

Title: Energy, Water and Food: A Preliminary Conversation with the Food and Agriculture Organization

Hosts: Peter Hobbs, Wendy Wolford

Date: November 27

Abstract: Two FAO visitors came to Cornell from the Washington DC office on the 27 and 28th November. The main reason for this visit was to explore possible future collaboration with faculty and students at Cornell. They had also visited other US Universities to seek help with their future programs. International Programs piloted an internship program for two IARD majors in Gabon this past summer that was very successful. One goal for the visit was to expand this program for graduate and undergraduate students in the future. They were also interested in Cornell Gender research programs and programs related to nutrition and food production.

The Atkinson center sponsored a topical tea on 27th afternoon with interested Atkinson Center Fellows (see list below for attendees) to discuss a topic high on the agenda for FAO entitled “Energy, Water and Food”. The FAO visitors started the tea by explaining their interest on this topic and learning as much as possible about Cornell’s on-going research on this topic. FAO is interested in combining the research and expertise between these topics in order to develop a working framework that can be used to study the various interactions and tradeoffs among these 3 major issues related to food security. FAO also wants to strengthen linkages with academia and US Universities to identify potential common interests for future collaboration.

Twenty-eight participants gave short explanations on their involvement in these 3 themes. The FAO visitors were impressed with the diversity and extent of research and interest in these topics from these short accounts even though Director, Frank DiSalvo mentioned that the material presented was “just the tip of the iceberg” for all activities on campus. There was not enough time for detailed discussions but the topical tea did meet the goal for this preliminary visit to allow FAO staff to better understand what is happening at Cornell. They left pleased with the visit and would discuss their findings with FAO headquarters and get back to us on possible collaborations. They agreed that working through the Atkinson Center was logical since this Cornell center has the goal of breaking down disciplinary silos and provide forums for true across disciplinary interactions, something that FAO also wishes to achieve. A couple of possible interactions includes attendance at FAO organized conferences and workshops and having Cornell faculty be members of FAO constituted panels on key issues.

Organizers:

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)
Hobbs	Peter	ph14@cornell.edu	CSS
Wolford	Wendy	www43@cornell.edu	DSOC
Rolle	Florence	FAO	
McMillen	Amy	FAO	

Participant RSVP (attending): 28 – update 11/28/12

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)
Barrett	Chris	cbb2	AEM
Bezner Kerr	Rachel	rbeznerkerr@cornell.edu	DSOC
Chambliss	Lauren	elc55	ACSF

De Gorter	Harry	hd15	AEM
DiSalvo	Frank	fjd3	ACSF
Guzman	Christian	cdg65	Grad Student
Harvell	Drew	cdh5	EEB
Howarth	Bob	howarth@cornell.edu	EEB
Imumorin	Ikhide	igi2	ANSCI
Kay	David	dlk2	DSOC
Lassoie	James	jpl4	NRES
Lehmann	Johannes	cl273	CSS
McMichael	Philip	pdm1	DSOC
Miller	Dennis	ddm2	FDSC
Quinn	Julie	jdq8	Grad Student
Ricketts	Katie	kdr46	AEM
Schneider	Rebecca	rls11	NRES
Stasiewicz	Matthew	ms984	Grad Student
Steenhuis	Tammo	tammo@cornell.edu	BEE
Walter	Mike	mfw2	BEE
Walter	Todd	mtw5	BEE
Warner	Mildred	mew15	CRP
Wolfe	David	dww5	HORT
Young	Sera	sly3	NS

Regrets:

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)
Pinstrup-Andersen	Per	pp94	NS
Feldman	Shelley	rf12	DSOC
Holst-Warhaft	Gail	glh3	MAE
*Gomez	Miguel	mig7	AEM
*Parrish	Colin	crp3	BAKERI
Dieterich	David	dd355	ACSF
Angenent	Lars	la249	BEE

*Strong interest