

Symposium 1: "Climate change, adaptation and resilience"

President: PhD. Luis L. Vázquez Moreno

Co-Chair: Ing. José Suárez León

Dear colleagues,

The urgent need to guarantee a healthy and sufficient diet for a growing world population requires the adoption of the resilient agriculture approach to adapt to climate change, among other stress factors of agricultural production, in order to achieve the agriculture of the future, that must be sovereign and sustainable. Life itself has taught that it is not a matter of acting against these extreme events, which have an origin that combines natural and anthropogenic causes, but of working coherently, taking advantage of peasant traditions, farmers' experiences and the scientific bases provided by agroecology .

That is why the symposium aims to favor a proactive attitude to extreme weather events, gaining awareness that in addition to being affected, we are largely responsible for contributing to these imbalances, by implementing environmentally unfriendly technologies. To this end, the results of research and assessments carried out in exposed territories are interesting, evidencing sensitivity to extreme events (drought, tropical cyclone, sea penetration, others) of productive species (agriculture, livestock, forestry) and natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity, others).

The exchange of experiences that demonstrate adaptation capacities of production systems, productive forms and agricultural territories, is also sought, either in preparation stage before the imminence of events, resistance during its incidence and recovery after it. Methodological proposals are also welcome to assess vulnerability, adaptability, and resilience, based on case studies.

The symposium will be structured in two workshops:

- Contributions to resilience to climate change
- Methodological tools for climate change management

The contact to participate or present papers:

Arilia García López

Organizing Committee

eventos@actaf.co.cu

Abstracts must be submitted before March 31, 2018

Symposium 2: "Education for sustainable agriculture"

President: Dr.C. Nilda Pérez Consuegra

Co-Chair: MSc. Adriana Ballester Hernández

Dear colleagues,

Sustainable agriculture, based on process technologies rather than inputs, minimizing dependence on external material resources to the farm, while maximizing the demand for local knowledge and ability to rescue knowledge from agrarian culture, and skills and tools for proper contextualization in time and space to integrate the local experiences with the most advanced national and universal sciences. Sustainable agriculture on agro-ecological basis will only be assumed from conviction, and this must be developed from a wide variety of information and sufficient capacity to build on it new knowledge locally contextualized, and that is a complex challenge for formal and informal technical education. This symposium aims to gather reflections from various areas of knowledge and their links to the principles of sustainable agriculture and pedagogical practices.

This will be discussed on: means of public information and communication technologies for a culture of sustainability and the recognition of the agricultural sector; sustainable agriculture and agroecology in higher education programs; learn by doing in technical training at the intermediate and higher level, and the participatory construction of knowledge, among others. It is in the interest of the organizers that results are presented that have been applied at different scales, as well as experiences and methodological proposals that cover formal, non-formal and informal education.

The symposium will be structured in two workshops:

- Mass media and information and communication technologies for a culture of sustainability
- Sustainable agriculture on agroecological bases in technical formal, non-formal and informal
- ways of agricultural education.

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Symposium 3: "Sustainable Forest Management"

President: Lic. Humberto García Corrales

Co-Chair: Lic. Oscar Labrador Llanes

Dear colleagues:

Trees are an important component not only of balances in natural landscapes and a source of income, but also contribute to the functional restoration of agroecosystems, favoring productivity and sustainability of productive processes, playing an important role the trees within and outside the forest.

For this reason, the Cuban Association of Agricultural and Forestry Technicians (ACTAF), and the Institute of Agro-Forestry Research (INAF), are pleased to invite you to participate in the "Sustainable Forest Management" Symposium. The event will allow technicians, decision-makers, teachers, researchers and other actors linked to the agroforestry sector to find a space for reflection, exchange and participatory construction of proposals in order to achieve Sustainable Agroforestry Development.

Let's know through the "Sustainable Forest Management" Symposium, the acquired experiences and results achieved when designing, developing, researching and evaluating sustainable agroforestry systems, which enhance interactions and synergies between the various biological, economic and social components, seeking efficient production, economical profitability, environmentally friendly and socially committed.

Among the activities planned for the symposium, there will be motivating presentations and a discussion workshop facilitated by recognized specialists.

Main topics of debate:

- Role of trees in agroforestry systems
- Technological innovation and extension of Agroecology to the agroforestry sector
- Technical services based on a Sustainable Agroforestry Development.
- Economic, environmental and social benefits of the practice of Agroecology in agroforestry systems.

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Symposium 4: "Gender equity, youth, family and social justice in sustainable agriculture"

President: MSc. Kenia Lorenzo Chávez

Co-Chair: MSc. Julia Muriel Escobar

Dear colleagues:

If we take into account that agroecology is a science product of the fusion of peasant´s tacit knowledge (local agrarian culture), the detailed characterization of current specific contexts, and the scientific explicit knowledge (national and international scientific results), It is totally evident that it requires the committed participation of women and men and of all age groups. Also, the generation of new knowledge from the scientific and academic world, demands of people with more experience and the guarantee of young relays, at the same time that the enormous weight that women have in this field is amply demonstrated in our country.

Both for these aspects and for the availability of local capacities to build participative new knowledge, from the synthesis of tacit knowledge systematized with explicit updated knowledge, bounded by a contextualized characterization of each action environment, it requires trained and motivated personnel to perform these labors The achievement of a prosperous and sustainable agriculture depends much more on the knowledge and motivation of those involved, than on material resources and therefore it would be impossible to achieve it without an adequate equity strategy.

The symposium will allow finding a space for reflection, exchange and participatory construction of proposals for an adequate equity strategy. To this end, discussions will be held, and learning will be shared related to:

- Agroecological practices promoted by producers, technical and scientific, that allow to recognize the leadership of women, their productive achievements, theoretical and practical contributions and for the resilience of agricultural systems in the face of Climate Change.
- Experiences that promote work with young people and / or intergenerational dialogue, as a mechanism to transmit and enrich the agro-ecological culture.
- Family management of agroecological farms based on equitable gender relations, which challenge traditional gender roles, promote the role of women and young people, and thereby contribute to strengthening the love, motivation and belonging sense of the whole family to the farm.

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Symposium 5: "Post-harvest, marketing and food security"

President: Dr. Tania Pérez Castro

Co-Chair: MSc.Mariana Pérez Peniche

Dear colleagues:

In the effort to achieve an adequate food security, post-harvest and marketing gets a more important role every day, since it is in this part of the value chain that losses are reported that sometimes exceed 50% of the harvested production. That is why we work in the creation of local chains, increasing their efficiency by making them shorter, and contributing substantially to the other problem, the quality and the prices of the product that reaches the consumer.

Another aspect of special attention should be the mechanisms for certification of healthy products, which can not constitute a reason for discrimination in access, by considerably raising the costs of the product. Innovative experiences in local participatory certification show valuable experiences that bring certification closer to the approach of sustainability on agroecological bases. On the other hand, the clear numerical demonstration of the productive and economic efficiency of sustainable agriculture on agroecological bases, remains a need that has not been addressed, but is essential to achieve greater acceptance of these proposals.

From the experiences of Cuba and other countries, our Symposium proposes to discuss and exchange experiences, results and learning in these and other topics that contribute to an effective and gradual approach to the great challenge that constitutes Food Sovereignty, of great significance especially for the third World countries. We are sure that there are many experiences and proposals from Cuba and other countries, which may contribute to a rich exchange and debate. The debate will be generated by conferences and motivating presentations, which will allow us to identify progress, obstacles and new challenges to be assumed in the future

Main topics of debate:

- Planning of the farm and small agribusiness.
- Social, productive and economic effects of sustainable agriculture
- Local value chains
- Quality, innocuousness and certification systems of organic and ecological products

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Symposium 6: "Research and innovation for sustainable agriculture on agroecological bases"

President: PhD. Yanisbel Sánchez Rodríguez

Co-Chair: PhD. Maricela Díaz Rodríguez

Dear colleagues:

The development of sustainable agriculture on an agroecological basis requires a dynamic and systematic knowledge management process, rescuing local knowledge, and valuing the changing context in order to construct, in a participatory manner, relevant proposals for the farmers. It is in this way that this productive approach has been developed in our country, nourished by the experience and wisdom of the peasants and complemented with the products resulting from the work of Cuban and world scientific institutions.

From the Cuban experiences and those of other countries, our Symposium proposes to discuss and exchange about the role of the different actors in the innovation process, and how much the technical education institutions at different levels and the research centers, are contributing to the creation of local capacities in the technicians, and the availability of appropriate proposals for the local design of sustainable agro-productive systems. It also aims to identify the existence of appropriate biotechnologies, which constitute a valuable contribution to sustainable agriculture, making visible positive experiences in Cuba and in the world.

The debate will be generated by conferences and motivating presentations, which will allow us to identify progress, obstacles and new challenges to be assumed in the future.

Main topics of debate:

- Appropriate biotechnology.
- Training and articulation of local actors
- Mechanization system.
- Irrigation and water management.
- Agroecological design and management of farming and livestock systems.
- Local technical services for sustainable agriculture.

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