

## Recent Travels— Bioeconomy

Viondette Lopez represented NIFA at an event entitled “*Growing the Bioeconomy*” (Canada, 10/03/12). The conference, sponsored by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), the Association for European Life Sciences Universities and the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicines, convened to develop strategies on the growth of international bioeconomies. The meeting generated multidisciplinary approaches among scientists, policy experts and scientific leaders on the implications and global aspects of the bioeconomy. Presentations aimed to advance science in key areas, such as biotechnology, genomics, energy and the development of bio-based products. Experts also presented on policy, social impact on the environment and human capital development needs. The event was attended by 25 land-grant universities and 119 international participants from 12 countries (*Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Sweden, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom*). Some noteworthy projects included an energy/food co-production facility that operates through the University of Ghent, Belgium.

NIFA’s representation reiterated the increasingly important role that LGUs carry out to foster innovation and competitiveness in a global context. NIFA’s representation also emphasized the vital role of the life sciences in research, bioscience education and sustainable economic development partnerships with academia and industry. NIFA (through the LGU system) contributed \$10,000 toward this event; funding that was leveraged for a total \$20,000 contribution toward a graduate student poster competition. Various U.S. graduates were selected and a candidate from the University of Illinois (Department of Agricultural-Biological Engineering) won a prize for her work on the regulatory aspects of synthetic biology. On the margin of these events, academics and experts brainstormed on how curricular programs could be designed and re-invented to meet the growing demands of the *BioCentury*.

For more information contact [Viondette Lopez](#).

## NIFA Helps Facilitate EDEN’s First International Engagement

Over the last several months, leaders from the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) have consulted with both NIFA’s Institute of Youth Family, and Community, and the Center for International Programs on plans to cooperate with disaster experts at the Bicol University in the Philippines. Viewed as a mutually beneficial partnership, this first-of-its-kind arrangement would enable disaster specialists in the United States to share experiences in preparing for and responding to emergencies with counterparts in the Philippines. Recent responses to weather related floods, hurricanes, typhoons and the like are of particular interest to both countries. For further information, contact Drs. [Virginia Morgan White](#), [Beverly Samuel](#), or [Hiram Larew](#).

## **Updated: A Guide to USDA International Programs**

Click [here](#) for an updated guide to USDA's international programs.

## **Upcoming Webinars**

This spring, CIP will feature seminars on Brazilian agriculture, the bioeconomy, climate change, food security, and more. Watch this space for updated information, or sign up for our mailing list below.

## **Other Newsletters**

In this new section, we'd like to feature newsletters from colleagues and stakeholders that may be of interest. Please note that the opinions reflected in these newsletters do not necessarily reflect those of USDA or its affiliates.

[ANZSANA](#)— Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North America

[International Land Coalition](#)

[Center for Global Development](#)

[CRDF](#)— U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation; George Brown Award for International Science Cooperation

[APLU](#)— Association of Public and Land Grant Universities; CII Legislative Update

[Plantwise](#)— Michigan and Ohio ecosystems

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