Working Together for Sustainable Land-use Systems

BACKGROUND
Agroforestry began to attain prominence in the late 1970s, when the international scientific community realized its potentials in the tropics and recognized it as a practice in search of science. During the 1990s, the relevance of agroforestry for solving problems related to deterioration of family farms, increased soil erosion, surface and ground water pollution, and decreased biodiversity was recognized in the industrialized nations too. Thus, agroforestry is now receiving increasing attention as a sustainable land-management option the world over because of its ecological, economic, and social attributes.

Agroforestry research and development are, however, at a crossroads today. The potential of the practices has been amply illustrated, but the investment in a science base has not reached a level that can meet the demand for technology delivery. It is time, therefore, to evaluate progress, assess available options, and design strategies for the future.

PROGRAM
The overall Congress theme is “Working Together for Sustainable Land-use Systems.” Plenary, concurrent, and poster sessions will be organized around five major topics:
- Improvement of Rural Livelihoods
- Enhancement of the Environment and Landscape
- Agroforestry Science and Education
- Policy, Social, and Institutional Issues
- Agroforestry: The Next 25 Years

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
- Academicians
- Development Professionals
- Environmental Consultants
- Extension Specialists
- Farmers/Land Owners
- Government Officials
- Land Managers/Consultants
- Natural Resource and Forestry Professionals
- Non-Government and Private-Voluntary Organizations
- Policy Makers
- Private Sector Representatives
- Scientists
- Students

CONGRESS OBJECTIVES
- To provide a global forum for agroforestry professionals to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas.
- To plan future strategies in agroforestry research, education & training, and development.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS
Planned publications include a state-of-the-art compendium, a summary document, a book of abstracts, and refereed journal articles. A declaration that embodies the essence of Congress deliberations will be developed as a tool for discussions with policy makers and donor agencies to advance the cause of agroforestry worldwide.

SPONSORSHIP
The Congress is being organized as a collaborative effort by a diverse group of institutions worldwide. Current sponsors include the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); M&M/Mars, Inc.; University of Florida/IFAS; and the World Agroforestry Centre/ICRAF. If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort or providing financial assistance in support of the Congress, please contact P.K. Nair.

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