

AGRIS MUNDUS

QUARTERLY

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Agris Mundus Association Newsletter!

As those of us in Europe get deeper into the winter and us students begin to enjoy our mid-term break, we can look back on the time passed since the last newsletter and see some of the great things the AMA team has accomplished. **The working groups have begun to set goals** and clearly define their positions, the website is ready to begin major updates, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to give my thanks to the group down in Montpellier; they've got some big news regarding the Association, as you can read further down in this AMQ!

As I've said earlier, we are ready to make some changes and improvements to the website. To do this most effectively, **we need YOUR input**, AMA member! Ivan Taboas (Batch 5) will be in charge of all updates to the website from his headquarters in Copenhagen. We will be sending out a questionnaire through e-mail in January, so in the meantime, go to the website (<http://www.agrismundusalumni.org>) have a look around and have a think about what you'd like to see from your website. Also, we are still looking for an **official Agris Mundus Association logo**, so those of you with an artistic streak, send on your submissions to me at pdimanin@yahoo.com; you could be immortalized!

For the students, in the near future we will be sending out a survey/questionnaire to evaluate how your experience in your M1/M2 has been now that the first term is ending. This will be a forum for you to discuss your experience, to tell what you love about the course and what you'd like to see improved on, **so please take advantage when the opportunity comes!** And of course, your responses will be taken on anonymously by the student affairs working group.

Thanks once again to the AMA communication team for keeping us all up to date with everything Agris Mundus, and take care!

Cheers!

Patrick Dimanin—Global Representative

Batch 5 (Cork/Montpellier)

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Registration of the Association

We are very happy to inform you that, after some "GI Jo - like" administrative journey, we finally had our AMA association officially registered! This official registration gives us the right to open a bank account, and to manage money for the different activities of the association. We are also recognized as a legal entity (if we ever need to go to the tribunal, but let's just hope that won't be necessary!).

As we are now allowed to, we just opened a bank account. A little money should be soon sent by the Agris Mundus consortium (we can particularly thank Didier Pillot for that!) to help us start we the activities of the

association. Later on, it will be the charge of the fund raising group to raise money for the various activities we want to implement. The headquarter is at the Institut des Régions Chaudes in Montpellier, and our bank is just near by the school (so that the treasurer doesn't have to run all over the city to get there!).

It is time to celebrate the official birth of AMA, that was made possible by the efforts of hard working members of our community, especially Berdi Doornebosch, Linda Esteli Mendez, Julie Mayans, Khalid Haddi, Gregory Vaughan, Ernest Acheampong, Andrea Berta, Marine Tallon and Axelle Bodoy.

AMA LOGO

Now that we have a newly registered association we need a newly designed logo to match. Everybody, this is your chance to get creative. If you have any design suggestions or would like to help with the process email: statutes@agrismundusalumni.org

Congratulations again to everyone who made the registration possible.

Conferences: London, Copenhagen and Online

Successes and failures with animal nutrition practices and technologies in developing countries

Aimable UWIZEYE

From 1st to 30th September 2010, The FAO Animal Production and Health Division has organized the worldwide e-conference on 'Successes and failures with animal nutrition practices and technologies in developing countries'.

The participants from all UN countries members have shared the experience about the animal nutrition technologies and practices that have been developed and applied both on-station and on-farm in developing countries, with varying degree of success. Some technologies have produced profound beneficial effects and have been widely used; while others have shown potential on

research stations but have not been taken up by farmers. Other nutritional strategies produced benefits to farmers so long as they were supported by a donor-funded project, but their use could not be sustained after the project concluded.

The use of urea treatment of straw, the forage production in unique environmental settings and their adoption by farmers, agroforestry and silvopastoral practices and the benefit analyses of inorganic fertilizers for small holder livestock farmers in the tropics were highlighted during the conference. The conference was moderated by Pr HARINDER MAKKAR, from FAO Rome.

Consult the full conference

World Development Panel London

Sanja BRKANOVIC

The world development movement, a non-profit policy alternatives organization, based in the UK organized a panel presentation on food speculation on Nov 26th 2010.

There were several guest speakers present in the field of economics, agriculture and policy, but the one who stood out the most to me was Jayati Gosh, an economist and professor working out of Delhi, India. The discussion included the history of market

deregulation, and the changes in the function of futures markets from providing stability for agrarians to becoming a new market for financial investment. India's rural population was used as a case study to explore the negative impact that financial institutions and third party investors can have on food prices. It was argued that the recent volatility in the food market was caused by food speculation, rather than economic (supply and demand) factors. The rural poor were explained to have felt these price spikes the most. In truth,

a variety of factors can impact food prices and it is unwise to look to one cause exclusively. Still, this presentation was interesting and informative and raised some critical issues that go beyond food availability.

The Journal of Agrarian Change 2010 Symposium on The 2007-2008 World Food Crisis can be accessed for more information on this topic.

AGRIS MUNDUS PROFILES

A Reminder: in order to update the AMA website and introduce all the new Agris Mundus Batch 5 students we would like everyone to submit a photo and introduction of themselves to: amcommunications@agrismundusalumni.org

discussions on:

ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/ag/Data/agap/Makkar/E-conference/Messages_E_conf_0910.pdf

Climate Change and the Sustainable Management of Water Resources

Aimable UWIZEYE

The 3th online worldwide conference on Climate Change and the Sustainable Management of Water Resources was organized by Hamburg University of Applied Science (Germany) from 1st to 7th November 2010.

CLIMATE 2010/KLIMA 2010's aims were the following: to introduce the latest findings from scientific research on climate change and its links and impacts on water cycles, water supply and water management; to introduce projects and other initiatives being undertaken in both industrialized and developing countries by universities and scientific institutions, government bodies, national and international agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders, and to

discuss the problems, barriers, challenges and opportunities and potentials related to promoting the sustainable use of water resources worldwide.



The scientific papers were presented in four categories: the Geo-chemical and physical impacts of climate change on water supplies; the Socio-economic aspects of climate change in relation to water supplies and use; the Climate change, policy-making and sustainable water use and the Projects which focus on addressing the links between climate change and sustainable water use, including educational and awareness-raising initiative. During each open day, an hour of live chats

with experts was proposed to the participants. The issues discussed on were: The role of local governments in transitioning to adaptive water management, The Climate Change and Sustainable Water Management in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, towards water security and climate resilience in support of national development and Climate Change and Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Middle East and North African Countries (MENA). The 3th online conference has been closed by announcing of the agenda of the 4th online conference CLIMATE 2011, from 7th – 13th November 2011, featuring the theme “Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management”.

www.climate2010.net

Presenting at the ELLS Student Conference in Copenhagen

Eefje AARNOUDSE

What to do with all the extremely interesting information you collected during your field work? Writing your thesis – first of all. And then? If you are lucky your supervisors will read it, and maybe an external examiner or a fanatic classmate. I wanted to share my experiences with a larger audience and subscribed myself for the ELLS Student Conference (Euro League for Life Sciences) which was held in Copenhagen this year. The relatively new conference (only held for the second time this

year) is organized by seven Northern European Universities to encourage cooperation and exchange in the field of life sciences. All participating Universities had selected some BSc and MSc students to present during the plenary sessions. I was also



given the opportunity to present and discuss my work with a large audience. Besides the plenary sessions, other students presented their work

on posters hanging in the conference hall. The topics and quality of the research was very diverse, but I could feel an atmosphere of scientific exchange and networking. A proof-ride for the real conference world. Just a little less stress and a bit more beer at the end of the day, or would that also be part of standard conferences?

Next year the conference will be held in Wageningen, if you are interested in participating check:

www.euroleague-study.org

Updates From the Universi-

MONTPELLIER

Mayling FLORES

The last months in Montpellier have been a pleasant experience for me, at both educational and personal levels. Even though the relation student-professor tend to be in some cases very formal, the dynamic of the courses at SupAgro are very practical and useful for the performance in the field for the final project and future job(s) (including

internships on different farming systems around France and abroad... yes abroad!!!).

Related to leisure: odd but fun. Regularly, there are student's parties; there are also nice bars in the city to hang out and of course good food and wine.



Byron MOYANO

At the residence we live surrounded by kind French and nice international students who create a special atmosphere. Regarding student's life, so far I am very satisfied with the modules. The different visits to the fields make the courses interesting by getting information direct from the farmers and experience in situ which accounts positively for a professional formation.

Talking a bit about the city itself, it is beautiful, with many museums and open areas to share and visit, including beaches. However, there is not the best place to party – clubs, and bars close at 1 am- on the other hand, there are parties (k-fête and La Valette) organized by student representatives that are good and crazy also, you can't miss them.

Axelle BODOY

Those last 3 months back in my home town have been rich in learning and exchanges! The classes I've been following within the MOQUAS option are definitely passionating, and worth investing time in. The two weeks group field work in september in the French Pyrenees were particularly challenging; among the large number of hours surveying, treating data, getting crazy with the deadlines, we had a pretty cool fun! I particularly

enjoyed the autumn BBQ and guitar singing with people from all over the world, and the amazingly funny "basque experience" involving some interesting "teeth-focused flirts"... Some people might know what I'm talking about!! ;) Now that winter has really arrived, we'll warm ourselves up with some more partying at La Valette, and try to get a little more focused on our Quest for Internships!



Cécile GALLET

Already three months have passed since classes have started in Montpellier but I still feel I am just starting to move in. Needless to say, we've all been pretty busy! We started right off with a two week stage in Camargue or in the Basque country, interviewing producers in order to draw up an agrarian diagnosis of the area. We have been back class since, and I'm really enjoying the fact we are

given practical tools and methodologies to work with on the field later on. Weekends also have been booked: flea markets on sundays, exploring caves in the Larzac, or simply joining the French in their crazy parties...

And last but not least, for those coming to Montpellier next year: I remember being very sad about leaving Copenhagen and its bike lanes. I still am, but now

that I am enjoying the sunny weather here, I'm glad I'm in south of France!



MADRID

Guillaume LAMARRE

Life in Madrid has been great so far. It is really a wonderful city to do a Master. Everyday, there is something new to discover and new tapas to taste. Last week, they lighted the Christmas lights transforming the street into a walking museum. It is definitely a sight to see!

We started classes in mid-October and since then, we've been very busy studying and working on our end of the master project or thesis. David is doing the professional master taught in the morning while Guillaume is doing the research master taught in the afternoon. It is the second year this master is offered and it is the first time an Agris Mundus student is enlisted in it. The big difference resides in the "proyecto find de master". In the professional master, it is expected to plan and design a concrete project while in the research one, it is expected to design and perform a research with publishable

results. Students in both masters come from a broad range of countries from Latin America and Spain which makes it very culturally diverse.

Regarding the Agris Mundus Association, Madrid is in charge of the Academic Curricula and Students' Affairs. In regard to this task, we would like to act as and ombudsman between the students and the staff. It means that if you have any problems regarding any topics related to Agris Mundus, you can send them here and we will make sure they will get in the right ear in an anonymous way.



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to everyone that submitted articles and photos to this issue of the AMQ. We always need more pictures and articles from Agris Mundus students. After all, without you there wouldn't be a newsletter.

Please send us more pictures from your universities and fieldwork at amacommunications@agrismundusalumni.org. The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 28th 2010.

Thanks!

CATANIA, COPENHAGEN WAGENINGEN AND CORK



A group picture from Catania.



M1 and M2 students enjoying a group dinner in Copenhagen.



Gabriel from Catania (left)

Catania graduation ceremony

Sinterklaas Food Stand



Sinterklaas celebration in Wageningen

Sinterklaas dinner: Drinking Eggnog



Sinterklaas dinner in Cork: Opening Presents

News From the AgrisMundus Community

A THAI EXPERIENCE

Last year Frida Rodhe studied in Denmark for her first year of the AgrisMundus programme. She tells about her experience doing fieldwork during her second semester in Copenhagen.

After various vaccinations, travel planning, packing and goodbyes we were finally on our way to the tropics!! Our head supervisor, Tilde Bech Bruun had done an excellent job in planning the fieldwork that gave us ten free days at the start of the month. We left wintry Copenhagen in the end of February and were supposed to meet in a hot and sweaty Phuket the 9th of March. So some of us decided to see a bit of Thailand get a feel for the country's culture, food, markets and beaches. Travelling north and south east and west, our free days were not spent resting. Plenty of Pad Thai (a Thai noodle dish with veggies), rice, and temples later we met up with everybody including supervisors in Phuket and continued some miles north almost on the border to Burma, to start the actual fieldwork.

We were housed in a research station right on the coast. There we were paired up with students from the Katestat university in Bangkok. Together we worked hard. The days were intensive waking up at 7 and working until 1 in the morning going back and forth to our villages, meeting with village headmen, women groups, fishermen and officials, getting bitten by mosquitos and trying to communicate and discuss with our counterparts through interpreters.

It was amazing how well we were cared for, interpreters, minibuses and food were all provided during our stay. The beauty of fieldwork is that the hard work it demands is mostly enjoyable including for example boat trips with local fishermen, drinking ice coffee chatting with the local restaurant owner, drawing with the village children and playing soccer with the bus driver. Information gathering was fun!

It was less fun coming back to the research station every night looking with envy at the professors playing volleyball while discussing research question and methods again and again and getting eaten by bugs.

By the end of the stay most groups were happy and content with what they had been able to achieve and find out and we could all relax and enjoy the goodbye party with grilled seafood, talent show and karaoke!! We danced the night away and bonded more with our Thai counterparts which made it even more sad to leave the next morning, although most of us dreamed of having a good night sleep.

We all came out of the course, not just tanned and tired, but with an unforgettable learning experience and with new wonderful, happy Thai friends.

The final reports can be found at www.sluse.dk.



NEWS FROM THE AMA PRESIDENT

As the President of AMA, it is one of my goals to increase interaction and networking between Agris Mundus students and alumni. For this we have several networking tools, if you have any questions about this, please e-mail me (berdi.doornebosch@gmail.com) or take a look at the presentation about networking I gave during the orientation week in Sète, France (<http://www.agrismundusalumni.org/Networking-Berdi.ppt>).

Another issue I have been working on is finding out how much time it takes for alumni to receive both the certificates, and the AgriNatura certificate. It seems there are several problems with receiving certificates very late (1 year or even longer), mistakes or inconsistencies in certificates or supplements, and problems with getting certificates accepted in the home-country. For example, I graduated in November 2009 and have not received either of my certificates .

So dear alumni, if you have any of these problems, or anything else, please let me know so that I can combine all the problems and try to find a solution

together with the Agris Mundus coordination.

I hope you understand that this association, which is now officially registered, is something that belongs to all of us. This means you can raise any issue, send in articles or whatsoever. It has been very difficult to get students and alumni to respond to e-mails, if you receive any request for information please respond to this. The members of the AMA communications team are working hard together to get the website up-to-date and to write a newsletter, but then cannot do this without your help!! Being part of this network can also be very beneficial for you, so take this chance that we offer you and use it!!

I hope to hear from you soon! If you are ever near The Hague, The Netherlands, don't hesitate to come and visit me!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2011, with a lot of love, happiness, good health and amazing academic results! J

Berdi Doornebosch, President of the AMA

CONGRATULATIONS VALERIA

Congratulations to Valeria Batch 1 and Andrea on their wedding on Oct 20th 2010 in Catania. In the photo are Valeria, more batch 1 students, and professors from Catania.



THE AGRIS MUNDUS TRACER STUDY

In March 2010, the graduates of batch 1 (2006-2008) and batch 2 (2007-2009) were asked to fill in a questionnaire about their achievements before and after studying in Agris Mundus. Around 60% of the alumni responded to the questionnaire, below you can find a summary of the most interesting outcomes of this study (read the full version on our website, <http://www.agrismundusalumni.org/>).

In March 2010, only 9,1% of the graduates was still searching for a job, which is not a lot considering that batch 2 students graduated in August-November 2009.

2 graduates were self-employed at that moment.

More than 45% of respondents found a job within 2 months after graduation.

17% of respondents that now hold a

PhD position, found this through, or in the Agris Mundus network

Respondents mostly miss agricultural entrepreneurship and fieldwork skills in the AM curriculum

65% of respondents said that the AM course met their expectations

INTRODUCING

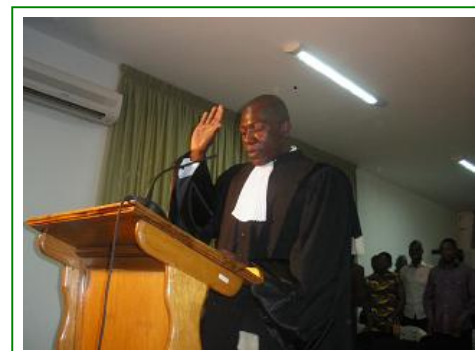
Agris Mundus Baby to Be

Greg and Carolina both from Batch 1 are expecting their first child. We would like to congratulate them, and welcome the first Agris Mundus Baby. They have a blog to document all the excitement with many other agrarian topics covered at: <http://agrarianideas.blogspot.com/> Greg is also looking for people to contribute articles to his blog. If you are interested contact him at : gsvaughan@gmail.com

Gabriel TENO Cameroon

My name is Gabriel TENO, and I am from Cameroon. I am a veterinary doctor, graduated in 2009 from the *École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV)* in Dakar, Senegal. After this, I obtained a Master 2 in animal production and sustainable development, with a specialization in economics and politics of animal production in May 2010 in the same university. These two reports (thesis research and Master 2) were combined into a publication pamphlet by Éditions Universitaires Européennes (www.editions-ue.com) and are for sale online (http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=gabriel+teno). After graduating, I worked with the faculty of rural economy and management from EISMV university in two differen-

positions, concerning monitoring and temporary teacher. Concerning Agris Mundus, I can say that it is a real pleasure from my side to finally get the chance to be part of this programme. I arrived very late in Catania, which explains my absence during the orientation week. I am studying in Catania (Italy), in livestock management. Kind regards to everybody and I wish you good luck in your studies or other occupations. Thanks!



NEWS NEWS NEWS

Julie Mayans (batch 2, France) participated in making 3 movies about development aid in Burundi, Congo and Haïti, you can watch them here:

<http://www.eutrio.be/fr/cooperation-au-d> (French)

<http://www.eutrio.be/development-cooperation-it-s-our-money-it-s-their-future> (English)

Free Food Security e-learning courses: <http://www.foodsec.org/dl>

IFAD social reporting blog: <http://ifad-un.blogspot.com/>

Farming Matters jubilee edition on family farming is now out, read it here:

http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=getblob.php&id=251108&id=211&a_seq=0

Download IIED's publication catalogue on environment and development issues

here: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=G>

Graduation ceremony in Catania,

This concludes this issue of the AMQ. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions. The next edition will be in March. Please contact us with any topics or articles. Until then, Happy Holidays from everyone in the Agris Mundus Communications Committee.