

action in AGROFORESTRY

 The Center for Agroforestry
University of Missouri

A Global Center for Agroforestry, Entrepreneurship and the Environment

Michael Gold and Calder Cleavelin, editors
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Grant Approved to Fund Agroforestry Academy

Dr. Michael Gold, along with his UMCA Co-PIs Mihaela Cernusca, Dr. Shibu Jose, Dr. Larry Godsey and Dr. Dusty Walter, in association with a large group of colleagues affiliated with the Mid-America Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG), has been awarded a USDA NCR-SARE Professional Development Program (PDP) grant to create and offer a weeklong “Agroforestry Academy” in 2013 and 2014.

The date for the 2013 Academy, which will be based in Columbia, MO, has not yet been set. The 2014 Academy will be based in Minneapolis, MN. The SARE PDP grant is entitled “Increasing agroforestry adoption and networking in the Midwest through targeted professional development”.



Project Summary: This project, a joint effort among five Midwestern states, will create a week-long Agroforestry Academy for professional development of natural resource professionals, extension agents, and other educators, to advance adoption of agroforestry as a cornerstone of productive land use in the Midwest. In spite of significant advances in both the science and practice of agroforestry over the past 20 years, adoption has been limited. Natural resource professionals, extension agents, certified crop advisors and other educators are currently not equipped to help landowners adopt agroforestry. Advanced training on the five agroforestry practices includes options for bioenergy, marketing, economic, social dimensions, and environmental services benefits, and coupled with practices in agroforestry design, will facilitate knowledge transfers. In turn, this will help create the infrastructure needed to enhance landowner adoption of agroforestry, resulting in increased sustainability of rural communities and the food and agricultural system.

Additional project Co-PIs include:

- *Dr. Diomy Zamora and Richard Warner (Green – Lands/Blue Waters), University of Minnesota*
- *Jeri Neal (Leopold Center) and Dr. Richard Schultz, Iowa State University*
- *Richard Straight and Dr. Andy Mason (Director), National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, NE*
- *Bruce Wight, National Forester, USDA Forest Service*
- *Dr. David Shelton, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- *Dr. Mark Kopecky, University of Wisconsin*

A large group of agroforestry practitioners will also be critical to the success of the Academy:

- *Nicola McPherson, Ozark Forest Mushrooms, MO*
- *Dan Shepherd, Shepherd Farms, MO*
- *Steve Flick, Show Me Energy, MO*
- *Penny and George Frazier, Goods from the Woods, MO*
- *Mark Shepard, Forest Ag Enterprises, WI*
- *Bruce Bostelman, NE Woody Florals LLC, NE*
- *Tyler Carlson, Early Boots Farm, MN*
- *Linda Meschke, Rural Advantage, MN*



UMCA's International Visitors

Lucas Nahuel López, a Fulbright Scholar from Misiones, Argentina, joined the Dept. of Forestry during the Fall Semester, 2012, to pursue his M.S. under the guidance of Dr. Francisco Aguilar. Lucas has his B.S. in Forestry (Forest Engineer) from the School of Forest Science at the National University of Misiones. For the past seven years Lucas has worked on restoration of degraded lands, conservation of native forest and afforestation projects with native species as well as environmental education with environmental NGO's, national institutions and government agencies. Most recently he has been focused on a 50 ha. pilot reforestation project seeking to achieve sustainable development to set a management model that can be used in different regions. The project includes carbon sequestration in silvopastoral systems and agroforestry systems with native species, as well as conservation of native forests and forest management.

Dr. Francisco Aguilar, along with Dr. Michael Gold and Dr. Dan Dey, mentored Ms. Elizabeth Obeng, a USDA Borlaug Fellow from Ghana (funded via USAID, through their African Cocoa Initiative) during the Fall Semester of 2012. Elizabeth works with the Ghana Forestry Research Institute. Her primary interest is socio-economic dimensions of agroforestry systems incorporating cacao trees; particularly, opportunities for income diversification and carbon sequestration using cacao planted in agroforestry systems. During her stay she also had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica and visit EARTH University and CATIE to view their ongoing research and production work with cacao. Elizabeth also co-authored a review paper entitled "Additionality of Cacao Agroforestry Systems Total Economic Value" in collaboration with Dr. Aguilar.

Dr. Omar Rojas Bolaños, Professor, Department of Chemistry at University of Costa Rica (UCR) -Liberia visited UMCA from Dec. 2-16, 2012. Hosted by UMCA's Dr. Chung-Ho Lin, he visited the UMCA Bioremediation and Phytochemistry Laboratory, UMCA Air Quality Research, MU Analytical Core Facilities, MU Biogas and Biodigestion Projects, and HARC. While at MU he interacted with scientists at UMCA, the Departments of Chemistry, Biological Engineering and Forestry, and the MU Life Science Center. UCR-Liberia is processing an MOU with UMCA and MU to facilitate an ongoing collaboration. This is UCR-Liberia's first MOU with a US institution. UMCA and Department of Chemistry are currently working with UCR-Liberia to establish the first analytical core facility and training center in the region.

UMCA Hosts Chinese Agroforesters

Delegates from forestry institutes in China paid a visit to The Center for Agroforestry at MU in November.

UMCA faculty and staff organized the visit, with help from Ivry Karamitros, an international marketing specialist with the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture. Visitors came on behalf of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, as well as other institutions for forestry technology and promotion across China.

The two-day program, including a morning of presentations from UMCA faculty and staff, offered a crash course in the full gamut of research conducted by the Center, from biomass/biofuels and specialty crops (e.g., chestnut and black walnut), to agroforestry economics, marketing, bioremediation, education and outreach.



Photo: Agroforestry delegates on a tour of HARC in New Franklin, MO.

Events:

4th Annual Agroforestry Symposium

Floods and Droughts: Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources in a Changing Climate

–January 9th, 2013 | 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.

–Jesse Wrench Auditorium, MU Memorial Union

–No admission charge, open to the public

–RSVP at 573-884-2874 or by email at elliottl@missouri.edu by Jan 5, 2013.

–See [flyer](#) for more details.

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