



# Action in Agroforestry

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## KUDOS

### Shibu Jose appointed to Forestry Research Advisory Council

UMCA's Director appointed by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack in February.

Dr. Shibu Jose, Director of the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, is one of nine new members appointed to the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC). Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack appointed these members in mid-February.

Among the 20-member council's responsibilities include providing advice to Secretary Vilsack on national and regional research planning projects and on the coordination of forestry research within federal and state agencies, forestry schools and forest industries. In addition, the council provides advice to the U.S. Forest Service's Research and Development program, the world's largest forestry-research organization.



Shibu Jose, Director at UMCA

## FORMING GLOBAL AGROFORESTRY ORGANIZATION

### In search of unifying association for agroforestry

What happens when nine people from different agroforestry backgrounds get together? A new organization forms. The team is forming a group that will make it easier to share knowledge and work together in agroforestry.

The groundwork for the organization has been initiated by the World Agroforestry Centre and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Anyone interested in becoming a founding member has three months from the end of the World Congress on Agroforestry (which ended on February 14) to reach out via email to [a.temu@cgiar.com](mailto:a.temu@cgiar.com).

Goals of this organization include forums promoting agroforestry research and practice, engaging more actively in international policy forums and

debates and providing platforms for collaboration among members. It also will hopefully promote the publishing and sharing of agroforestry research results and the later adoption and use of the research.

The Drafting Committee of nine will develop and refine the charter and will be available for comments on April 2 until May 12. The committee will have a final version for adoption by founding members on June 2. Of the nine members, two have ties to the University of Missouri. One is Shibu Jose, Director at UMCA. The other is Gregory Ormsby Mori, an online agroforestry M.S. graduate student at MU. The seven others include: August Temu, Roger Leaky, Patrick Worms, Mohan Kumar, Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gillian Kabwe and Sumit Chaturvedi.

# Broadcast recordings available from National Cover Crops Conference



Jean Andreassen, NCR-SARE

From left to right: Rob Myers, Ray Gaesser, Howard G. Buffett and Jason Weller at the National Cover Crops Conference's opening panel session.

The opening sessions from the National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health have been recorded and are now available for streaming.

The Omaha, Neb., conference was held on Feb. 17 - 19 and brought together about 300 farmers, scientists, industry and government representatives there. Joining from afar were approximately 6,000 others who participated locally at more than 200 local soil health forums across the nation. The recordings were broadcast live for them.

Speakers at the opening session on Feb. 18 included USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Jason Weller; Howard G. Buffett of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation; and Ray Gaesser, an

Iowa farmer who is president of the American Soybean Association. After those speakers was a panel of farmer leaders from Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and North Dakota.

Along with the recorded opening session, presentations from breakout sessions and 10 short videos of innovative farmers describing their use of cover crops will also be online. Featured breakout sessions included soil health principles, pros and cons of certain species of cover crops, how cover crops can impact soil nutrients and the environmental impacts of cover crops, among other topics.

The videos from the conference can be found at: [www.sare.org/Events/National-Conference-on-Cover-Crops-and-Soil-Health](http://www.sare.org/Events/National-Conference-on-Cover-Crops-and-Soil-Health)

## UPDATE

## World Congress on Agroforestry

Shibu Jose, Director of UMCA, co-organized and chaired the temperate agroforestry session of the World Congress on Agroforestry in New Delhi, India, from February 10 - 14. Jose, Dr. Udawatta, visiting MU scholar Dr. Santos, Postdoc Associate Dr. Bardhan and MU graduate student Chris Bobryk, gave both oral and poster presentations. Jose gave a presentation on the North American perspective of temperate agroforestry in the 21st century.

Other presentations from the group focused on silvopastoral systems in rural communities, water quality, soil bacterial diversity, the physiological response of switchgrass for bioenergy alley cropping, and comparing biomass yields and SOC in young agroforestry systems.

Additional presentations were given about an ongoing Indo/U.S. biomass grant. Jose and Bardhan presented "MRABC: The Mississippi/Missouri River Advanced Biomass/Biofuel Consortium for a Sustainable Bioeconomy" at BioAsia2014 in Hyderabad, India.

## Upcoming Events

**April 19, 2014 —**  
Forest and Woodland  
Association of Missouri  
(FWAM) Spring Tree  
Farm Conference  
Conference details:  
[www.forestandwoodland.org](http://www.forestandwoodland.org)

 **The Center for Agroforestry**  
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