



RUMINATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL LIVESTOCK COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

New USAID Administrator Brings Good News for Ag

In his confirmation statement before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Andrew Natsios made a clear statement of his priorities, one of which was to reverse the diminished role of agriculture in international development and the Agency's agenda.

"Without economic growth no

development is ultimately sustainable. I would like to focus more of USAID's resources on economic development to reduce poverty and on agricultural development to reduce hunger and malnutrition. The American free market approach to both agricultural and economic development provide

important lessons which USAID should do more to share with the developing world. For much of the third world, economic growth and poverty reduction are synonymous with agriculture since 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas. All countries that have graduated from the third to the first world have begun with their agricultural sectors. The last fifteen years have not been good to agriculture programs in USAID: agricultural development funding has declined from \$1.2 billion in 1985 to \$300 million this year. In 1985,

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Participants in LEWS workshop for NARS in Ethiopia, February 2001. From left to right: sitting- Assefa Haile Selasse, Abraham Getachew, Sisay (Driver). Standing: Zeleke Asaye, Amsalu Sisay, Melkaye GebreSelasse, Raphael Marambii, Gebremedhin Hagos, Abdi Jama, Tekebe Tsige, Wolde Senbet (Driver). Photo by Dubale Adamsu.

LEWS Technologies Basis for National EWS

The Livestock Research Directorate of the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO) is planning to institutionalize technologies developed by LEWS as a basis for setting up a national early warning system for livestock and to integrate it into the overall national early warning system in the country. Under the direction of Dr. Zinash Sileshi, Director of Livestock Research at EARO and coordinator of the GL-CRSP/Livestock Early Warning project (LEWS) in Ethiopia, plans are underway to set up more monitoring

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Globalization: The Merger of Domestic and International Research and Extension Agendas

By Montague W. Demment, Director, Global Livestock CRSP

Globalization is a force that connects us to world markets. We are increasingly learning that the impact of that connection is a two way street. There are clear benefits but also major costs. Our farmers will have to learn to respond to international forces that are both strong and unpredictable.

Many of us in the international agriculture development community have been pushing the "Mellor model" of development where agricultural growth is the basis for a structural transformation in which developing countries' economies grow. However, at the same time donor countries provide aid for international development, they construct or maintain strong tariff and subsidy barriers that prevent growth in the agricultural sectors of those same countries.

As we open markets and develop the agricultural sectors in the face of greater connectiveness through globalization we can expect that "comparative advantage" in production will become a dominant force. Freer flows of knowledge about production techniques and closer communication with and knowledge of markets in an

environment of open competition will naturally select for comparative advantage in agriculture.

This environment (if it persists) will likely do two things. First, open markets will speed the agricultural development in developing countries and this development will accelerate their transition to the middle class of nations. This growth will increase demand from other sectors of the US economy in which we have a strong technological advantage. The unprecedented economic growth of the past decade has been in part a product of this process. Second, as the developing world's agricultural sectors grow, they will compete on the world market and that competition will require major adjustments in our US domestic agricultural sector. The increased role of developing countries in this new market, coupled with the greater participation of our usual competitors, will mean that US farmers will be faced with major transitions and adaptations as the developing world's competitive advantages are exerted. This transition will be disruptive to US farmers.

There is a link between the

situations of farmers in developing and developed countries. In international development we are struggling to find a means to assist small, poor farmers to deal with the risk of uncertainty. The climate is changing, rapidly growing populations are placing greater demands on resources, conflicts are more frequent and intense, and markets are being influenced by factors far beyond local or national control. Information flow is outstripped by forces influencing prices. How will the small farmer deal with the risk inherent in global markets? At home, farmers (especially family farms) will have to operate and adapt to this new landscape. The initial reaction is likely to be heavy emphasis on increase subsidies, compensatory payments; circle the wagons, and erect barriers.

However, domestically, unlike the developing world, we have considerable resources to deal with this change. The US has the world's best agriculture research and extension service. This resource is a major asset that can be directed to assist farmers to adapt to a global market place. How should the farmer manage risk, use the

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GL-CRSP LEWS Project Implements Use of Solar Dryers Designed in Collaboration with Kenya's Egerton University

Fecal profiling is one of the foundation technologies for the LEWS toolkit. Fecal profiling of free-ranging livestock using near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) allows prediction of dietary crude protein (%CP) and digestible organic matter (%DOM) on a dry matter basis. LEWS teams established

monitoring routes with carefully selected households to collect composite fecal samples by animal kind and class once a month. A network of NIRS labs have been put in place to support this effort.

Predicted diet qualities from these geo-referenced fecal samples are co-krigged with satellite data to predict regional forage quality. The diet quality

information is further linked with a decision support model called Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL). The model allows the user to predict changes in body condition and weight for specified animal profiles under a prevailing set of weather conditions. It also produces a nutritional balance report for protein and net energy.

At present the fecal samples are kept in ice coolers to preserve their integrity and to keep insect-

free for several days before completing the monitoring sample routes. LEWS teams eventually dry the samples in forced-air ovens upon return to their duty stations. The ovens are located either in universities or in research stations in east Africa where electricity is often

the oven and can be easily transported for on-site use. The solar dryers consist of timber sides, kavirondo mat, wire mesh and clear polythene sheet as a cover.

Experiments were conducted at Egerton University and at KARI's

Rangeland Research Center at Kiboko to determine their drying characteristics and capacity compared to the forced-air ovens. The team collected 25 fecal samples at both locations; mixed them well and divided each sample into halves to create two lots of paired samples. One lot was dried at 60°C in an oven as usual and the other lot was dried in the solar drier. Both lots of samples were submitted to the NIRS lab after drying for scanning to predict CP and DOM

values. No significant differences were found between the predicted crude protein and digestible organic matter values for each of the pairs. The team concluded that the dryers are a viable alternative to oven drying and have recommended their wider use in the project. The strategic placement of these low cost technologies within the sampling zones will reduce transport time by 2 days and will eliminate reoccurring cost of ice and cool boxes. 🍷



Pictured from left to right: John Corbett, Robert Kaitho, Peter Wandera, Raphael Marambii, and Jerry Stuth. Photo by Jay Angerer.

unreliable. Samples are then shipped to a lab for grinding and scanning using the NIRS machines.

The LEWS team in Kenya has recently designed a simple and inexpensive, locally assembled solar dryer in collaboration with the faculty of engineering at Egerton University (*see photo*). These dryers are capable of generating temperatures of up to 60° C. It is less heavy than

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LEWS Technologies

zones in the pastoral areas in the northern and the eastern regions in addition to the existing zone in the southern part (Borana) of the country and to identify institutions for potential collaboration in those areas.

Dr. Sileshi identified individuals from relevant institutions for a training workshop to enhance their capacity to deliver training in early warning-related issues within their respective institutions in the future. A training workshop was held for LEWS zonal team, scientists from the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Addis Ababa to enhance their technical and institutional capabilities for developing a national early warning system and mitigation strategies for pastoralists. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Abdi Jama, LEWS Texas A&M team member, and Mr. Raphael Marambii, Information Officer, Crisis Mitigation Office, ILRI/Nairobi.

The workshop comprised of overviews on the LEWS toolkit (biophysical models and spatial analysis tools), and household monitoring protocol followed by a field trip. The participants were given hands-on-training on monitoring household selection procedures, administering herd monitoring and pastoral household surveys,

PARIMA Research & Outreach Workshop Set

The “Improving Pastoral Risk Management on East African Rangelands” Project’s second biennial research and outreach workshop for Kenya and Ethiopia is scheduled to take place June 26 - 27th at Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya.

“The workshop will not only be a review of PARIMA’s research,” said Dr. Layne Coppock, lead Principal Investigator, “but will also provide a forum for scientists, development personnel, and policy makers to meet and discuss issues relevant to pastoralists and agropastoralists.” In addition to PARIMA team members, representatives of the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, NGOs, USAID Missions, and US and East African universities are expected to attend. 🌱🌿

For more information, please contact Dr. Layne Coppock (lcoppock@cc.usu.edu), Prof. Abdillahi Aboud (EU-CRSP@net2000KE.com), Egerton University, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fax: 254-37-61213/61145), or visit the project’s web site at <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/research.crsp>.

characterization of modal plant communities, the use of GPS, creating shape files for points selected, displaying and overlaying them on climatic clusters in ACT to view their spatial distribution among these clusters.

The participants were taken to a week-long field trip to select well distributed monitoring points and characterize their corresponding modal plant communities in 4 districts in the Borana region of southern Ethiopia (Hagare Mariam, Yabello, Mega and Moyale). The GPS skills needed to accurately record (geo-reference) various community resources like market places, water sources, grazing reserves, livestock routes, market routes and other points of interest to the community were taught.

Workshop participants included, from Adami Tulu Research Center: Assefa Haile Sellassie (Range Management/Taxonomy), Amsalu Sisay (Range animal production), Zeleke Asaye (Veterinary officer), and Tekebe Tsige (Veterinary officer. From Werer Research Station, Abraham Getachew (Agricultural Economics). From Holetta Research Station, Melkaye GebreSellassie (Forage Agronomist) and Gebremedhin Hagos (Forage Agronomist). From FARM Africa, Dubale Adamsu (animal production).

For more information on the LEWS project, please contact Dr. Jerry Stuth, Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2126. Tel: 979-845-5548; Fax: 979-845-6430. Email: jwstuth@cnrit.tamu.edu. 🌱🌿

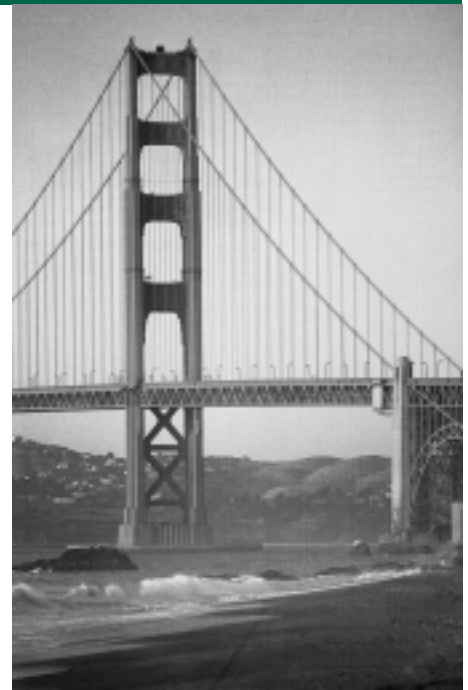
2001 GCHERA Conference in SF

The 2001 Global Conference of the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture (GCHERA) has been scheduled for July 12 - 14, 2001 in San Francisco, California. Further information about GCHERA and the summer conference can be viewed at the website address included below. The theme for this year's conference is "Higher Education and Research for Agriculture and Food Systems in the 21st Century". The conference will bring together academic leaders from all over the world to discuss issues in agricultural education and research relative to

strengthening institutional ability to serve public need for food security and environmental sustainability.

Four themes have been chosen for this year's Global Conference:

- New Science in a New Century: Agricultural Research, Life Sciences and Information Technology.
- The Changing Nature of Food Systems and the University Response.
- Agricultural Curricula for the 21st Century.
- Organizing the University of the Future.



A cadre of outstanding speakers has been gathered and ample time

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"CRSP Day" Held in Washington DC

The Presidential Advisory Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) recently devoted one day of its annual meeting to the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs).

The open session which focused on "University Partnerships with the US Government in Global Agriculture" was attended by development professionals, USAID administrators and representatives, Congressional staff, CRSP Directors and staff, non-governmental organizations and university faculty and administrators. Susan Johnson, GL-CRSP Program Coordinator

represented the Global Livestock CRSP at the meeting.

On behalf of the Agency, Barbara Turner, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support and Research made opening remarks welcoming participants. Dr. Ed Shuh, Chair of BIFAD, moderated the session.

CRSP Council Chair and INTSORMIL CRSP Director, John Yohe opened the session by describing why CRSPs work well. He highlighted some of the major achievements over the past 20 years by the CRSPs and gave a summary of the benefits

of the CRSP model. Other presentations included the CRSPs role in biotechnology, natural resource and environmental management, capacity building, and food security, nutrition and public health. The CRSPs were shown to be an excellent model for university participation in international agricultural research.

In addition, Dr. Anthony Hall, BIFAD Chair's Award Recipient and Bean and Cowpea CRSP Principal Investigator presented his research on Cowpea varieties and their role in providing a partial solution to Sahelian Droughts. An award reception in

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CO₂ Flux Network for Central Asia Holds Second Scientific Seminar

Scientists, policy makers, government officials, and graduate students from the United States, Kazakstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan gathered in Samarkand, Uzbekistan at the beginning of March to discuss CO₂ sequestration and the importance of the Central Asian rangelands for the global carbon budget. This was the second gathering of the CO₂ flux network, which was formally organized in June of 2000. The network activities are the second

phase of a grant awarded by the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development to Dr. Emilio Laca of the University of California, Davis.

The network was organized in part to enhance representation of Central Asian countries by Central Asians at international meetings and negotiations regarding carbon emissions and sequestration. In addition, the network will work to attract greater national, regional and

international attention to the role of well-managed rangelands on sustainable production and mitigation of the increasing CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere.

A seminar on the CO₂ flux measurements in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) with about 20 people in attendance was held on 9 March at the Institute of Karakul Sheep Breeding and Desert Ecology, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



Attendees of the 'Workshop on CO₂ Flux Measurements in Central Asia', held on 9 March 2001 at the Institute of Karakul Sheep Breeding and Desert Ecology (IKSBDE), Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Front row, left to right: E. Shuskaya (GIS Technician); A. Dubovik (GIS Technician), A. Abdusattarov (UzSPCA representative), M. Makhmudov (Rangeland Ecologist, IKSBD), N. Saliendra (Utah State University, USA), K. Toderich (Researcher, GIS laboratory), M. Suleimenov (ICARDA, Central Asia, Liaison Officer), M. Durikov (NIDFF, Turkmenistan), D. Khodjaev (Dept. Chairman, Plant Physiology and Microbiology, Samarkand State University). Back row, left to right: M. Nasyrov (Assistant Professor, Samarkand State University), B. Bekjanov (Karakul Sheep Inst.); R. Khaitbaev (Karakul Sheep Inst.), U. Fazilov ((Karakul Sheep Inst.), T. Mukimov (rear, Researcher, IKSBD), A. Gaziev (Karakul Sheep Inst.), S. Usupov (Director, Karakul Sheep Inst.), K. Akshalov (Researcher, Baraev Institute of Grain Farming, Kazakhstan), Babakulov N. (IKSBDE).

The seminar included formal presentations of methods, three year results (1998-2000) and models of sequestration developed by collaborators of the Livestock Development and Rangeland Conservation Tools program (UC Davis). An overview of the global issue of CO₂ sequestration and the role of rangelands in the "missing sink" for carbon was presented by Nicanor Saliendra, Utah State University.

Representatives of the network from each country gave a summation of the seasonal dynamics of CO₂ fluxes in their study sites. Kanat Akshalov of the Baraev Institute for Grain Farming reported on the grass-forb steppe of northern Kazakhstan, Mukhtor Nasyrov of Samarkand State University reported on the sagebrush-ephemeroïdal semidesert of

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WorldSpace Technology Application in LEWS Project

Building up collaborating institutions, identifying a regional network of scientists, and stakeholders validating models and setting up an early warning system for the host countries in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) has been the main focus of the LEWS project to date. Eight monitoring zones were set up in the region. In each of the eight monitoring zones set up in the region, 30 households were carefully selected to represent the climatic, geologic and human density characteristic of the zone. LEWS team within the zone for each country characterized modal plant communities, soils and livestock breeds. These data are input into biophysical modes situated in a server linked to the Internet.

The LEWS team at Texas A&M University has now devised a fully automated system that runs the model every ten days after it has acquired the necessary satellite-based weather data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's FTP METEOSAT site and organized on the World Wide Web (<http://cnrit.tamu.edu/rsg/rainfall/rainfall.cgi>) in the proper format required by the models. The percentile rankings of forage on offer and percent forage deviation computed from a 30-yr weather scenario simulations in PHYGROW model are automated and delivered to the Crisis Mitigation Office (CMO).

CMO was established by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research for East and Central Africa's (ASARECA) and is based at International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi. The Website is accessible by all organizations in the region via

conditions across large regions and to produce surface maps to identify hot spots. Co-kriging as an interpolation method allows one to estimate the values of a variable for points in an area not actually sampled based of the distribution of another related variable (Total Forage Available



LEWS Team member, Raphael Marambii, downloading information from WorldSpace Radio. Photo by Jay Angerer

the World Wide Web at <http://cnrit.tamu.edu/aflews>. The CMO then prepares advisories to the pastoralists, national early warning system agencies, Intergovernmental Association for Development and FEWS and relief organizations. Plans are also underway to produce automated maps using co-kriging technique of model simulated output variables such as total forage available with Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) point-based data to extrapolate

and NDVI in this case).

The LEWS information technology package is easily assembled and delivered to organizations that have access to the Internet (World Wide Web). The challenge now is ensuring that the information reaches all of our stakeholders, collaborators, and policy makers that may not have access to a World Wide Web in a timely manner to lead a better drought preparedness and early drought response. As such

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Supplemental On-Site Training on CO₂ Flux Measurements for LDRCT Team in Central Asia



On-site training with the installation of the CO₂/Bowen ratio-energy balance technique at the CO₂ flux monitoring site (shrub-ephemeroïd semidesert ecosystem) in Karnap, Uzbekistan. K. Akshalov (left) and M. Nasyrov (right)

A workshop on CO₂ flux measurements in Central Asia was held in early March in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The workshop was the second of such workshops and provided supplemental training to the Central Asian scientists who

had undergone training in the United States on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and CO₂ flux modeling last year. The workshop is part of the second phase of a grant awarded by the Association Liaison Office for University

Cooperation in Development to Dr. Emilio Laca of the University of California, Davis.

Participants in the training included Kanat Akshalov, Barayev Institute of Grain
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CO₂ Flux Network for Central Asia Holds Second Scientific Seminar

southern Uzbekistan, and Muhamet Durikov of the Institute for Deserts, Flora and Fauna reported on the shrub-sandy desert of southern Turkmenistan.

Additionally, results from the USDA-ARS rangelands CO₂ flux network (Dubois, Idaho) were presented and compared with results from the Central

Asia rangelands CO₂ flux network.

A report on the application of GIS in environmental modeling on Uzbek rangelands was given by Kristina Toderich and Bakhtijor Mardonov of the Samarkand Division of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences.

Participants were very interested

in the information presented and especially the comparison of the three countries. Discussion ensued on the importance of agricultural management practices on the rate of CO₂ accumulation in the atmosphere and means by which to reduce loss of carbon from soils. 🌱🌱

For more information, please contact Dr. Emilio Laca, Email: ealaca@ucdavis.edu.

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Farming (Kazakhstan); Muhamet Durikov, Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna (Turkmenistan); and Bakhtiyor Mardonov, Samarkand Division of Academy of Science, Tolib Mukimov, Institute of Karakul Sheep Breeding and Desert Ecology, and Mukhtor Nasyrov, Samarkand State University (Uzbekistan).

The workshop included training on the measurement of CO₂ fluxes using a continuous monitoring system [model 023/CO₂ Bowen Ratio (BR) System, Campbell Scientific]. Training on the installation and troubleshooting of the Bowen Ratio system was provided on-site at the study location in Karnap near Samarkand, which is a typical sagebrush-ephemeroid semidesert ecosystem. Protocols for troubleshooting problems and

Publication Available

The Global Livestock CRSP 2000 Annual Report is available for download at our web site: <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu> or a published copy may be requested by contacting the Global Livestock CRSP Management Entity. Our contact information is: The Global Livestock CRSP, University of California - Davis, 258 Hunt Hall, Davis, CA 95616. Email address: glcrsp@ucdavis.edu. A complete list of GL-CRSP and SR-CRSP publications is also posted at the web site. CRSP publications are available free of charge. 🐾



malfunctions with the Bowen Ratio equipment were given to the participants. The consistent and full implementation of these protocols will independently enable each cooperator to learn how to diagnose and troubleshoot the Bowen Ratio system. 🐾

For more information on the GL-CRSP Livestock Development and Rangeland Conservation Tools Project, please contact the lead Principal Investigator, Dr. Emilio Laca, Department of Agronomy and Range Science, University of California - Davis, Davis, CA 95616. Tel: (530) 754-4083, Fax: (530) 752-4361, Email: ealaca@ucdavis.edu.

The CO₂/Bowen ratio-energy balance system installed on 4 March 2001 at the shrub (Artemisia diffusa)-ephemeroid semidesert ecosystem in Karnap, Uzbekistan near Samarkand. Left to right: M. Durikov, T. Mukimov, B. Mardonov, M. Nasyrov, 2 security guards



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WorldSpace Technologies and LEWS

concerted efforts are being exerted on finding ways to improve the delivery system and on expanding the monitoring capacity of relevant organizations.

Transmitting large graphic and text files to institutions that have access only to e-mail systems is proving to be a formidable task. A new digital radio satellite technology from WorldSpace Foundation has shown a great potential to solve that problem and to provide a mechanism to reach a broader constituency throughout the host countries of LEWS project. We have approached the WorldSpace Foundation to explore and test the feasibility of using the Africa Learning Channel (ALC) of their WorldSpace Satellite radio technology to broadcast the LEWS early warning advisories to our collaborators and stakeholders in East Africa. Worldspace foundation is a non-profit organization based in the U.S. created in 1997 to provide educational and informational programming to people in developing regions of the world to alleviate illiteracy, poverty or geographic isolation. They have been allocated some capacity on the AfriStar Satellite launched by Worldspace in 1998. Worldspace has 2 entities, one commercial (<http://www.worldspace.com/>) and one, a non-profit foundation (<http://www.worldspace.org/>). The Satellite has beams (footprints)

that cover the entire continent of Africa and beyond. The ALC is a collective channel that broadcasts freely to the entire African continent through a revolutionary digital satellite technology. Special inexpensive radio receivers are needed to capture the satellite signal. The receivers run on batteries or an external power source, and can be adapted to run on solar energy. They have data ports, that when connected to a computer via multimedia adapter cards, enable users to download web-based text and images, thus expanding the receivers' capabilities beyond audio to digital multimedia transmissions. Both text and images (including animation) are transmitted via the satellite to the computer hard drive without phone lines.

LEWS is setting up the Worldspace radios and solar-charged laptop computers in key information nodes with the Africa Learning Channel receivers in collaboration with ASARECA CMO and WorldSpace Foundation. Several test sites are in place in the Borana region with EARO and with FARM-AFRICA in the Afar region in Ethiopia and in northern/southern Kenya in collaboration with Egerton University, Arid Lands Resource Management Project in the Office of the President in Kenya and KARI. 🍀

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Globalization

information revolution, diversify operations? The government and politicians will need support, vision and courage not to take the easy, quick fix that will return to protectionism. A step that would increase food costs to consumers, further delay the development of developing countries (and further exacerbate the costs of living in a world of grossly unequal wealth), restrict the growth of other sectors of the US economy that would benefit from markets that would have emerged in developing countries and reduce the future competitiveness of US agriculture.

The consequences of connectiveness are rapid and unpredictable change. In a dynamic world farmers need to adapt to survive. Research and extension are the tools of adaptation. Change is the engine for research and extension as it serves to define new landscapes as they emerge, create a new means to be productive and successful in response to change and communicate effective technologies, strategies and ideas to farmers. Globalization may in this way increase the connectivity between our international and domestic agendas at land grant universities. 🍀

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2001 GCHERA Conference in San Francisco

for networking and interaction with participants (200 to 250 are anticipated from all over the world) will be available. Mr. Peter McPherson, President of Michigan State University is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

McPherson has a diverse background including former Administrator of USAID, Deputy Secretary of the US Treasury and Group Executive Vice President of Bank of America. He has received such honors as US Presidential Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for "efforts to achieve a world without hunger" and the UNICEF award for "Outstanding Contribution to Child Survival."

Other notable speakers who are committed to the program include Roger Beachy (President of the Danforth Plant Science Center); Ming-Hsien Sun (Vice Chair of the Board of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center); Elaine Wedral (President, Nestle R&D Center); Robert Thompson (Director, Rural Development, The World Bank); S. Kannaiyan (Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India); Maris O'Rourke (former Secretary of Education and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Education, New Zealand); Csaba Csaki (former Rector, Budapest University and now with the

Rural Development section of The World Bank); Richard Foster (Vice President of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation); and Dmytro Melnychuk (Rector,



National Agricultural University of Ukraine).

A pre-conference program includes tours of San Francisco, the Napa Valley Wine Country and the University of California-Davis. UC Davis is the largest land grant university campus in the United States. Participants will tour the campus and stop at the UC Davis Oakville Research Station to learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing California's second largest agricultural commodity.

The Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture is an active network composed of leadership from more than 300 academic institutions from 130 countries around the world. The mission

of the Consortium is to foster global cooperation for the improvement of higher education and research for agriculture as a prerequisite to solving the food security and environmental problems confronting our world. GCHERA provides a forum for consideration of issues related to global food security in the context of environmental sustainability.

"Visionary leadership on these issues is requisite and an important goal of GCHERA is to contribute to the enhancement of such leadership ability" says Dr. Martin C. Jischke, President of Purdue University and the current president of GCHERA.. President-Elect of the Consortium is Dr. Dmytro Melnychuk, Rector of the National Agricultural University of Ukraine.

Registration is possible online by going to the GCHERA web site. 🌐

For more information on GCHERA or the upcoming conference, please visit the web site <http://www.gchera.iastate.edu/> or contact Dr. David J. Sammons, GCHERA Secretariat or Ms. Sally Ashlock, 1168 Agricultural Administration, School of Agriculture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1168. Tel: 765-494-8466; Fax: 765-494-9613. Email: sashlock@agad.purdue.edu.

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Good News for Agriculture from the New USAID Administrator Natsios

USAID had 258 agricultural scientists and agricultural economists, when I left the first Bush Administration that had declined to 183, now there are only 48 left. I believe this situation must be reversed.”

These words are partly a result of a broad coalition of people and institutions that have worked tirelessly over the last 5 years to draw attention to the centrality of agriculture to the development process. This concept, often called the Mellor model of development, argues that because agriculture is the dominant sector of the economies in developing countries and most people are engaged in agriculture then

agriculture must develop first for sufficient capital to be accumulated to allow industrial development and economic transition.

This model has been ignored recently in donor circles. A strong movement led by President Peter McPherson of Michigan State University and a coalition of 44 Land Grant Universities have formed a committee called the International Agriculture Coordinating Committee (IACC). Under NASULGC, IACC has lobbied Congress to restore the concept of the Mellor model as a USAID priority and reverse the decline in the Agency's support. IACC, chaired by GL-CRSP Director

Montague Demment, has been successful in leading the efforts to increase overall agricultural spending in the Agency and the budgets for the CRSPs while obtaining language in the appropriations bill that emphasizes the importance of agriculture to development. Demment, in response to a request from the USAID transition team, also contributed a paper, *“Agriculture: the Centerpiece in International Development Strategy”*, documenting the central role of agriculture and its strong linkages to issues of economic growth, child cognitive and physical development, child health and survival, human capacity building, increased US exports, environment, governance and conflict reduction. 🌱

Ruminations

Director: Montague W. Demment
Newsletter Editor: Susan L. Johnson

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Telephone: (530) 752-1721, Fax: (530) 752-7523.
E-Mail: glcrsp@ucdavis.edu
WWW: <http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu>

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“CRSP Day” Held in Washington DC

his honor was held Thursday evening at Capital Hill.

The second day of meetings focused on new visions for BIFAD. A transition report was given by Ken Schofield, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, USAID. Perspectives on Food and Agricultural Development were presented in separate talks by M. Peter McPherson, President of Michigan State University, David Beckmann, President Bread for the World and Ed Schuh, BIFAD Chairman. Updates on GESEPA and GCHERA were also given.

Dr. David Sammons reported on the activities of the Strategic Partnership for Agricultural Research and Education (SPARE), the new sub-committee of BIFAD. SPARE replaces the former Joint Committee on Agricultural Research and Development (JCARD). The Committee is charged with improving communication and broadening the involvement of the US University community in the activities. Within the scope of SPARE's duties, the Committee will conduct performance reviews of the CRSPs and advise BIFAD on subjects related to the CRSPs. 🌱