

ECOAGRICULTURE PARTNER UPDATE

December 2003

Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

The past three months have been very active ones for Ecoagriculture Partners. See below for details on the following:

1. Forest Trends is new Institutional Host for Ecoagriculture Partners
2. New Co-Sponsors for Ecoagriculture Partners: Forest Trends and World Agroforestry Centre
3. Ecoagriculture Working Groups organized in Nairobi, Kenya, The Nature Conservancy, and Cornell University
4. The World Bank, The Nature Conservancy and Ecoagriculture Partners brainstorm on ecoagriculture development at the Heinz Center
5. New Institutional Members of Ecoagriculture Partners
6. Ecoagriculture Partners meet with the CGIAR
7. 2004 Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair: Status Report
8. International Ecoagriculture Research Assessment: Status Report
9. New contact for Claire Rhodes

1. Forest Trends is New Institutional Host for Ecoagriculture Partners

The Future Harvest Foundation, an initiative of the 16 international agriculture and natural resources research institutions supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, has supported the development of the ecoagriculture concept for the past three years. Future Harvest provided the "seed capital" for establishing Ecoagriculture Partners, was a founding Co-Sponsor (with IUCN), and has served as Host to the partnership's Secretariat since its founding in September 2002. This "incubation" period is coming to a close, and as of January 1st, the role of institutional Host will pass to Forest Trends. Forest Trends is also an NGO, based in Washington, D.C., where I work half-time as Director of Ecosystem Services. The move offers a lot of advantages for me, in terms of administrative efficiency and the strong program synergies. Forest Trends also offers an excellent base for Ecoagriculture Partners--with its strong reputation as a neutral platform for debate, honest broker for collaboration, and source of innovative thinking on land use. Michael Jenkins, President of Forest Trends, will join the Executive Committee of Ecoagriculture Partners, bringing his extensive network contacts and skills in building partnerships. We are very excited about this evolution of the partnership. (See more about Forest Trends below.)

On behalf of the partnership, I would like to warmly thank Future Harvest, and especially Judith Symonds, for "incubating" us to this point. We are delighted that Future Harvest will continue to be involved as a Co-Sponsor.

2. New Co-Sponsors for Ecoagriculture Partners: Forest Trends and World Agroforestry Centre

Ecoagriculture Partners is very pleased to announce two new institutional Co-Sponsors-- Forest Trends and the World Agroforestry Centre—who will join Future Harvest Foundation and the World Conservation Union-IUCN. Sponsors are active Partners who also contribute significant services and finances to support core Ecoagriculture Partner work. (Additional co-sponsors are welcome!).

Forest Trends was created in 1999 by an international group of leaders from environmental and community development NGOs, forest industry, multilateral development agencies, and investment firms. Forest Trends' mission is to maintain and restore forest ecosystems by promoting incentives that diversify trade in the forest sector, moving beyond exclusive focus on lumber and fiber, to a broader range of products and services. Forest Trends' vision is to achieve sustainable forest management and conservation by creating and capturing market values for ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water purification, flood control, and biodiversity conservation; support innovative projects and companies that are developing these new markets; and enhance the livelihoods of local communities living in and around these forests. Forest Trends' combined focus on market and financial instruments, strategic coalition-building between the public, private and non-profit sectors, and a global perspective and strategy are signature elements of the organization (www.forest-trends.org). Forest Trends serves as the secretariat for The Katoomba Group, an international working group on markets for ecosystem services (www.katoombagroup.org). Over the past several years, the work of both Forest Trends and The Katoomba Group has expanded to address not only forestry development, but also agroforestry and the management of agricultural landscapes to supply ecosystem services.

The **World Agroforestry Centre** (ICRAF) is an autonomous, not-for-profit research and development institution supported by an international consortium of nearly 60 different governments, private foundations, regional development banks, and the World Bank. The Centre's mission is to improve human welfare by reducing poverty, improving food and nutritional security, and enhancing environmental resilience in the tropics. The Centre engages in strategic and applied research and development activities leading to more sustainable and productive land use. This is done in close partnership with national agricultural research systems, universities, NGOs and private organizations in both the South and the North. The Centre focuses on four primary themes: agroforestry systems that help to restore soil fertility and regenerate degraded lands; market-driven tree cultivation systems that help lift rural poor out of poverty and improve their health and nutrition; agroforestry systems that enhance environmental services, such as watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration; and capacity building for agroforestry research and development. Dennis Garrity, Director-General of the World Agroforestry Centre, is a member of the Executive Committee of Ecoagriculture Partners. (www.worldagroforestrycentre.org)

3. Ecoagriculture Working Groups formed in Nairobi, The Nature Conservancy and Cornell University

Ecoagriculture Partners in several parts of the world have decided to meet regularly as Ecoagriculture Working Groups, to exchange information, promote local and national ecoagriculture activities, and explore possible partnerships. The Working Group in Washington, D.C. has met a number of times, with a focus on discussing impact assessment approaches for ecoagriculture, and awareness-raising among D.C.-based organizations. A Working Group began meeting informally in London several months ago. Since September, an international Ecoagriculture Working Group was organized at The Nature Conservancy to assess and support their decentralized ecoagriculture initiatives. A group of professors and graduate students in many different departments at Cornell University recently formed a Working Group, many of whom are involved in the Ecoagriculture Research Assessment (see below). An institutionally diverse group met in Nairobi, Kenya in early November and decided to form an Ecoagriculture Working Group there; one of their activities will be to help develop the field visit program for the Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair, and an "Ecoagriculture in Kenya Day" for the public, following the Conference.

We encourage Partners working in the same locality or institution to form Ecoagriculture Working Groups, to take on any topics or activities that support your own work. I appreciate your keeping me informed, and am very happy to support you to the extent possible.

4. The World Bank , The Nature Conservancy and Ecoagriculture Partners Brainstorm on Ecoagriculture Development at the Heinz Center

On November 17, leaders from the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy and Ecoagriculture Partners met at the Heinz Center in Washington, D.C. to share information about their ongoing ecoagriculture activities, and explore opportunities to advance ecoagriculture through collaboration. Among the 25 participants at the Roundtable were Kevin Cleaver, Director of Rural Development at the Bank; Kristalina Georgieva, Director of Environment at the Bank; Steve McCormick, President of TNC; and Tony Janetos, Vice-President of the Heinz Centre, and several staff working with the Global Environment Facility. The meeting brought together a diversity of professional backgrounds from agriculture, rural development, conservation, and environment. The purpose of the Roundtable was to explore ways to more strongly integrate agricultural development and biodiversity conservation in developing countries by (i) learning what participating organizations are already doing to link agriculture and biodiversity conservation, (ii) identifying barriers to scaling up ecoagriculture initiatives; and (iii) identifying complementary goals and interests which would could form the basis for collaboration on specific topics and areas. Priorities identified include: strengthening the knowledge base for ecoagriculture, strengthening financial incentives for ecoagriculture, creating a supportive policy environment, and creating strategic partnership.

5. New Institutional Members of Ecoagriculture Partners

Over the past two months we have gained many new individual members of Ecoagriculture Partners, too numerous to list here. We have also gained several new institutional Members, including: the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which is based in Cali, Colombia (www.ciat.org), and the International Consortium on Desertification, Drought, Poverty, and Agriculture (DDPA), which is jointly led by ICRISAT and ICARDA.

Many institutions have been active in the partnership, but have not officially joined. All that I need are a written communication from the President/Director confirming that you wish to be a Partner, and designating a liaison person, and an electronic version of your logo for the website. If you would like to be officially recognized as a Partner, and eligible to select the Steering Committee which will be organized during the first quarter of next year, please do send that confirmation to me at sjscherr@aol.com.

6. Ecoagriculture Partners Meets with the CGIAR

Ecoagriculture Partners organized a luncheon side-event at the October Annual General Meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), sponsored by the United Nations Development Program. Speakers at this event explored the scientific, technical and institutional innovations required to develop ecoagriculture systems, highlighting ongoing research by the Future Harvest Centers and their partners.

Mounkaila Goumandakoye of UNDP hosted the well-attended event. Dennis Garrity, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and member of the Executive Committee introduced the concept of ecoagriculture and Ecoagriculture Partners. Robin Reid of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), presented research on pastoralist landscape management that enhances both livelihoods and biodiversity. Barry Shapiro of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) discussed ecoagriculture research in dryland cropping systems (http://www.icrisat.org/temp/Ecoag_combating_dryland_conversion_11-17-03.ppt). Mohamed Bakarr, Director, Special Programs, The World Agroforestry Centre concluded with comments on pursuing research synergies between agricultural sciences and conservation biology in tropical ecosystems. Thanks to Jason Wettstein of Future Harvest for managing the logistics of the meeting.

The System-Wide Genetic Resources Program of the CGIAR also organized an international workshop on “Managing Agricultural Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” in Nairobi, Kenya, October 23-25, to coincide with the CGIAR meeting. Participants included scientists and practitioners with backgrounds in biological and agricultural sciences, economics, social anthropology and social sciences. The overall aims of the workshop were to explore connections and interactions between different components of the agroecosystem from the perspective of biodiversity management and use and to provide opportunities to develop linkages between research groups. Ecoagriculture Partners Barbara Gemmill and Dino Martens of the Environmental

Liaison Center International of Nairobi and the African Pollinator Initiative presented a paper on ecoagriculture, as illustrated by pollinator management. Other Partners also presented papers at the workshop and distributed materials about Ecoagriculture Partners. Find more information at: <http://sgrp.cgiar.org/agrobiodiversityworkshop.html>.

7. 2004 Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair: Status Report

Great strides have been made in organizing the International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair planned for September 27-October 1, 2004. Planning meetings were held in Durban, South Africa (September 15) and Nairobi, Kenya (November 5). Some key decisions were to:

- Set up a logistics planning team at the World Agroforestry Centre, where the meetings will be held;
- Limit participation to a maximum of 250 ecoagriculture innovators, selected to ensure that key elements of ecoagriculture development, research, and policy are addressed;
- Add a “Kenya Ecoagriculture Day” after the conference, to share posters, materials, etc. more broadly with interested groups in Kenya
- A “Community Farm” (“Shamba ya Kijiji” in Swahili) will be co-organized with the Equator Initiative to provide a place for intensive exchange of experience of community-scale ecoagriculture initiatives; a 2-day pre-Conference meeting September 25-26 will be organized for community participants.
- Organize pre-Conference discussions in diverse places around the world, led to IUCN and other Partners, to tap the perspectives and experiences of innovators who are not able to attend the meeting;
- Organize a special session with leading policymakers to discuss recommendations from the Conference
- Kenya Ecoagriculture Working Group will help to identify and plan for all-day field trips to ecoagriculture sites, which will be an integral part of the program.

Registration materials will be on the Ecoagriculture Partners website in January. We are actively seeking Conference sponsors. Task Forces are being set up now to organize:

- * Regional pre-conference input
- * Dialogue with Policymakers
- * Community Shamba
- * Thematic Streams
- * Agroecosystem Streams
- * Logistics
- * Field Trips
- * Media
- * Publications
- * Video/photo display
- * Finances/scholarships/sponsorships
- * Resource Center
- * Kenya Ecoagriculture Day.

8. International Ecoagriculture Research Assessment: Status Report

The International Ecoagriculture Research Assessment, sponsored by SANREM (www.sanrem.uga.edu), was initiated in November. The assessment is being implemented by a multi-disciplinary team at Cornell University. The lead researchers are Louise Buck (Dept. Natural Resources), David Lee (Dept. Applied Economics and Management) and Tom Gavin (Dept. of Conservation Biology), but more than a dozen professors and doctoral students from these and other departments are involved. An external Advisory Group is being formed to support the work.

The Research Team will be contacting many of you directly to solicit information about state-of-the-art research findings and ongoing work. If you would like to be more closely involved, please contact Louise at leb3@cornell.edu. Also please send Louise any key research papers you think should be included in the review. The team hopes to have a draft report ready for review by April 2004. The final report will be presented at the International Ecoagriculture Conference in Nairobi, as input into strategic planning on future research priorities.

9. Claire Rhodes: New contact information

Claire Rhodes, who has been managing the Ecoagriculture Partners listserv, and also supporting Conference planning, recently left her position at the Stakeholder Forum. She can now be reached at : crhodes@ecoagriculturepartners.org or pop4086@pop3.poptel.org.uk.

May 2004 be a year of joy for you, and a year of great advances in ecoagriculture around the world.

Best regards,

Sara