

International Extension Newsletter

Poco a poco...Tiene que ser hoy

Jim Murren, International Extension Program Coordinator



It seemed that as I settled into my role and life as a community forestry extension volunteer during my time in Honduras, I was hearing more and more of a particular phrase:

Poco a poco.

Little by little.

Looking back, I'm able to recognize that the villagers were saying to me, "you can't do everything all at once for everyone...things take time."

I carry that lesson with me, a wonderful little nugget of wisdom I like to take out and gnaw on when needed.

Poco a poco.

Many faculty and students have been going to Costa Rica for a number of years to conduct research. Tamara Benjamin, a Purdue-CATIE Research Scientist, has been supporting those efforts, and creating new opportunities, for the past ten years. An outcome of that sustained work is a new Farmer to Farmer project

that will be implemented by Purdue Extension and CATIE in 2011.

Poco a poco.

PICS has been quite successful, but it's success isn't only recent. It has a history spanning three decades that involved countless people on campus and in the fields of Africa who have built that success from early on.

Extension train-the-trainer workshops in Nigeria last year and Ghana this year are adding to its success.

Poco a poco.

International 4-H has a long history in Indiana, one of its most recent success stories being the Poland program., which has its roots in northeast Indiana going back a ways. Today, there is talk of expanding it to other regions of Indiana and Poland.

Poco a poco.

Mark Kepler went to Ukraine more than four years ago. Com-

ing home, he knew he wanted to do something in Indiana for agriculturalists from Ukraine. He fulfilled that vision this past summer by designing and implementing a most unique ag education/work experience for two college students from Ukraine.

Poco a poco

Little by little, we have been internationalizing our Extension programming, as have other Extension services around the U.S.

Going back to the village, I would sometimes ask, "can *poco a poco* lead to missed opportunities for people living now?"

Tiene que ser hoy.

It has to be today.

That's what one man told me. He said you have to know when to seize the opportunity and make things happen today.

Another nugget to gnaw on.

What *poco a pocos* can we turn into *tiene que ser hoy*?

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Farmer to Farmer in Costa Rica

Recently awarded a USAID Farmer to Farmer subgrant administered by Weidemann Associates, Inc., Purdue University Extension and the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) will develop production, market access and value chain trainings for the Asociación de Productores Orgánicos de Turrialba (APOT), an organization comprised of 250 families producing honey, banana vinegar, coffee and other vegetable and

fruit crops for a local organic farmer's market on farms no larger than six hectares in size.

Proposed activities include: training APOT promoters in the planning of farm activities so that they meet the demands of the organic farmer's market as well as other potential local, regional, and international markets; improving the marketing of local, regional, and international products produced by the APOT farmers; and

innovation of new products that have been processed by less visible members of APOT (indigenous groups, women).

The objectives of "Increasing Access to Local, Regional and International Markets by Organizing Organic Producers within a Farmer's Association: APOT of Costa Rica" are:

(continued on page 2)

A Highly Successful Experience

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd

Twice, I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from Amanda Bailey and George Okantey about their PICS experience in Ghana. Both found the experience to be enriching, challenging and fruitful. As you would expect, the cultural experience was incredible. But, what really impressed me was that both Amanda and George talked about the importance of their Extension experience and skills in this “train-the-trainer” work.

For both, they experienced situations where their skills in teaching and learning as well as their perspectives on working with people were tested. Both explained that their Extension skills really helped them create a more effective learn-

ing environment. And, the participant’s responses suggested that they will be more effectively in delivering PICS educational programming in their villages.

Three observations:

1. Amanda and George are skilled Extension professionals.
2. Relying on your Extension skills and expertise is helpful to your program effectiveness (this statement sounds obvious but I think too often we undervalue the great Extension skills we possess and how those skills help us succeed).

3. Extension skills and expertise are transferrable in different cultures and venues.

Congratulations Amanda and George for your contributions to Purdue Extension and especially, to your unique contribution to the PICS program.

Chuck Hibberd
Director of Extension

Farmer to Farmer in Costa Rica

(continued from page 1)

1. Purdue University’s International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (CES), in collaboration with the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), will work with the Asociación de Productores Orgánicos de Turrialba (APOT), Costa Rica to improve APOT’s organizational management, increase product development, and better market their products in Costa Rica and abroad.

2. The 250 APOT member families will become familiar with market and product development techniques using models developed by Purdue and CATIE, in association with APOT, leading to improved farmer livelihoods.

3. APOT will become a regional model, providing outreach and technical training so that the developed models are used beyond the Farmer to Farmer (FtF) Niche project.

4. Purdue and CATIE will use the FtF Niche project for possible replication in other countries

throughout Latin America where CATIE is working.

The project schedule timeline is set for January-December 2011. Nine Extension Educators will travel to Costa Rica during the year to facilitate three 2-week workshops around the project themes. Those workshops are scheduled for March, August and October.

Tamara Benjamin, Purdue University-CATIE Research Scientist, and Jim Murren will collaborate to organize efforts in carrying out the proposed activities. Along with to-be-determined nine Extension Educators, they will create the training materials needed for the workshops.

Purdue Extension will be the primary agency in providing technical expertise and volunteers to carry out the trainings with CATIE. In particular, Extension Educators involved in the New Ventures program and the Women in Agriculture Team are potential sources of volunteers that are targeted. Small business development, especially of female farmers, is a priority of APOT. Addi-

tionally, Purdue Extension views international extension opportunities as having impact on the work of its personnel upon return, providing global awareness and understanding when developing programs back home.

CATIE is an international research and extension institution focusing on research and graduate education in the agricultural sciences and natural resources, and on environmental aspects related to both. Its mission is to benefit humanity through the application of knowledge, experiences and technologies in order to stimulate development, conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in the American tropics. CATIE is dedicated to working with small and medium-sized low-resource farmers and those with minimum means to diversify and become competitive.

To learn more about this project, contact Jim Murren at:

jmurren@purdue.edu



PICS/Ghana Extension

Amanda Bailey and George Okantey

Once in a lifetime experience

The PICS project completely lived up to my expectations of being a once in a lifetime experience. It was a fantastic insight into a new culture and involvement in extension at its best – national impact.

The PICS project addresses a multinational problem of cowpea storage in West Central Africa. Cowpea producers can lose up to 30-40 percent of their annual production due to heavy bruchid infestation and feeding during storage periods. Cowpea is a staple crop for this region's economy and is very important for proper nutrition of people and animals. The triple bagging technology we introduced during our 2 week stay was very well received. The technology was recognized and praised for its simplicity, low cost, and impending impacts.

Throughout the trainings, I rediscovered a few overlooked skills needed to be effective in extension and education. These skills are ones that I will strive to keep focus on now that I'm returned home in Vermillion County.

Outside the scope of extension and work, I was able to enjoy a new culture. Markets, driving, shopping, food, religion, and home life here all have special aspects that differ from Indiana and the United States. Learning about and experiencing them made each day an adventure. Seeing the savannah, crop production, a cocoa plantation, and some breathtaking waterfalls all enhanced my experience in Ghana.

Thanks for all the well wishes and support I have received from Purdue administration and my extension peers. I can't thank you all enough for your support during this great opportunity.

—Amanda Bailey

Going back to my roots and some!

My experience in Ghana reminds me of a Tony Robbins quote "life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility to give something back by becoming more." For me, the opportunity to participate in PICS Ghana was a blessing. It did not only provide me a privilege to give back to my home country, but to engage my extension skills to solve problems and facilitate positive decision-making processes with training participants. Circumstances do not often work out such that one gets the benefit to fulfill a heartfelt desire to give back. I am a naturalized US citizen born in Ghana, and working for a land grant university in the US. The chance to train in Ghana was an opportunity I could not pass. I am from southern Ghana, and the project was in the north, so the experience presented challenges of the unknown, in addition to the emotional drive to make a difference. I was invigorated by this paradox, but humbled, and enthused because the trip provided an opportunity to teach, learn and connect with my counterparts in northern Ghana.

Once I learned about my selection, I quickly make time to learn about the problem of bruchids and weevils. In addition, I learned about the objectives and purpose of the project, including insects and various storage methods and challenges for cowpeas production Ghana. I used most of the learning in the training.

The most enjoyable part of the training was engaging my extension experience and creating facilitation protocols that led to the smooth execution of the PICS training program in Bolgataga and Wa. Mostly I used a consensus building style of instruction to draw out participants' experiences, which resulted in greater understanding and acceptance. Overall, this was a wonderful

experience, as I was also able to visit with family and friends before heading back to Indiana .

—George Okantey



Ejura Marketplace – the market women thank Amanda for sharing



George conducts human subjects protocols sessions at Bolgatanga

To learn more about their trip, go to:

www.purdueimprovedcowpeastorage.blogspot.com

Int'l 4-H: Heifer and Int'l Ed Week

Lee Stanish, International 4-H Coordinator

34 youth and 7 Purdue Extension Staff head for Arkansas for Heifer Global Learning Camp

While some Indiana 4-H youth are celebrating Halloween, 34 will be on a Purdue bus headed for a weekend experiential learning camp at Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. The group, yielding from four Indiana counties (Clinton, LaPorte, Marion, and Parke), will have a hands on chance to learn about world food systems and world hunger. They'll harvest rice, sleep on dirt floors simulating African villages, and learn that only 5% of the world's population lives in North America. For additional information about this experience, contact us – or see the "Global Challenge" program on Heifer's website at :

www.heifer.org

County Extension staff traveling on the trip include Stephanie DeCamp (Clinton), Jim Becker (Marion), and Jeff Pell (Parke).

International Education Week – November 15th, 2010

International Education Week, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, is a great time to advertise and encourage participation in 2011 Global 4-H Programs! You can do this through local 4-H youth groups, or in a local school classroom setting. Our office stocks marketing DVDs, brochures, and applications for you upon request. For most 2011 travel programs, application time is from November 2010 to February 1, 2011. 2011 Global 4-H Programs include Japan, Poland, Costa Rica, and Australia. Each program has interest themes: such as livestock for the Australia program, and biology for the Costa Rica program. Help us tell people in your community about these great youth opportunities!



From IN to Ukraine and back to IN

Mark Kepler, ANR Educator in Fulton County, was invited by the University of Illinois to participate on a team of educators and specialists from the University of Illinois and Purdue University Extension Services to go to Poltava, Ukraine in April 2006 and give presentations at an agricultural conference held at the Poltava State Agrarian Academy.

More than four years later, one of the lasting impacts of that trip resulted in a very unique agricultural education/work program designed by Mark that involved two Poltava students living and working on Indiana family farms this past summer, as well as having the opportunity to do some research on campus.

Take a few minutes to read through the links below to learn more about Mark's program.:

Overview of Mark's trip to Ukraine and how the Indiana program was set up:

<http://www.farmworldonline.com/News/ArchiveArticle.asp?newsid=10705>

Poltava student Sergii Panchenko offers insight on his Hoosier farming experience:

<http://www.farmworldonline.com/News/ArchiveArticle.asp?newsid=10688>

Poltava student Ol'ha Reva shares her thoughts on making s'mores, life in Indiana, and how the land is farmed in her native country:

<http://www.farmworldonline.com/News/ArchiveArticle.asp?newsid=10706>

And, congratulations, Mark!

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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...

Half of the food grown in the world is produced by women farmers and an estimated 1.6 billion women depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. However, the productivity of many women farmers is severely constrained by institutional and cultural barriers, including poor access to land, credit, and education.

Worldwide, women receive only about five per cent of agriculture extension services and own not more than two per cent of land (emphasis added by Jim Murren).

However, where women have access to education, infrastructure, credit and health care, incomes are seen to improve along

with the wellbeing of their families, as they invest in education and healthcare. This ultimately results in a ripple of benefits that can extend to the entire community as women work together to improve their lives.

This edition of *New Agriculturist* focuses on the role of women in agriculture and the innovative means by which women around the world, including those in agricultural research, are being provided with the support and recognition that they need and deserve.

<http://www.new-ag.info/focus/on.php?a=1748>

One of the articles in this online edition highlights the *Women Can't Wait* campaign. The campaign highlights women marginal farmers and their role in fighting hunger.

Access the article by going directly to:

<http://www.new-ag.info/focus/focusItem.php?a=1743>

