



Preparing UWEX for a Globalizing Society

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Introduction

1. Describe our Fall 2004 internationalizing extension workshop
2. UWEX Goals & Action Plans
3. Local communities and the world
4. UWEX staff service learning in the world
5. Linking multi-culturalism & international work
6. The future of our work



I. Background to International Programming

- University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension has had a long history of international efforts.
 - Volunteer for numerous international organizations
 - Exchange programs
 - TC110 participation
 - Training programs for 4H-YD
 - Limited scholarship in this arena
 - Participants & leadership in WRLP international component



I. Background to International Programming (continued)

- We had a working policy but no mission, vision, goals or action plan.
- International work was not a high priority.
- In 2002 an International Retreat brought together a group of faculty and staff with a strong interest in doing international work.
- In 2004 new Dean/new times the emphasis on internationalism increases



II. UWEX Internationalizing mini-grant in 2004

- Funded by USDA CSREES
- To develop strategies to globalize educational content and resources used in educational programs in Wisconsin
- Explore resources aimed at building an organization that reflects global interdependence
- Strengthen the connection between global knowledge and experience with diversity efforts



Primary Activity of the Project

- One-day workshop, 40 participants representing all areas of CE
- 8-member planning committee
- Keynote address, panel discussion
- Participant input on– A global Extension professional, Extension organization, community would...



Keynote Address

- Dr. Binaya Subedi, School of Education, OSU
- Components of a global educational institution:
 - Community outreach and dialogue
 - Issues oriented curriculum
 - Teaching, social action within the public arena.



Facilitated Small Group Discussions

- Participants divided up into six groups.
- Each group asked to describe their preferred future by responding to one of three statements:
 - A global Cooperative Extension professional would
 - A global community would
 - A global Cooperative Extension organization would



A Global Extension Professional Would

- Seek practical on-the-ground experiences as an Extension professional in international and cross-cultural settings.
- Continually develop their knowledge and understanding about how they influence and are influenced by global changes.
- Be willing to share their knowledge, understanding and experiences with colleagues and communities.



A Global Community Would

- Find ways to celebrate its cultures and diversity.
- Appreciate divergent thinking.
- Have leaders with a global perspective and understanding of their community's place in the world.
- Recognize and positively deal with prejudice.
- Seek international experiences for the community and its residents.
- Be a place where citizens feel a sense of responsibility to the global community.



A Global Cooperative Extension Would

- Provide a center for global resources and activities.
- Value differences and encourage divergent thinking.
- Celebrate and share global experiences.
- Infuse global awareness into existing programming and curriculum.



Summary of SWOT for Becoming A Global Extension Professional

- Positive forces – Strengths/Opportunities
 - Core competencies in outreach education
 - Organizational partners to work with
 - Increasing diversity in communities
 - Ease of travel & English as international language
- Negative forces – Weaknesses/Threats
 - Isolationism & International unrest
 - Personal and community bias and prejudice
 - Lack of funds and resources
 - Current professional commitments



Summary of SWOT for Becoming a Global Community

- Positive forces – Strengths/Opportunities
 - Progressive tradition & Wisconsin Idea
 - Civic organizations & Volunteer Groups
 - Changing cultural mix
 - Good models of community activities
- Negative forces – Weaknesses/Threats
 - Isolationism & Fear of change
 - Lack of diversity in community leaders
 - Communities not prepared for immigrants
 - No tax, No spend mentality



Summary of SWOT for Becoming a Global Extension Organization

- Positive forces – Strengths/Opportunities
 - A Strong model of outreach education
 - Wealth of experience among faculty and staff
 - Business globalization
 - Technology bringing world closer together
- Negative forces – Weaknesses/Threats
 - Isolationism & nationalism
 - Lack of political recognition of Extension involvement in global issues
 - Mixed messages internally
 - Lack of funding internally and in communities



Workshop Summary

- The Project expanded our network of individuals who see international work as an important part of an Extension curriculum.
- The expansion of the network increased our capacity to develop a curriculum that meets diverse needs of citizens.



III. Current Goals and Actions

- Based on 2004 workshop and 2002 retreat, new set of goals and actions developed for international programs
- Will be worked on by committee and others



UWEX/ESP Global Relations Committee Goals

- Develop individual capacity of UWEX staff to lead in a global society
- Develop institutional capacity to assist UWEX staff and communities to succeed in a global society.
- Provide scholarly framework for UWEX international programs.



Actions in support of goals -I

- Explore the development of an international center for UWEX.
- Develop a cross-cultural (domestic diversity) professional development opportunity. This may be in conjunction with our multiculturalism initiative.
- Seek to create more matches for people to international experiences
- Offer training on international activities and using international skills assessment tools.



Actions in support of goals - II

- Teach communities and stakeholders new perspectives about our place/their place in a global society.
- Develop partnerships with other UW system organizations, non-profits, and others to enhance our international programming.
- Promote and explore further scholarship opportunities.



Actions in support of goals - III

- Enhance ties with Winrock International, who now leads the Central American Farmer to Farmer program. Explore ties with Virginia State University who now leads the African Farmer to Farmer program.
- Continue to support Partners of the Americas, through participation in their programs and organization.



III. Local communities and the world

- Our staff is engaged with overseas and our local communities
- Extension staff at work

Square foot gardening from Nicaragua introduced in Medford, WI





Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program

University of Wisconsin - Extension

The WRLP broadens leaders
understanding of

- ❖ our world
- ❖ its people, and
- ❖ their relationship to our communities



U.S. in the World Talking Global Issues with Americans

20 Recommendations



Help the public understand what can be done to make a difference

Keep your cool and stick to your big ideas when faced with hostile questions or criticisms



IV. UWEX staff service learning in the world

- International programming provides UWEX faculty and staff with teaching and learning opportunities



How?

- Teaching -- imparting skills and processes to others
- Learning -- acquiring experience and information relevant to one's programming



Examples of teaching

- 1.) Rapid Rural Appraisal
- 2.) Community Asset Mapping
- 3.) Community Organizational Assessment Tool
- 4.) Square Foot Gardening
- 5.) Business planning



Examples of learning

- 1.) Adult learning behaviors
- 2.) Culture sensitivity
- 3.) Global perspectives
- 4.) Relationship to audience back home



Scholarship is a 2-way street

What we take abroad

What we bring home



V. Linking multi-culturalism & international work

The intersect of domestic diversity and international programming is a growing conversation and set of complementary activities, often times under the same roof (i.e. Purdue's Intercultural Action Committee

www.ces.purdue.edu/iace



Internationalism - themes

- Global vision/identity
- Unity & diversity of human kind
- Globalization/interdependence
- International cooperation
- Development of world-mindedness
- Processes of development



Multiculturalism- themes

- Understanding one's culture
- Understanding one's self
- Understanding oppressive behaviors
- Diversity/EEO/Civil Rights reviews
- Becoming comfortable w/
alternative cultures
- Impact of culture on social issues
- Pluralistic life

How do they intersect?

○ Domestic Diversity

- Multicultural sensitivity
- Dealing w/ isms
- Supporting inclusively
- Serving the underserved

○ Internationalization

- Multicultural sensitivity
- Exposure & learning
- Dealing w/ globalization - economy, people, cultures, environment, security
- Interdependence



Conclusion on linkages

- Numerous educators and researchers maintain that an effective way to develop multicultural competence is through immersion in a foreign culture
 - Each is working on a fundamentally similar issue – the appreciation of differences

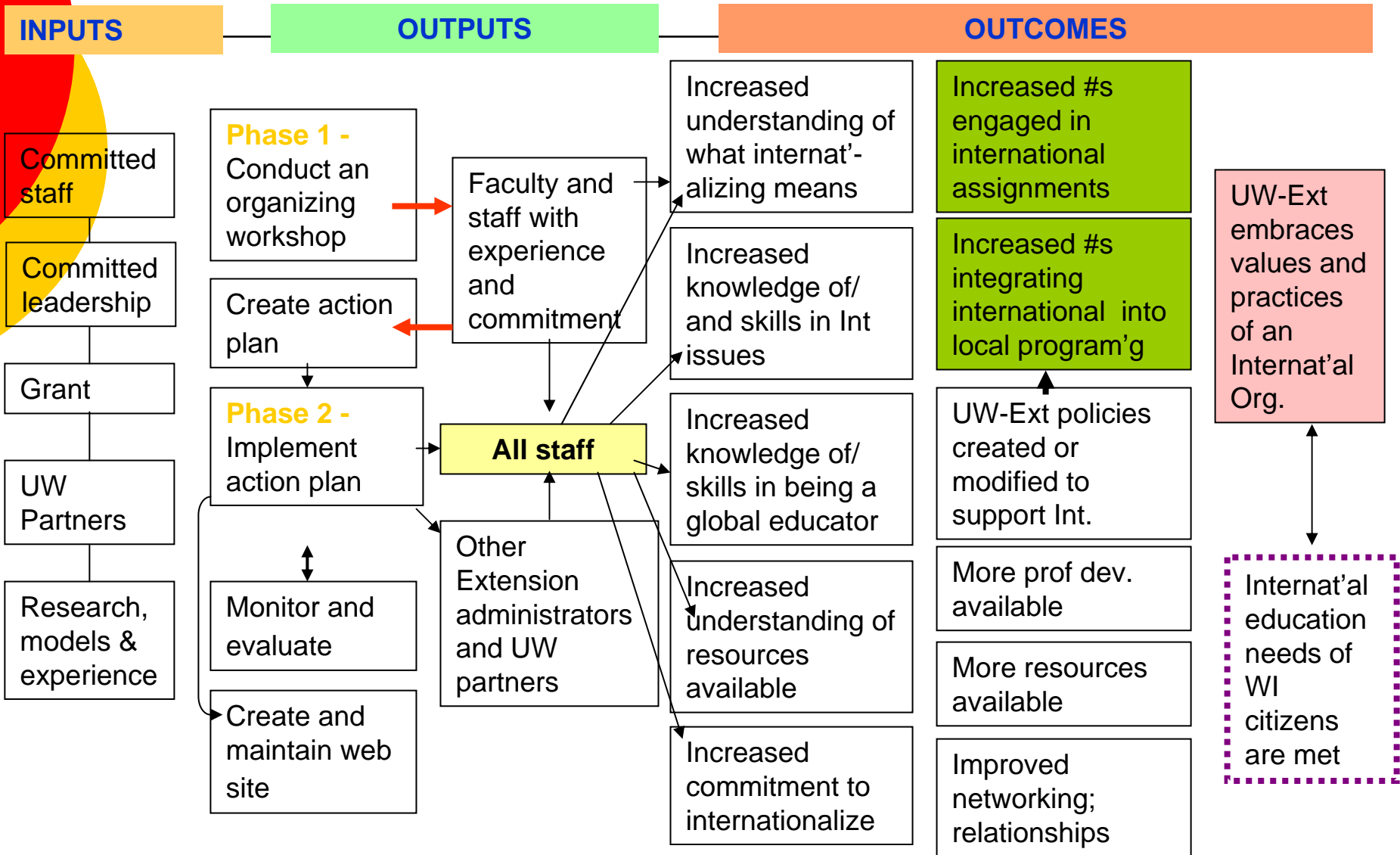


VI. The future of our work

- A visual and a conclusion

Internationalizing Wisconsin Extension

Situation: WI-Extension lacks a coherent, purposeful process for building and sustaining internal capacity to engage in international work necessary for institutional relevance





Conclusion

- Work on goals and actions
- Seek greater involvement between internationalization & multiculturalism
- Share work with others