

International Committee Conference Call Minutes  
December 9, 2008

Members on-line: Arlen Albrecht, Jerry Braatz, Sue Buck, Mary Crave, Karen Early, Vance Haugen, Joann Hinz, Jason Kauffeld, Mark Kopecky, Jim Resick, Otto Weigand and Tom Syverud; chair.

The Partners of the Americas has the new 5 year Farmer To Farmer Program contract for Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Guyana. The overall FTF goals are to improve food security and stimulate economic growth. Albrecht explained that UWEX with the Stevens Point Partners Chapter, will have a major role in volunteer recruitment for the sister-state Nicaragua country projects. The Nicaraguan emphasis will be on further development of the dairy sector, in addition to kitchen gardens, water quality, coop development and strategic planning. Assignments may be available starting in February.

In Haiti the emphasis will be on strengthening agri-business and honey production and marketing. In Guyana the emphasis will be on non-traditional horticulture and aquaculture. In the Dominican Republic it will be on high-value forestry.

A new POA contract with UWEX for monitoring and evaluation component of the FTF projects in these four countries was discussed by Crave. Over the 5 year period, a part-time position will be filled and a number of training opportunities should be available to Extension staff. Larry Jones will take the lead on this effort. Assignments may be available starting later next year.

Syverud is retiring on January 31, 2009. The role of International Committee chair will be shared by two staff members. Albrecht will be one co-chair. Developing informational materials to help Extension agents apply for FTF assignments was also discussed. For example; an informational piece explaining the value of international work by an Extension agent to the home county would be valuable.

The request for UW Extension to possibly host the 2012 AIAEE conference in Madison was introduced by Hinz. After discussion, it was decided that more information is needed and will be forwarded soon. More discussion will also follow.