

Ecoagriculture Partners Update June 10, 2003

Dear Ecoagriculture Partners,

This EP Update includes:

- 1) New approach to using the EP listserv
- 2) Meeting of Ecoagriculture Partners in Washington, D.C.
- 3) Ecoagriculture Partners at the Commission on Sustainable Development
- 4) Ecoagriculture at the Mexico Action Summit
- 5) Grant to Ecoagriculture Partners from USDA

Note that item # 2 reports on a meeting of Partners based in the Washington, D.C. area. If you are based somewhere else and would like to organize a meeting of possible Partners in your own location to see how you can support one another's ecoagriculture initiatives, please go ahead! Contact me (Sara) if you need any materials for your meeting. Afterwards, let me know how it went and prepare a short summary for this Update. As always, send us the e-mail address of participants who would like to join the listserv.

1) NEW APPROACH TO USING THE EP LISTSERV

In order to better serve the Ecoagriculture Partners, many of whom are swamped with e-mails, we are going to try a new approach to using the EP listserv. Each month or so, we will send out two main e-mails: one with an update on partnership activities and progress, and the other noting resources that may be of interest to EP.

- If you or your organization participates in an event or activity as an EP members, please write that up briefly and send it for inclusion in the "EP Update" e-mail.
- If you or your organization would like to highlight some new books, reports, materials, grant opportunities, etc. you think would interest EP members, please send those to me to include in the "Resources for EP" e-mail.

You are still welcome to use the listserv to communicate directly with the Partners as a group, but this will cut down a bit on the traffic and make it easier to archive information. If you have other ideas to make this listserv work better for you, let us know.

2) MEETING OF EP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

On May 16, Ecoagriculture Partners held the first meeting of its Washington, D.C.-based Partners. The meeting had 29 participants from Agri-Food Canada, American Farmland Trust, Columbia University, Forest Trends, Future Harvest Foundation, Population Reference Bureau, The National Academies of Science, The Nature Conservancy, US Dept of Agriculture/Economic Research Service, USDA/Forest Service, USDA/Sustainable Development, US Dept. State, University of Maryland, US Agency for International Development, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Neighbors. Many other Partners were unable to make this meeting but wrote to express their interest in participating in the future.

The participants discussed their ongoing and planned ecoagriculture activities, and the ways in which they hoped Ecoagriculture Partners might be able to support their work. The group brainstormed possible activities for the Washington-based group to begin doing together.

If you are based in the D.C. area and would like to have a copy of the workshop report, contact Sara (SScherr@futureharvest.org).

3) EP AT THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On May 7, Ecoagriculture Partners participated in the Partnership Fair of the Commission on Sustainable Development meeting held at the United Nations in New York City. Claire Rhodes (Stakeholder Forum) moderated a panel that included Sara Scherr (Ecoagriculture Partners) presenting an overview of the Partnership, and Sabrina Atwater (Rainforest Alliance) presenting several RA projects that illustrate ecoagriculture systems. More than 50 people attended the panel presentation, including a number of other EP partners. EP was also covered in CSD and Partnership Fair communications.

4) ECOAGRICULTURE AT THE MEXICO ACTION SUMMIT

Ecoagriculture Partners participated in the Mexico Action Summit on Poverty, Agriculture and Biodiversity: A Call to Action, in Mexico City, June 2-3. Approximately 200 participants representing governments and public agencies, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting, which was organized by the Monterrey Bridge Coalition and the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC). Participants explored how increased food production to feed the rural poor can be made compatible with natural resource management and biodiversity stewardship. Participants also examined how international trade and domestic subsidy policies can be reformed to make sustainable development possible. The meeting provided an action plan for cooperation between businesses, governments, multilateral institutions and civil society from developing and developed countries, calling the G8 and other leaders to act now to address hunger and poverty while protecting and restoring the world's natural environment for future generations.

Several Ecoagriculture Partners active in the Monterrey Bridge Coalition helped to organize the Summit, including Judith Symonds (Future Harvest Fdn), Frank Tugwell (Winrock International), Felipe Monteiga (IICA), John Waugh (IUCN), Vera Weill-Halle (IFAD), Gina Green (Oxford University), Albert Glender (Like-Minded Megadiversity Countries), Carol Kramer-LeBlanc (USDA) and Cassio Luiselli (Min. Environment, Mexico). Sara Scherr participated in a panel on partnerships and presented Ecoagriculture Partners to the group. Presentations were made by EPs including Pedro Sanchez (Earth Institute) and Mark Ritchie (IATP), and Roberto Zambrano (Pro-Natura, Mexico). Ecoagriculture cases were highlighted from EPs BayerCropScience, the Sustainable

Agriculture Initiative, and UNDP. You can find the full IISD report on the Summit online at: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/sdmex/>

5) GRANT TO EP FROM USDA

We are happy to report that Ecoagriculture Partners has received its first external grant (via the Future Harvest Foundation), from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 17-month grant provides support to EP to develop inputs and sessions on ecoagriculture science and technology at the International Conference on Ecoagriculture planned for September 2004, and to involve the international scientific community in Conference planning and implementation. We are very appreciative of this support.