

Needs Assessment and Interest Form

Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture A Participatory National Conference on Post-Secondary Education

Introduction and Goal of the Conference:

Activity and interest in post-secondary sustainable agriculture education is increasing throughout the United States. A growing number of colleges and universities are offering courses and curricula related to sustainable agriculture and many are discussing and planning new courses, minors, majors and related activities. However, there has been little dialog addressing this topic across a wide range of disciplines at the national level. Through our discussions with dozens of individuals involved in sustainable agriculture at colleges and universities throughout the US (and a few beyond), we have found strong interest in a national conference on education in sustainable agriculture. Therefore, the UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and Student Farm and the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems are organizing ***Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture: A Participatory National Conference on Post-Secondary Education***, to be held on January 24 -25, 2006 in Pacific Grove, CA. The goal of the conference is to facilitate a national dialog on learning and teaching that informs and promotes the continued development of educational programs in sustainable agriculture within US colleges and universities.

Needs and Interests Assessment:

This conference is being organized to address the needs and interests of the participants. Therefore, the conference will utilize an interactive, participatory format with content being largely determined by conference participants. As the first step in this process, all registrants are asked to fill out this *Needs Assessment and Interest Form*. Your input at this time is necessary to guide the conference planning process. Further input into this process will occur during the conference.

Instructions:

In the attached table are listed a number of rather general possible needs and interests. For each:

A. Score each item according to the following scale:

“0” = no interest; “1” = slight interest; “2” = moderate interest; and, “3” = high interest.

B. As appropriate, make brief comments on specific areas that are of most interest to you within the rather general categories that have been listed.

In addition, there is space for you to add up to four additional categories that you may feel are important to include. Please also score any categories that you may add.

Please return this assessment as an attached file in an email to Albie Miles: afmiles@ucsc at the same time that you mail your conference registration forms and payment.

Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture
A Participatory National Conference on Post-Secondary Education
Needs Assessment and Interest Form

Your Name: _____

Have you sent in your registration? Yes / No

Please indicate if you are
 Faculty, Staff, Administrator, Undergraduate student, or Graduate student _____

Please indicate your home institution: _____

Sustainable Agriculture Education Needs and Interests	Your Score (0-3)
Discussion of existing programs' instructional resources, teaching methods, strategies, and facilities	
<i>(add specific need/interest here)</i>	
Critical examination of educational theories of learning, pedagogy, and curriculum	
Interdisciplinarity, integration of natural & social sciences in courses and curriculum	
The roles of experiential learning, hands-on practical learning, student farms, internships & the integration of classroom and applied field work	
Systems approaches, relating to hard systems (ecosystems, etc.), and soft systems (social learning)	
Exploring the theoretical frameworks of learning and education that best serve the field of sustainable agriculture.	

Sustainable Agriculture Education Needs and Interests	Your Score (0-3)
Exploring the theoretical frameworks of sustainable agriculture and their implications for using specific educational approaches.	
Assessment of specific program development needs	
Strategizing to meet program development needs	
Developing and maintaining institutional and faculty support and participation	
Engaging and responding to internal (campus), and external (public), stakeholders when developing and managing educational programs	
Developing inter-personal and inter-institutional collaborations between sustainable agriculture educational programs.	
Outreach and student recruitment	
Your Additional Needs and Interests Below	# 0-3