a much younger organization than American 4-H. Therefore American 4-H enjoys a larger foundation of volunteers, paid staff, and supporting research. As an offshoot of the exchange program, Purdue staff Dr. Jerry Peters and Lee Stanish are currently surveying 4-H clubs in Poland to determine the perceived benefits of 4-H in another country.

Introducing the PICS Team Manager

Dr. Dieudonné Baributsa, the new PICS Team Manager has joined the International Programs in Agriculture at Purdue University since July 1, 2009. Dr. Baributsa will be coordinating all programmatic aspects of the PICS project, including Extension efforts between Purdue and West Africa.

He comes to Purdue from the Institute of International Agriculture at Michigan State University (MSU) where he was the program associate for the IPM CRSP program in Central Asia and was coordinator for short courses in Agroecology, Integrated Pest Management and sustainable agriculture, and food safety.

In addition he was facilitating collaborative curriculum enhancement and faculty training of Dakar University in Senegal and the National University of Rwanda. Dr. Baributsa earned his doctorate degree in crop and soil science from MSU. Before joining MSU he was a Director of one the Experiment Stations of the National Agricultural Research Institute (ISAR) of Rwanda in Gisenyi Province. ISAR is the Rwandan National Institute for Agricultural Research.

The Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage Project is a collaborative research, extension and supply chain development efforts implemented in 10 countries in West Africa. The PICS project aims at increasing hermetic storage (non-chemical) of cowpea at the farm level in West Africa by 50% in 2012.

CNFA Farmer-to-Farmer in Angola
Matilde Paino D’Urzo

Matilde Paino D’Urzo (Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture) returned in May from a short-term Farmer-to-Farmer project based in Huambo, Angola, Africa. The on-going program is sponsored by CNFA and is funded through USAID.

She traveled into the central region of Angola to provide technical assistance with vegetable producers. Her work focused on good agricultural practices in various crops including corn, tomato, cabbage, potato, onion and carrots.

Angola is recovering from a civil war that lasted more than 30 years; the infrastructure in all sectors has been severely damaged. Oil and other resources are attracting investors and generating business. Paino D’Urzo says that Angola is one of the most expensive countries in the world, and small farmers experience a severe lack of access to capital to operate. Before the independence from Portugal and before the civil war, Angola was agriculturally self-sufficient and was providing technical expertise to other African countries. (cont’d on page 4)
CNFA Farmer-to-Farmer in Angola
Matilde Paino D’Urzo

Today, Angolan extension services are scarce and just getting started. In Huambo Province, the climate is very conducive to cultivation. Still, farmers are faced with many production and marketing issues. Overall, most producers have very basic operations and are limited to manual and animal power.

Paino D’Urzo commented, “I greatly enjoy the challenge of new practical experiences in contexts that are so different. It is a big reward to meet and work with new people, share knowledge and learn about other cultures.”

CNFA is a Washington DC-based not-for-profit international development organization dedicated to increasing and sustaining incomes in rural areas by nurturing entrepreneurship, private enterprise and market linkages. Information about CNFA and volunteer opportunities can be found at www.cnfa.org

For more information regarding CNFA’s Farmer-to-Farmer program, you can contact the program coordinator at:

Jerad Tietz
CNFA Program Coordinator
Farmer-to-Farmer Program
jtietz@cnfa.org
202-296-3920

Creating New Markets for Local Business
Amy Shoup Mennen

By attending the NRA show we were able to meet with several restaurants and chains along with distributors, both national and independent who expressed interest in carrying our products.

Our business has been contacted by many NRA show attendees since returning and samples have been provided to several prospective customers. We have also been approved to present our trademarked products on a National Shopping Network TV Show.

Shoup’s Country Foods operates three divisions. Our Catering branch offers full service off premise catering from Country Casual to Formal Elegance feeding 65,000 guests last year. Shoup’s offer quality meats at our Retail Store in Frankfort IN. The country store offers meat by the piece or bulk freezer packages. Shoup’s Country Foods wholesale division offers our branded products which include Shoup’s Pulled Pork BBQ, Shoup’s BBQ Sauce, Shoup’s Seasoning, Mini-Hog Roast® and the new Hogburger®, the ultimate porkburger. These products are available throughout the state to restaurants, caterers, and other foodservice establishments through wholesale distribution.

You can contact Shoup’s Country at:
1-800-MINI-HOG
765-654-5626
www.shoupscountry.com

Int’l Extension Opportunity Highlight

ACDI/VOCA is currently seeking short-term specialists in onion and shallot storage technologies for West Africa. An expert is required to assess and produce recommendations on improvement of onion/shallot storage techniques. The assignment will be for a period of 3-4 weeks. The expert would also be required to travel to 2-3 West African countries.

Requirements:
•Conduct a comparative analysis of existing storage techniques and practices
•Participate in a National or Regional workshop to discuss the results to come at a later date from the assessment
•Develop a guidebook on onion/shallot storage

Qualifications:
•Minimum of 5 years of experience in related field is required.
•Master’s degree in agribusiness or specific types of post-harvest handling technology
•Fluency in English and French is required.
•Experience working in francophone Africa is highly preferred.

Women and minorities encouraged to apply. EOE.

http://www.cytiva.com/av/detail.asp?av1124
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...

Released this month, Foreign Direct Investment in Indiana, provides a viewpoint for understanding an aspect of globalization’s impact on the state. The following Indiana Highlights are from the report:

• Majority-owned U.S. affiliates employed 140,000 Hoosiers in 2006. This mark accounts for 4.6 percent of the state’s total private sector employment and has grown at an average annual rate of 2.7 percent since 2002 (seventh highest among all states).

• In 2006, manufacturing represented 65 percent of Indiana’s total majority-owned U.S. affiliate employment—the second-highest share nationally. These 95,900 jobs accounted for 17 percent of the state’s total private sector manufacturing employment.

• Sixty-five percent of Indiana’s total majority-owned U.S. affiliate employment in 2006 can be attributed to Europe; however, Japan was the state’s single-largest source country accounting for 22 percent of the total. Japan represented only 12 percent of majority-owned U.S. affiliate employment nationally.

• In 2006, the ratio of the gross value of property, plant and equipment of majority-owned U.S. affiliates to Indiana’s gross state product was 0.156.6 Indiana’s ratio was the fifth-highest nationally and, among neighboring states, was exceeded only by Kentucky.

Click on the complete report here.