

## **ESP/UWEX International Committee Meeting Notes**

### **October 3, 2003**

**Present:** Aliesha Crowe; Mary Crave; Karen Early; Dave Hinds; Mary Ellen Bell; Paul Ohlrogge; Mark Kopecky; Arlen Albrecht; and John Preissing.

The meeting focused on important news on our Farmer to Farmer project in Nicaragua and discussing implementation plans for our goals. We also discussed recent trips and participation at the program planning and evaluation plans sessions for 2004.

**1. Farmer to Farmer:** The group discussed the fact that as of the end of September, 2003 that Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners will no longer serve as the project coordinators for the Farmer to Farmer project. USAID has awarded the new contract to Winrock. Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners drew heavily from UWEX staff and it was a quite mutually beneficial relationship. Arlen Albrecht was encouraged by the group, in his capacity as the F2F Committee Chair, to write to Winrock to share Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partner's willingness to support their activities with volunteers and in other ways. He can also make note that UWEX staff can directly participate with their program if there is interest. Finally, JoAnn Hinz will be asked to speak with Arlen Leholm about mentioning UWEX to Winrock. Apparently, Arlen L. has a connection with Winrock.

The group appreciated the hard work by all the volunteers and in particular by Arlen and his committee stateside and by Ronald Blandon and his network of people in Nicaragua during this project. Most importantly, the opportunity to live and work side by side with Nicaraguans was appreciated! Thanks Arlen and the rest.

**2. International Committee Strategic Goals:** Each goal from our planning retreat results and how to proceed ahead with them was discussed. When people were identified to assist with the goal it was noted. Dave Hinds reminded the group that more strategic thinking and acting could help this process. The subcommittees will review their task and developed a more detailed work plan to make progress on it.

*Goal 1 – Create Team International with designated leadership.* The group outlined a number of ways that we can try to fulfill this goal. First, though, its importance was recognized. It can provide training resources, a place to report our work, and bring the work inside to UWEX rather than as an add-on. To assure this the following strategies were agreed to:

- Develop an overall website for UWEX CES International work. It would contain policies, reports, minutes of the group, plans of work, tools, opportunities and links, resources, and a listing of members. A subcommittee will examine exactly how to put the information online and what information it should be. Mary Lucas will be a resource for this subcommittee.

**Subcommittee members: JoAnn Hinz; Aliesha Crowe; Dave Williams; John Preissing; and Mary Lucas.**

- Develop a team plan and evaluation plan in line with the statewide planning and reporting process. We will draw heavily from our retreat strategic planning process to develop this. It will also be based on the criteria established by the program planning sessions to be held March 11 & 12, 2004. Larry Jones and the PD&E unit will be resources for this group.  
**Subcommittee members: Arlen Albrecht; Rob Burke; and John Preissing.**

*Goal II – Develop and Maintain a Scholarship Context for International Programs.* It was recognized that a number of scholarship and sharing activities have occurred in the past three to five years. Many of these items can help us better understand the impact of our work and the value of analysis. We will also be participating in two minigrants which will have an evaluation component and will be shared. Last, Aliesha Crowe will be completing her Masters Degree work soon. Her thesis focuses on the experiences and applications of findings by the UWEX Agriculture Extension Agents. Tasks for this group were identified.

- Identify the items to collect and collect them in a usable/accessible digital format..
- Place all materials and presentations from the past three to five years on our website under a scholarship area. Consideration should also be made for non-UWEX material on international work which displays good scholarship as a link.
- Encourage sharing of Aliesha's thesis in the future. **Chair: Aliesha Crowe.**
- Explore metrics or measures of success in scholarship and encourage more forums. **Subcommittee: Mary Crave has indicated she will assist with this point.**

*Goal Three – Develop Institutional Capacity to carryout international programs and to support staff in this work.* A variety of tasks were outlined for assisting our staff in two programmatic roles, for our domestic one and for occasional international work. In house training, the mini-grants, web site materials, and the development of materials was mentioned. Task that were identified include:

- Participate in the mini-grant project on curriculum development for international experiences as home, first within an agricultural context.  
**Subcommittee Chair: JoAnn Hintz;**
- Review MSU's pages for their capacity building and materials that are available and look for links. **Subcommittee members: Mary Ellen Bell, Karen Early, and Paul Ohlrooge.**
- Develop an assessment tool on identifying your assets for doing international work. **Subcommittee members: Mary Ellen Bell, Karen Early, and Paul Ohlrooge**
- Progress in this area will be made by working in the other goals.  
**Subcommittee members: Mary Ellen Bell, Karen Early, and Paul Ohlrooge**
- Generate discussion on balancing the giving and receiving issues within the context of fulfilling Extension's mission. **Subcommittee members: Mary Ellen Bell, Karen Early, and Paul Ohlrooge.**

- Offer training session on using the assessment tool perhaps at JACEP conference.

*Goal IV – Provide Staff Training Related to International Work.* Some of this is already taking place within the context of the other goals and both grants. But it should be documented. Also, offering a possible training at the district level was discussed, using our staff or locally based nonprofit organizations. A couple of newer requests have surfaced too. Tasks identified to date:

- Implement the internationalizing curriculum project. This targets our staff and their potential to use new materials for working with local audiences. **Chair: JoAnn Hinz, working with local contributors.**
- Implement the internationalizing extension training project – EAGLE. This targets past NELD members and is to be financially supported by participants or their institutions or local support. **Chair: John Preissing working with local contributors and Glenn Easter, from Iowa State University.**
- Operate an orientation booth at the Department Head training program, launching the web site and draft assessment tools. We have been asked to assist already.

*Goal V- Develop Evaluation Instruments that tout the Benefits of International Work or at least speaks to its benefits.* This goal was seen as quite important and in fact needed as part of the other goals. Specific tasks were not outlined:

- Attend the program planning workshop to work on these measures.
- Identify our measures for all the goals. **Work with Mary Crave and Ellen Taylor Powell.**

Conclusion on this assignment. We spent a lot of time and energy on this topic but have not systematically reviewed these goals and tasks. This could occur in a face-to-face meeting or separately by subcommittee. To be discussed.

**3. New Dean:** John Preissing reported that the new Dean is very much interested in our work and in international programming efforts. He spent an hour with JoAnn Hintz and John Preissing reviewing our work. We look forward to working with him on issues.

**4. Next meeting date:** The next date was set for Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM until 12 Noon.