Expanding Global Agriculture for Secondary Education: Curriculum Development

Kristen Knudtson
Alum, Oklahoma State University
3788 Norman Court
Fargo ND 58078
Ph: 701.371.3058
kristenknudtson@yahoo.com

Abstract

Grapes from Chile, bananas from Honduras, olives from Italy...all can be seen not only from a “round the world” airline ticket, but a trip to a local grocery store. Global agriculture encompasses and affects our everyday lives, no matter what your profession or age. In most universities and/or colleges today, there exists a large number of opportunities for global agriculture to become a part of a person’s knowledge: Courses are available that directly target specific aspects of global agriculture; Agriculture departments host short study abroad trips to specific locations; Internships and exchange programs allow for hands-on global agriculture experiences to be obtained.

In comparison, secondary education barely scratches the surface of global agriculture. The ability of its offering is greatly hindered by the lack of resources available to these secondary educators. With so few resources available to educators on the subject, global agriculture is falling through the cracks of a secondary education.

With a rising number of opportunities for international agriculture employment and international agribusiness, comes the need for a greater knowledge of global agriculture. This cannot be solely obtained at an advanced education level. The need for global agriculture curriculum must be rooted at the secondary education level for a greater success and knowledge of the subject to occur.

This begs a few questions to be answered: How do secondary education students access information about global agriculture? How do communities learn about global agriculture? What type of curriculum needs to be developed to allow for secondary educators and their students effective learning of global agriculture?

The poster presentation would explore the opportunity for development and structure of a global agriculture curriculum that could be used in a secondary education setting. The development of such a curriculum resource would have the ability to merge global agriculture knowledge with secondary students and communities. Allowing for educators to use advanced technology and resources to maximize the learning techniques of students is a necessity for its development.

Global agriculture knowledge is vital to our everyday lives. It is our job as educators to embrace the opportunity to make a path for secondary students to follow and develop the tools that they will need in the future of the agriculture industry world-wide.

Keywords: Global Agriculture, Teaching, Curriculum Expanding Global Agriculture for Secondary Education: Curriculum Development