



Release Date: Mar. 16, 2011

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U of I Faculty Receive Seed Grants for International Research, Education, Outreach

URBANA – Six projects have been selected for funding by the International Seed Grants Program sponsored by the Office of International Programs, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois.

The International Seed Grants Program was initiated by the Office of International Programs to stimulate and promote strong relationships between ACES faculty and international faculty that will develop and flourish into larger, sustainable collaborative efforts in research, education and outreach. Each project was funded through the Arlys Conrad Endowment Fund.

“Our College of ACES faculty are engaging in world-class international research, teaching and outreach activities, and we want to do what we can as a college to encourage these initiatives and promote further international engagements. These programs are exemplary and will continue our tradition of excellence on the global front,” said Schuyler Korban, Director of the Office of International Programs, College of ACES.

The following U of I ACES faculty members will each receive \$2,500 to work on international projects over the next year:

Mindy Mallory of the ACES Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics will be developing a collaboration with faculty and students at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi on the marketing of grains and oilseeds in India.

Elvira de Mejia of the ACES Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition will be participating in the development of a program on bioactive compounds in Brazilian foods and human health.

Juan J. Loor of the ACES Department of Animal Sciences will be collaborating with the Universidad de Leon, Spain, and conducting research on the role of unsaturated lipid supplementation on mammary gland molecular systems in order to enhance milk quality in Aasaf dairy sheep.

Michael Ellis of the ACES Department of Animal Sciences will be developing a diploma in Swine Production Science organized jointly by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales y Agropecuario and the U of I College of ACES.

Gustavo Caetano-Anollés of the ACES Department of Crop Sciences will be fostering collaborative links with Korea in studying the power of evolutionary genomics.

DoKyoung “D.K.” Lee of the ACES Department of Crop Sciences will be collaborating with the Université de Rennes, France, in researching prairie cordgrass, a bioenergy crop, in order to develop a model for sustainable feedstock production on less productive lands.