Uganda may be Africa’s breadbasket

OSU program aiding Africa

One cannot talk about hunger without looking to struggling nations in Eastern Africa.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture calculates that Africa needs 66 percent of all food aid needed in the world this year, said Carl Zulauf, assistant professor in agriculture economics.

"Africa is the obvious problem spot in the world," Zulauf said.

"What an individual country eats is what it grows," Zulauf said, "and less developed countries are at the low end of the nourishment scale."

Although too late for thousands of famine victims, programs designed to increase crop production are underway through the U.S. State Department, including a program at Ohio State that hopes to make the eastern African country of Uganda a breadbasket for Africa.

This summer, OSU's College of Agriculture is teaching 20 Ugandan agricultural personnel methods that will increase crop production. A total of 84 Ugandans will be trained by the end of a four-year program at Ohio State sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Short-term training sessions lasting three to six months will update the Ugandans on current farming practices, said Mark Erbaugh, training coordinator for OSU.

Matching Ugandan resources with new technology and developing Ugandan research stations are also part of the program, Erbaugh said.

"Uganda is fairly well-watered and has the potential for being the breadbasket for Eastern Africa," Erbaugh said.

Although a victim of a drought that struck in northern parts of the country along the Sudan Desert, Uganda is the best choice for developing agriculture production, Erbaugh said.

Julius Zake, professor of agronomy at the University of Makerere in Kampala, Uganda, and Nathan Nangoti from the Serere Research Station in Uganda, are now training at Ohio State.

Zake received his Ph.D in agronomy from OSU in 1972 and returned to Uganda to teach at Makerere.

"It was difficult to do research and there was no access to new equipment," Zake said of his return to Uganda under Amin's reign.

There were no U.S. or British embassies while Amin was in power, and the country suffered from a lack of knowledge exchange, Zake said.

Nangoti said he became "rusty" because of the lack of knowledge, but the two men are trying to catch up now.

In addition to the training at Ohio State, John Parsons and John Trierweiler, assistant professors in agronomy at OSU, are in Uganda for three months to help repair agricultural research stations.

Rehabilitative measures such as this program are necessary to achieve long-term goals, Erbaugh said.

"Something like the Live-Aid concert is a short-term measure," Erbaugh said, "but the long-term solutions are going to make the difference."

Stories by Kimber Perfect
Internationalized ag program urged by task force to faculty

By David M. Farrell
Lantern staff writer

The College of Agriculture should tailor its curriculum toward the increasing importance of global agriculture, said Fred Hitzhusen, director for international programs in agriculture.

"Agriculture is becoming global, not just domestic," Hitzhusen said. "We need to internationalize our curricula here."

Hitzhusen led a panel composed of members of various task forces in a discussion on "Future Directions in International Agriculture at OSU," Monday afternoon in Kottman Hall.

The four-member panel on international agriculture discussed their findings with agriculture faculty members. The task forces were set up by the College of Agriculture.

Because three panel members were at Kottman Hall and one at Wooster campus, the discussion was held via live transmissions.

Approximately 30 faculty members were watching, 15 at each location.

Bernard Erven, chairman of the task force on curriculum and exchanges, said his committee recommended using faculty to help spread the idea of international agriculture.

"We must be able to equip students to be able to deal with other cultures beyond their childhood boundaries," he said.

Erven said a certain percentage of undergraduate students should have international experiences.

George Kreps, chairman of the task force on short-term technical training, said an international center for technical training is necessary to promote international agriculture because of increased demand in other countries.

The proposed center would help promote exchange programs, he said.

"We have moved students here to receive technical training, and we have taken teachers there (to other countries)," Kreps said.

Fern Hunt, chairwoman of the task force on integrated women in development, said that women are important in other countries' agriculture.

"Women in other countries are part of the labor force. They plant crops, cultivate them, sell them, and market them," Hunt said.

The College of Agriculture should expand the number of women in agricultural science and marketing and make sure they have equal access to education, she said.
International exchange plan to aid College of Agriculture

By David M. Farrell
Lantern staff writer

The College of Agriculture needs an international curriculum to meet the demand for global orientation, said Bernard Erven, chairman of the task force on international curriculum and academic exchange.

"We do not function in an isolated economy," Erven said. "The curriculum here should reflect that."

Erven and seven members of a task force set up by the College of Agriculture spent five months reviewing the academic situations here and abroad.

All the members have dealt with foreign countries or exchange students, Erven said.

"Many classes in agriculture and home economics have subject matter that goes beyond something narrow called 'domestic,'" he said.

"Our recommendation is, 'Where there is an international aspect, it should be taught.'" Ohio State lacks a large number of international students and faculty, Erven said.

A few of the suggestions the task force listed for the College of Agriculture are:

• Invite active faculty and administration members to participate in long-term (two years or more) and short-term foreign assignments.
• Reward individual faculty members for international work done in their careers with promotion, tenure, merit increases, or raises in salary.
• Offer international language training, library resources, travel passes, grants and contracts assistance.
• Have the college administrators, department chairs and faculty read reports on the subject and present summaries at faculty meetings.
• Ask for state funds to help provide financial assistance for programs.
• Establish institution relationships in three carefully selected diverse countries to develop a rapport between faculty and students of Ohio State and these nations.
• Develop programs that will provide OSU students with an opportunity to become acquainted with foreign students.
• Incorporate foreign graduate students into college programs for undergraduate students beyond the boundaries of teaching relationships.
OSU class sees rocky times for agriculture south of equator

South American farmers must feel as if they are swimming up the Amazon River. A current of inflation, taxes and poor transportation washes away their profits, according to participants in the Leadership Education and Development program of The Ohio State University.

The 30 members of the school's LEAD class visited the continent last month and discovered that, despite the difficulties, Argentine and Brazilian farmers are plowing ahead — often at the expense of their soil.

"From what we saw, they have plenty of problems to solve before they become the leading world competitors," said Eugene Suter, district manager of the Ciba-Geigy Corp. seed division in Pandora, Ohio.

LEAD is a two-year study program conducted by the university. The present group will be the third class to complete the course when its members graduate in June. The program consists of a series of 12 institutes. Each is devoted to a different topic, such as community development, communication, national politics and international agriculture.

The group visited farmers in Argentina last year, then went to Washington to be briefed by agricultural leaders. The South American tour was the climax of the program.

"The goal is to develop a network of agricultural leaders by exposing bright, young professionals to a wide range of experiences," said Joseph Donnermeyer, program director.

"I would recommend it to anyone," said Peter Yoder, a farmer from London, Ohio. "The strength of the program is the diversity of people it attracts. You can learn as much from your fellow classmates as you do from the institutes."
OSU students earn credit overseas

By Susan Mantey
Lantern staff writer

The thought of an international study abroad program might entice images of sunny Spain, romantic France or scholarly England. Poverty, economic crisis and a Third World country usually do not fit into a traveler’s vision.

Last summer, however, 16 students experienced life in the Dominican Republic, one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Their studies were part of an OSU program sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the College of Agriculture.

“The Dominican Republic was a real eye-opener,” said Joel Oney, a senior from Greenwich majoring in dairy science. “When we live in the United States, we don’t discuss what it’s like to live in a Third World country. Everything was very different, from the food to the countryside to the economic standard of living.”

Summer Program in International Development, initiated last year, was designed to fulfill international study requirements for undergraduate agriculture students.

The intense six-week program focused on Dominican history and culture, rural farming and rural development, said Grace Johnson, program manager for the office of Study Abroad.

Faculty at the Instituto Superior de Agricultura, or Superior Institute of Agriculture, in Santiago de los Caballeros, taught most of the courses. Although everything was taught in English, some Spanish background was recommended, Johnson said.

Last year’s program cost approximately $1,400, which included room, board, excursions and full-time tuition.

Students received 16 graded credits that were distributed as five credits each to Spanish, rural sociology and agricultural economics. Only one class was taught during a two-week period.

Classroom discussions were supplemented by field trips into the community at least twice a week.

The program’s goal was to expose students to more than just the theory behind agriculture development, said Guillermo Monje, a graduate student in rural development from Bolivia and the resident director of last summer’s group.

As resident director, he was responsible for academic requirements, student behavior and some class instruction on agriculture development.

Field trips relating to class discussions provided practical experience, Monje said. Visits included coffee plantations, rum factories and sugar cane farms.

Students who lived in campus dormitories were encouraged to interact with the other Dominican students living on campus.

“A Dominican friend would sometimes wake me up at 5:30 a.m. to milk the university’s herd of cows by hand,” Oney said. “The cattle at the farm didn’t give much milk, so it didn’t take long.”

Students’ reasons for going to a Third World country varied.

“I have always had an interest in Caribbean cultures,” said Kollie Kirksey, a graduate student in Student and Counselor Education from Cleveland. “I was able to see first-hand the political structures and how it affects people in the country.”

The poverty in the Dominican Republic is much more intense than the poverty in Venezuela, said Kirksey, who had lived in Venezuela for a year.

Julie Davidson, a senior majoring in Spanish, attended the program to learn about developing countries, get more international experience and improve her language skills.

“I was exposed to another way people live,” Davidson said. “The agriculture curriculum provided an added insight to the culture and economics of the country.”

Dennis Zeedyk, a junior from Bryan majoring in agricultural economics, wanted an international experience.

“I studied the hardest I ever had last summer quarter,” Zeedyk said. “I learned to appreciate what we have in the United States.”
A world of ideas

By Bill McNutt

An agricultural intern program enables young people to learn from farmers in other countries.

Like O'Keefe had no way of knowing a new career was starting when he went to work at the Guess Brothers farm in Clinton County five years ago. O'Keefe had come from Ireland as part of Ohio State University's agricultural intern program to gain horticultural experience. He says he wanted to 'get away from the banking career, my family was expecting me to follow.' He preferred agricultural work. After attending college in Ireland, he went to Holland to work for a flower farm. There he read about the Ohio State program in a farm magazine. He contacted a local farmers' club which helped coordinate the program and others in foreign countries.

This year more than 100 farmers between the ages of 20-25 are receiving foreign farming experience. Some Ohio visitors are working on farms which feature vegetable and grain crops. There are also students, on tree farms in Oregon, on orchards in Washington, in California tropical nurseries and landscape design companies, in Florida plant nurseries, and Chicago flower shops. Two worked for AmeriFlora in Columbus.

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All trainees pay their own way to and from this country. Visas are issued through the Ohio State Office of International Relations. Visitors pay for a year of medical insurance through Ohio State. This sometimes comes as a bit of a shock since most of their home countries offer government subsidized medical care. Housing is provided by host farmers or companies, usually in nearby apartments or mobile homes. The host farmers pay trainees the agreed upon prevailing wage before any contract is signed.

Past and present trainees say they have benefitted from their farm experiences. During a stop at Guess Brothers, we talked to Shawn Harrison, formerly of Manchester, England. He came as a trainee in 1987, and is now head mechanic of the operation. All trainees are required to be young and single. As might be expected romantic attachments are not unknown. Shawn married a local girl a few years ago and continued to work on the farm.

The same feeling motivated Mark Whittle of Herefordshire, England, who is on the Guess farm this year. Many come for further training in the large machinery that is such a feature of U.S. agriculture. "I've learned how to work and repair a variety of machines which I can certainly use when I go home," Mark said.

His sentiment was echoed by Andy Dawson who is from Sleaford, England, located about 100 miles north of London. Dawson is working on a 1,000-acre grain farm owned by Tom Hamilton, of Wilmington, Ohio. He had gone to a Welsh technical school and wants to go back for further training after his year in the states is over. Many European trainers follow this pattern, according to O'Keefe. After a year in an agricultural school, they come here for on the job training in a "sandwich year" then return for advanced college training.

This is a pattern O'Keefe, now assistant director of the Ohio State program, advocates for American ag college or technical school graduates. "It's really a form of apprenticeship, working with a master farmer, then applying this knowledge when you return for more advanced schooling. He says visitors to Europe have gone to school or worked in other countries. Boundaries are not far apart and educational expenses are much more subsidized than they are in this country, he says. "We need more Americans to share in this experience. The specialty crop growers in other countries, especially, have much to teach young prospective managers."

Tom Hamilton agrees. "I've had four trainees, and have been very satisfied with every one." U.S. young farmers could use this type of exchange experience, he says. Unlike the foreign visitors, most Americans have not worked for a farmer other than their parents. It's a two way street, which benefits both those who come here for the year of training and those who provide that training and experience. Hamilton says.
Ohio LEADers go global

A snowy European tour left members of the Ohio Leadership Education and Development Class IV with a better understanding of world agricultural. Experiences ranged from visits to huge former state communes to overnight stays at intensive Dutch farms.

"Watch out for East Germany," says Ed Winkle. "They have huge fields and when those farms get in the right hands, they are going to be very productive."

"The United States is the OPEC of food," says Jay Griffith. "We have the climate to outgrow anyone and the infrastructure to get it to consumers for pennies."

Winkle, the agricultural extension agent for Warren County, and Griffith, a farmer from Pemberville, Ohio, made their comments following the international study tour of the Ohio Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) class. The visit

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With the farmer’s wife acting as interpreter, Clinehens exchanged production data and found the Dutch herd to be very similar to the 30 cows he milks with his father. However, the Dutch family clearly had a different attitude toward debt. “He was obviously carrying a high debt load. When I told him my father and I tried to stay away from debt, he asked what we did about income taxes,” Clinehens says. “I told him we paid them.”

Griffith had the chance to talk international trade with the Dutch dairyman. “Our hosts were gracious and generous throughout the trip,” says Griffith, who raises about 500 acres of corn and soybeans. “However, when it came to understanding what it was like to market your commodities, he could not even grasp the concept. He was not appreciative of what an advantage we have with corn and soybeans. These countries are too far north to produce those crops efficiently. To be able to put corn in our bins and feed soybean meal at cheap prices puts us way ahead.”

The group’s visit to Dresden, Germany, and Prague, Czechoslovakia, brought down the biggest snow storm in 10 years. “It was a magical way to see the city of Dresden,” says Amy Sigg Davis, a farm manager and realtor from Lebanon, Ohio, who lived in Germany in the early 1970s. “The people have changed so much (since the downfall of Communism). I did not realize what a proud capitalist I was until I saw all the vendors in Prague.”

There are still big problems, however. Davis says. Not the least of which is the landownership con-

Looking for tomorrow’s LEADers

Applications for the next LEAD class, Class V, are now available. They can be obtained by writing to Ohio LEAD Program, The Ohio State University, College of Agriculture, 331 Agricultural Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43210-1096 or by calling (614) 292-6021.

If you are ready to make a larger contribution to Ohio agriculture, maybe you should consider applying for the next LEAD class. Ohio residents are “generally” between the ages of 25 and 42 and involved in agriculture are eligible. You must be able to adjust your schedule to include a demanding line up of study institutes and tours. The program costs $4,500 and runs from Sept. 10, 1993 to June 10, 1995.

“The LEAD program is made up of a special mix of people,” says Wes Budke, assistant director of the program.

From a list of several hundred nominees, about 60 people usually apply for the program. After an interview in July, a group of about 30 will be accepted. Budke says. The mix will include about one-half from production agriculture and one-half from agribusiness. Equal numbers of men and women are usually accepted and an effort is made to spread out the geographical distribution.

Budke says, “Having enough time for everything you want to do seems to be biggest monster we face at this age,” says Rich Werner, a livestock feed consultant and pork services specialist from Wilmington, Ohio. “However, that was part of the training. Learning to be a better time manager was one of the greatest benefits I experienced.”

Werner says most of the program participants are able to find sponsors to help cover at least part of the costs of the program. “When you look at what the money is buying, you realize it’s great bargain,” he says. “We visited with 200 top agricultural professionals, spent a week in California, a week in Washington D.C. and three weeks overseas. The return on investment is easy to justify.”

living. The family’s 8-year-old son gave up his room for Clinehens. “Hanging on the wall was a poster of a Mack truck, and a sweatshirt with a tractor on it was lying on a chair,” Clinehens reports. “Farm kids over there like the same things that farm kids over here like.”

Dutch dairying was somewhat different, however, Clinehens says. “I would say the farm was over-mechanized compared to our operations. For 50 cows they have a double six herring bone parlor with 12 units and 12 automatic take-offs. They had a computerized feeding system with the computer wired to print in the house.”

used to getting $36 per cwt for his milk, yet he thought the GATT discussions were designed to protect U.S. farmers from him.

European dairy will be tough to beat in specialty markets, however. Winkle says, “American farmers better decide what we can grow cheapest and best.” he says. “There’s no way we are going to beat Holland when it comes to growing seed potatoes or flowers or small fruits.”

Even if that only leaves corn and soybeans it is enough to give American farmers a huge advantage, says Rich Werner, state manager of Vi-Amino Feeds Inc. and Delphi Products in Wilmington, Ohio. “You can’t
OSU students study in Beijing for 1st time

By Lisa Marie Miller
Lantern staff writer

The first OSU delegation to The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences left Columbus on Oct. 2 for a quarter of study in Beijing.

These 16 OSU students, most of whom are agriculture majors, are acting as representatives for the OSU College of Agriculture. The 10 men and six women will each earn 15 credit hours for the nearly eight-week program.

John Ellinger, assistant vice president for The College of Agriculture, who is accompanying the group, said the creation of the current program began over four years ago and marks Ohio State's first study program in Beijing.

Before the trip, Ellinger said he was acting both as an advisor for the students and as an ambassador for developing future exchanges.

"I hope to get to see how they do things and get to go to additional institutions farther away from The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences."

Ellinger said that the 16 students speak only a little Chinese, they will have the opportunity to learn "survival Chinese" from their professors.

The courses the students will be taking — agricultural economics of China, rural sociology of China and a combined history and culture class — will be taught in English.

Brent Horner, a junior majoring in psychology from Bellevue, said speaking Chinese was not a requirement.

"I thought I would have to go somewhere where they spoke English," Horner said. "The program does not really pertain to my major... it's the experience I'm interested in," he said.

Horner said that the experience not only consists of daily classes that begin with the traditional meditation Tai Chi, but also consists of regularly scheduled field trips.

Horner said he hopes the trip will teach him numerous "lessons in life" and provide an opportunity for him to understand diversity.

"I'm not sure what to expect. A lot of the traditional China you see in movies and books won't be seen because they are in such a state of transition."

The students will visit The Great Wall of China, The Ming Tombs, The Forbidden City and The Temple of Heaven.
Russians culling seeds of an idea in local gardens

By Michael Leach
Dispatch Garden Reporter

Two visitors at Franklin Park Conservatory yesterday saw the plants and the future, gathering ideas for what they hope will be something similar in Moscow.

Eugene Ganashkin and Julia Kuzovkina of the Main Botanical Garden of the Russia Academy of Science in Moscow are in the United States as part of a student exchange program headquartered at Ohio State University.

Funding of the proposed conservatory is uncertain, Ganashkin said, and it will be two or three years before construction starts.

Ganashkin is chief of plant propagation, and Kuzovkina studies plant taxonomy. Since June, they have been at Midwest Groundcovers in St. Charles, Ill., learning nursery operations and visiting Midwestern horticultural points of interest.

There are no garden stores in Russia and limited use of ornamental horticulture. But Ganashkin and Kuzovkina expect to be able to sell a variety of plants propagated at the botanical garden, which sits on a 1.5-square mile tract near the heart of Moscow.

The garden has 11,000 species, mostly native Russian.

Today the Russians plan to see the Secret Arboretum at OSU's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. Monday and yesterday they visited with professors and saw OSU's Chadwick Arboretum in Columbus.

They are among about 100 exchange students studying in America and abroad through OSU's Ohio International Agricultural Intern Program. Since it started in 1979, about 800 young agriculture and horticulture students have been placed in on-the-job training provided by host farms, horticultural enterprises and agricultural businesses.

Participants normally spend a year in the United States, with nine months training at the host company and the remainder at OSU.

Most have experience in their fields, but few have credentials like Ganashkin and Kuzovkina, said Mike O'Keefe, international studies adviser at OSU. O'Keefe hopes this contact provides new opportunities for U.S. students to study in Russia, as well as for Russians to come to the United States.

The Franklin Park Conservatory's curator, England-born Garry Clarke, also participated in the program, working in Oregon and Georgia before coming to the conservatory in 1981.

Garry Clarke, Franklin Park Conservatory curator, left, leads a tour. Visitors, from left, are Julia Kuzovkina, Mike O'Keefe, Janna Ganashkina and Eugene Ganashkin.