



Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

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Olson Collaborates with Moscow State University to Determine Effects of Land Use Changes



Moscow State University

Prairie and forest soils store vast amounts of carbon and nitrogen, which play important roles in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, as the planet warms and the mesic-frigid temperature line moves north (currently, for example, this line extends through central South Dakota, near Brookings, and through

Russia, south of Moscow), farmers may consider planting crops in previously uncultivated areas. Dr. Kenneth Olson, Professor of Soil Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, recently completed an international study to measure the impacts of land use changes on soils, soil erosion, soil organic carbon storage, and greenhouse gas emissions. The project was a collaboration with Professor Alexander Gennadiyev, Faculty of Geography at Moscow State University, Russia.

The study considered questions such as what happens to soil organic carbon levels as farming is pushed north onto land that was once used for timber? Olson, Gennadiyev, and their team wanted to quantify the potential loss in soil organic carbon for different scenarios. Olson had suspected a 10% loss, but the results show that 18-48% of carbon could be lost from the soil due to land use changes in both the U.S. and Russia.

The team was able to determine baseline soil organic carbon and soil organic nitrogen storage by landscape positions. Findings will be useful when considering potential effects of future land use changes, such as switching to pasture from cropland, as a result of climate change, on the soil's storage and retention of carbon and nitrogen.

Olson says "We want to retain as much carbon in the soil organic matter under agriculture use (for the production of fuel, feed, fiber, and food) for as long as we can." Olson has been collaborating with Moscow State University, the premier university in Russia, for 20 years. This project, funded by the Cooperative Grants Program of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), the U.S. State Department, and the Multidisciplinary Climate Change Competition of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, is a great example of an ACES scientist's international collaboration and knowledge sharing with local, national, and international relevance.

ACES-OIP Conducts Training for Scientists from Vladivostok-Russia

by Suzana Palaska-Nicholson, OIP Program Coordinator



Earlier in the month, OIP hosted a delegation of scientists from the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russia. The six member delegation included: Prof. Elena I. Cherevach, Prof. Tatyana G. Dolgova, Prof. Ludmila V. Levochkina,

Prof. Nadezhda E. Struppul, Prof. Tatyana A. Ershova, and Ms. Svetlana M. Minenko. This is the second year that ACES-OIP has hosted a group of faculty from this institution for a two-week training program involving many ACES departments and units as well as other campus partners.

The program began on December 14, 2011, with a visit and informational tour of the ACES-Hospitality Management Program. The group enjoyed having lunch at the Bevier Café, but also toured the facilities and interacted with both students and staff. Prof. Levochkina expressed a strong interest in the program and the possibility of expanding our partnership through student exchange between the FEFU-Public Catering program she directs and our Hospitality Management Program.

In the days that followed, the group visited the National Center for Agricultural Utilization- USDA in Peoria, ADM in Decatur, Incobrasa Industries in Gillman, and Kraft Foods in Chicago. On campus, they spent time in Dr. Schuyler Korban's laboratory, for hands-on training led by postdocs Drs. Awais Khan and Danman Zheng, visited the Meat Laboratory with Drs. Floyd McKeith and Anna Dilger, toured the Biotechnology Center, the Institute for Genomic Biology, Illinois greenhouses, and the Nanotechnology Laboratory, to name a few. The program concluded with an informative presentation by Dr. Elvira de Mejia and a day-long training program in her lab.

Singh Elected as 2012 Foreign Fellow to NAAS, India



Dr. Ram Singh, an agronomist in soybean cytogenetics in the Department of Crop Sciences, has been elected as a Foreign Fellow to the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi, India. Dr. Singh has patented his methodology for wide hybridization of the soybean, and he is the only scientist conducting this research in the world.

Haryana Agricultural University Visits ACES



Dr. Narwal (right) stands with Dr. Vijay Singh, Dr. Korban, and Dean Hauser prior to presenting on Haryana University

Dr. R.P Narwal, Director of Research at Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), located in Hisar, India, visited the College of ACES on November 7-8, 2011. ACES' ties with HAU have been progressively deepening within the last year due to initial contacts made by Dr. Vijay Singh of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Dr. Narwal met with Dean Robert Hauser, OIP Director Schuyler Korban, and several ACES faculty members to expand partnerships between ACES

faculty and HAU in the coming years.

As part of his visit, Dr. Narwal gave a presentation on Haryana University to ACES faculty. Dr. Narwal mentioned several emerging opportunities for collaboration that relate to India's current research needs. These opportunities include bio-waste management, soil health management, water management and effective use, biotechnology, and significant post-harvest losses. For more information about HAU,

OIP Hosts Delegation from China Agricultural University

A 12-member delegation from China Agricultural University (CAU) visited the Urbana-Champaign campus on October 31 - November 1, 2011. The CAU group included a diverse mix of Directors from various administrative offices of CAU and Deans from its College of Engineering and College of Science. Also traveling with the group were 10 representatives from Shandong Kingenta Ecological Engineering Co., Ltd., which specializes in R&D, manufacturing, and marketing of compound fertilizers, controlled release fertilizers, and new types of fertilizers. Kingenta is headquartered in Linyi, Shandong Province, and currently has 3000 employees. It has been named one of "China's Top-10 Enterprises for New Rural Development."

The CAU group's program, organized by the ACES Office of International Programs and the campus International Programs and Studies, included tours of the University of Illinois Research Park's Enterprise Works facility, The Career Center, McKinley Health Center, the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC), and several other campus landmarks and offices. The CAU group left with a better understanding of the University's structure and strengths, and they look forward to building future collaborations with the University of Illinois.

The Kingenta representatives met with a group of crop science faculty, including Dr. Emerson Nafzinger, Dr. Fabian Fernandez, Dr. Bruce

OIP Bids Farewell to GA Carly Rakes



OIP staff wish Carly well at a farewell lunch.

The Office of International Programs said goodbye and good luck to its Graduate Assistant Carly Rakes, who has been working in the office since August 2010. Carly organized the 2011 Zhejiang student summer program. She also assisted with international visitor programs, as well as the OIP newsletter and website. Carly is a M.S. student in Advertising, set to graduate in May 2012. She also has a B.S. in Agricultural Communications from the College of ACES. During spring 2012, Carly will be working with Dr. Katie Abram as a Research Assistant, assisting her with a USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program grant. She will also serve as a Teaching Assistant for ADV 491, Advertising Management Plan. Carly says, "I am very appreciative of our team at the Office of International Programs, as my time here has given me several opportunities to learn more about the amazing international collaborations within the College of ACES."

NSRL Sponsors Nutrition Fair at Honduras Elementary School

by Melinda Anderson, NSRL



Pollo Norteno mascot at nutrition fair.

Hundreds of excited elementary students at the Republic de Honduras School in San Pedro Sula enjoyed a day of dancing, singing and learning at a health fair centered on nutrition in early November. Cargill,

Alcon, and Pollo Norteno sponsored the event in collaboration with the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL), CARE, Cepudo, and the World Soy Foundation.

The fair introduced soy protein as a way to meet daily protein needs and also provided a unique opportunity for students to learn about the importance of protein in a balanced diet. Parents also attended and participated in educational cooking classes. Children stayed busy at the fair, gobbling up soy milk and cookies, watching cartoons about nutrition, and creating poems about soy. Smiling students also took turns in a bouncy house and face painting booth after a delicious meal of Pollo Norteno chicken.

According to the World Food Program, one-third of the population of Honduras lives on less than \$1/day and 1.5 million Hondurans face hunger. To combat these trends, soybeans can be an important contributor to daily diets by providing the necessary nutrients for growth and health. The nutrition fair offered a comfortable atmosphere for children to learn about this and other personal wellness trends.

"The combination of balanced nutrition, public-private partnerships, and community involvement in Central America is what this nutrition fair is all about," said Bridget Owen, associate executive director for NSRL. "We want to create awareness about the connection between balanced nutrition and wellness."

Also participating in the fair were the Pollo Norteno mascot and Xiomara, the friendly soybean. Both sang songs, lead dancing and shared laughs with the young