

# ACES is INTERNATIONAL

Engaging in more than 77 countries, ACES makes an impact around the world by helping grow abundant food, create energy and healthy environments, and shape successful families and communities.



**College of Agricultural,  
Consumer &  
Environmental Sciences**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# 60+ years of INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois has a distinguished history of involvement around the world. With significant support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) starting in the early 1960s, the college embarked on major institution-building projects in countries including India, Pakistan, Honduras, Kenya, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Brazil. This international work allowed ACES faculty to live abroad, applying their expertise in these emerging institutions of research and higher education. Additionally, ACES began hosting foreign scientists, teachers, and students, many of whom became leaders in their home countries. These experiences laid the foundation for the college's international preeminence.

Today, ACES pursues research, education, and outreach around the world to promote food and water security and to positively impact human lives, human livelihoods, and the world's environment.

The college maintains a strong international focus in many ways:

- More than half of our faculty are internationally engaged, in more than 77 countries.
- ACES maintains more than 100 Memoranda of Understanding with universities around the world.
- ACES partners with major international agricultural research institutes and non-governmental organizations.
- One in every three ACES undergraduates study abroad.
- Undergraduate students can work with faculty on food and nutritional security related projects as Global Food Security Interns.
- Graduate students can conduct thesis research in a developing country as Global Food Security Fellows.
- ACES promotes and supports international activity among faculty through its Academy for Global Engagement.

For more information on the breadth of ACES' international activities, visit [aces.illinois.edu/international](https://aces.illinois.edu/international).

# LATIN AMERICA + CARIBBEAN

ACES' work in Latin America and the Caribbean includes:

- Advancing rice breeding to include regionally relevant eating-quality traits
- Promoting the use of soy protein for improved nutrition and economic growth
- Studying the migration of birds across the Gulf of Mexico including those with conservation concerns
- Combating obesity, diabetes development, and maternal health issues in Mexico
- Improving cardamom quality on Guatemalan farms
- Studying soil microbiome shifts in agricultural systems

## LOOKING BACK...

ACES faculty helped to establish and expand the soybean industry in Latin America during 1970-80s by offering soybean production courses in Peru and Colombia.



*An ACES team conducts rice research in Colombia.*

# BRAZIL

ACES faculty work with Brazilian colleagues to address a wide range of challenges that include:

- Reducing postharvest losses
- Improving water quality from sugarcane fields
- Utilizing data-intensive farm management
- Studying soybean diseases
- Implementing ACES-developed technologies such as *farmdoc* and Marketmaker for use by Brazilian agricultural agencies

## LOOKING BACK...

ACES' ties to Brazil date back to the 1890s, when Dean Eugene Davenport brought an international vision to campus after spending several months in São Paulo working to establish what is now the Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz" (ESALQ). Davenport's connections launched decades of extensive student exchanges and faculty collaborations with Brazil.



One of ACES partners in Brazil is The Federal University of Vicosa.



# AFRICA

ACES' recent initiatives in Africa include:

- Establishing sustainable production and utilization of the soybean
- Improving dairy cattle genetics in Tanzania
- Improving fertilizer use
- Promoting appropriate-scale agricultural mechanization for smallholder farmers
- Designing rainfall harvesting systems in Sierra Leone

## LOOKING BACK...

The College of ACES instituted its involvement in Africa in 1964, helping to establish Sierra Leone's Njala University. A generation later, ACES was awarded a USAID grant to strengthen Kenya's Egerton University, then a two-year technical institution, into a four-year university. In the early 2000s, ACES led efforts to modernize extension and agricultural services in Africa's 12 Feed the Future countries.



*An ACES graduate student tests a new water pump in Sierra Leone.*

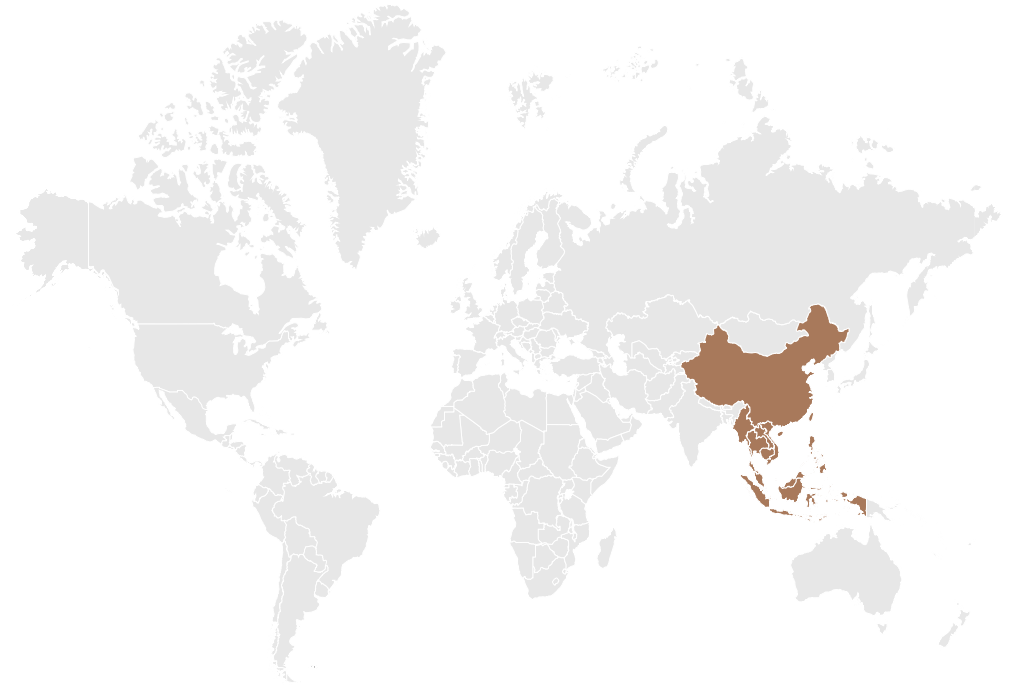
# ASIA

ACES' collaborations with Asian colleagues include:

- Facilitating undergraduate summer programs for hands-on rice research in the Philippines
- Detecting foodborne contaminants
- Optimizing nutrition of dairy cows and goats
- Fighting fire blight in apple and pear industries
- Establishing "3+2" programs with several educational institutions in China, which allows qualified students to earn a bachelor's degree in China (3 years) and a master's from Illinois (2 years)

## LOOKING BACK...

Beginning in the 1980s, ACES faculty worked with Chinese colleagues to increase the litter sizes of pigs and to collect soybean germplasm native to China. During the 1990s, ACES helped China modernize its agricultural extension system. Starting in 2010, ACES hosted dozens of students from China's Zhejiang University for an annual summer internship program.



*Illinois students in a rice field at the International Rice Research Institute in The Philippines.*

# INDIA

ACES works in India to improve food security, nutrition, and health, including:

- Developing postharvest technologies to improve smallholder income and food security
- Implementing new technologies for corn bioprocessing
- Developing nutrition supplements
- Adapting rice production for climate conditions and water availability

## LOOKING BACK...

In 1959, the College of ACES helped establish India's G.B. Pant University and Madhya Pradesh Agricultural University (now Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University). More than 90 Illinois faculty traveled to India, and the university hosted 250 Indian students for advanced degree programs and helped train more than 800 Indian staff. In 2012, ACES developed new agricultural curricula for six Indian universities based on changing needs and market trends.



*An ACES project hosts a meeting for women farmers in Bihar about strategies for reducing postharvest losses.*





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## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Office of International Programs (OIP) is the nexus of international activities in the College of ACES.

OIP supports the global research, education, and outreach of ACES faculty, staff, and students. Among its activities, OIP:

- Helps ACES faculty, staff, and students procure international funding
- Builds linkages with key international institutions, organizations, and centers
- Administers educational opportunities, including the Academy for Global Engagement
- Hosts and organizes international training programs, workshops, lectures, and visits
- Offers undergraduate internships and graduate fellowships so ACES students can begin developing international portfolios



**ACES\_OIP**



**IllinoisACESOIP**

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