One More Mile on the Road Toward Internationalization of the Agricultural Curriculum: The International Agricultural Development Course

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“International Agricultural Development” is a three credit-hour graduate and undergraduate level course aimed at helping students prepare for a global and multicultural workplace.

Purpose of the Poster
To present the program and teaching methods of the course on “International Agricultural Development,” and to discuss how these have changed over four years to adapt to new situations.

Major Points
We will present the course program and objectives, which include: debate critical issues in international agriculture, analyze agricultural development programs, and explore factors that may affect participants in transfer of technology, agricultural extension, and human resource development in cross-cultural settings. The course program is kept dynamic so that it can be adapted to students’ needs and interests.

We will also discuss group dynamics and the main teaching methods used, which include presentations, group projects, case studies, problem solving, discussions, and reports. Also, all activities are designed to be thought provoking and to encourage the students to think critically while analyzing the issues from different perspectives. The course is offered both on campus and for distance learners.

In addition to presenting the course program, objectives, and teaching methods, we will discuss the lessons learned over four years of teaching this course.

Conclusions
This course is one more piece of the complex puzzle of the process of internationalization of the curriculum. Particularly, this course uses agriculture as an interdisciplinary tool to integrate global and contemporary issues, both from a technical and social science perspective. Also, the instructor uses a variety of teaching methods to empower students to develop the global understanding, leadership, and communication skills needed and valued in today’s global workplace.

Educational Importance
This poster can contribute to providing information for further internationalization of the agricultural curriculum in various colleges of agriculture. The information about the program could be used to develop other courses of similar content, and the information about the teaching methods could be used in any other course in a higher education setting. The discussion on lessons learned may be helpful for enhancing other internationalization efforts as well as other educational programs.