

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

monthly newsletter of The Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri (UMCA)

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International Forestry Education Grant Approved

A new grant “Internationalization of Forestry Education, Research and Extension: U.S. Costa Rica Cooperation,” was recently approved by the USDA NIFA International Science and Education Competitive Grants Program. Dr. Francisco Aguilar of the MU Forestry Department will be the lead PI for the project. Co-PIs include: Drs. Muzika, Larsen and Stelzer (Forestry), Drs. Gold and Jose (UMCA/Forestry), Dr. Allen (Ag. Journalism), Dr. Gilles (Rural Sociology), and Dr. Navarrete-Tindall (Lincoln University).

Summary: Building on needs and strengths of the University of Missouri’s (MU’s) Department of Forestry and Center for Agroforestry (UMCA), the project seeks to further the internationalization of the education, research and extension programs. International collaborators are EARTH University and the Tropical Agricultural and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica. Activities to enhance the global competence of students, faculty, other scientists and extension specialists include: (1) Undergraduate Summer Studies of Tropical Forest Resources and Communities; (2) a Tropical Forest Resource and Communities Immersion Trip; (3) an MU-CATIE Scientist Exchange Program; and (4) a Doctoral Student International Travel Allowance.

To maximize benefits to Missouri’s communities and businesses, project partners include colleagues at Lincoln University, an 1890 Land-Grant University, and the Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA).

Project deliverables include the internationalization of the newly-developed online M.S. degree in Agroforestry, partial funding for two Ph.D. students and new courses in extension and forest-based entrepreneurship. Dissemination efforts will include journal articles, a blog, webinars and the creation of an Online Library of International Forestry Education Knowledge. In the long term, the project aims to develop a globally-recognized forest resource program that fully integrates education, research and extension activities; catalyzes the development of an international forest resource education network; establishes a global partnership in forest and agroforestry research; and spurs the creation of new forest-based businesses in Missouri and Costa Rica.

Objectives: The projects Education, Research and Extension objectives include: (1) Education - Fortify the international content of existing MU Forestry undergraduate and graduate curriculum to incorporate complex dimensions of forest management, multifunctionality and opportunities for entrepreneurship into existing and new courses; (2) Research - Solidify existing institutional cooperation to establish collaborative research projects with scientists at CATIE and incorporate international experiences into formal doctoral research experiences for underrepresented groups; and (3) Extension - Adopt lessons from outreach programs at EARTH University into existing UMCA and Lincoln University extension models to maximize benefits to forest-dependent communities, underserved groups and the forest industry by developing new courses and extension models.

UMCA and MU Forestry Faculty Perform Sawmill Demonstration

During a recent FFA field day at CAFNR’s Bradford Research and Extension Center, UMCA/Forestry’s Dusty Walter and Hank Stelzer operated and discussed the advantages of a portable sawmill. The sawmill was loaned to the university by Baker Products of Ellington, MO. This year’s field day had a record attendance of 53 schools and 2013 students. Walter also exhibited the sawmill at the MU Southwest Research Center Field Day in Mt. Vernon, Sep. 9th and will perform similar demonstrations at the MU Wurdack Farm field days.



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Kudos

Dr. Ranjith Udawatta, core member of the Center's faculty, has been promoted to Research Associate Professor in the MU Soils, Environment and Atmospheric Science Department.

RESEARCH

The Center for Agroforestry, in partnership with the USDA National Agroforestry Center, was awarded a grant for "Expanding learning partnerships to increase the adoption of agroforestry by farmers, ranchers, woodland owners in the USA." The project will be led by UMCA economist, **Dr. Larry Godsey**.

This project has two related goals. The first goal is to conduct economic case studies with individuals that are currently using agroforestry technologies as part of their land management strategy. These individuals will be interviewed to determine the factors that impacted the adoption decision. Additionally, specific

questions regarding costs, revenues, labor and risks will be part of each case study.

The second goal is to take the data collected from the economic case studies and build financial decision support models that can be used to analyze the financial performance of agroforestry practices given various management assumptions. Cost, revenue and labor data will be used to construct a mathematical model that will show the relationship between management decisions and financial performance for each economic enterprise.

*During his trip to the Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting in Logan, Utah this past month, USDA Forest Service Research Scientist and MU adjunct Forestry faculty member **Dr. Jerry Van Sambeek** viewed a planting established from seed **Dr. Mark Coggeshall** provided from improved black walnut cultivars collected in Fall 2008 and Fall 2010. The IPPFBE corporation (Improving Perennial Plants for Food and Bioenergy) plans to screen the seedlings for host resistance to the TCD complex (Thousand Cankers Disease), as well as cold- and drought-tolerance, to develop new cultivars resistant to TCD which has wiped out most of the black walnut trees in Utah. TCD has now been found in PA, VA and TN and threatens the nation's native eastern black walnut resource. (Top left photo) Dr. Van Sambeek with black walnut 3-year old sapling of McKinnis cultivar. (Top right) 3-year old sapling of Schessler cultivar. (Bottom) Row of 3-year old black walnut saplings.*

COMING SOON...

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| Sept. 24 | CAFNR South Farm Showcase
MU South Farm off of New Haven Rd.
http://cafnr.missouri.edu/aes/southfarm/ |
| Oct. 1 | UMCA Chestnut Roasting Booth
Harvest Hootenanny
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
Corner of Smith and Fay St.
http://columbiaurbanag.org/ |
| Oct. 6-7 | Agricultural Education Field Day
Wurdack Farm
http://aes.missouri.edu/wurdack/ |
| Oct. 8 | UMCA Chestnut Roasting Booth
Forrest Keeling Chestnut Roast
Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, MO
http://fknursery.com/ |
| Nov. 6-9 | New York State Silvopasture Workshop |
| Dec. 2 | UMCA Chestnut Roasting Booth
Columbia Living Windows Festival
The District, Columbia MO
9th St. and Broadway |



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A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment