Creating International Exchange Opportunities to Undergraduate and Graduate Agricultural Programs

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Introduction
Many colleges and universities are interested in pursuing international academic and experiential exchange programs. Such exchange benefits academic, extension, and research programs in many ways. This is particularly true when the exchange is between a domestic university agricultural program and another university in a country that has a developing or “third-world” economy. However, many agricultural departments and colleges do not know where to start.

Purpose
The purpose of this poster presentation is to demonstrate the experiences of Sam Houston State University in creating an international exchange with Palawan State University, Puerto Princesa, Philippines. The audience should be better equipped to start and develop international exchange at their own individual universities with “sister” universities all over the world.

Major Points to be Shared
Major points to be shared with the audience include: 1) how to find a college or university that is actively looking for a foreign exchange opportunity; 2) making initial contacts with university faculty and administrative officials; 3) hosting international guests and visiting other universities; 4) understanding each other’s educational programs and cultural differences & similarities; 5) analyzing international faculty and student exchange potential; 6) developing teaching and research opportunities; 7) finding funding for student and faculty exchanges; 8) developing long-term university exchange relationships; and 8) evaluating university teaching, extension, and research success.
Conclusions and Educational Importance
The educational importance of this poster is to help agricultural programs at the higher education level to be able to successfully pursue international exchange. The steps to developing rewarding exchange programs are invaluable to those who seriously desire to develop opportunities for teaching, extension, and research programs.

Keywords: International, teaching, extension, research, exchange