FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

SMALL FARMS IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD:

November 17-20, 2002

The Grosvenor in the Walt Disney World® Resort
Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA

Meeting the challenges of sustainable livelihoods and food security in diverse rural communities

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http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa/
Dear Colleague,

We trust you are making plans to attend the 17th Symposium of the International Farming Systems Association to be held November 17-20, 2002 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA. This announcement includes a number of items to assist you with making arrangements to attend.

We ask everyone with Internet access to use the conference web page whenever possible. You can submit your paper online, register for the conference online and even find out about airline, hotel and other travel arrangements. So take a moment to pull up the web site and add it to your bookmark list.

http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa/

This conference will focus on the direction of international farming systems in this new century and will feature speakers from around the world.

So make plans now to join us for the 17th Symposium of the International Farming Systems Association.

See you in November!

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17th Symposium of the International Farming Systems Association

Small Farms in an Ever-changing World:
Meeting the challenges of sustainable livelihoods and food security in diverse rural communities

November 17-20, 2002

The Grosvenor in the Walt Disney World® Resort,
Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA

Background
Taking a systems approach to agricultural development throughout the world, IFSA holds this global conference every two years so members can share research results and outreach methods. Most regional associations hold their meetings on alternate years so members can attend the global conference wherever it is held. Recent IFSA conferences have been held in Chile (2000), South Africa (1998), Sri Lanka (1996) and France (1994). In 2002, the global IFSA conference returns to the United States, where it was founded, to focus on small farm issues and opportunities. In 1982, Kansas State University hosted a farming systems conference that turned into the first of six annual conferences. Later, the University of Arkansas hosted three annual conferences during which the predecessor organization (Association for Farming Systems Research-Extension, AF SRE) was initiated. Michigan State University hosted three more annual conferences prior to the decision to hold the global conference every other year.

Conference Format
Morning plenary sessions will include opportunities for invited and keynote speakers, and afternoon sessions will feature contributed papers that focus on topics related to the programmatic themes.

Who Should Attend
IFSA, the International Farming Systems Association, is a global organization made up of regional farming systems associations and loosely affiliated individuals. IFSA participants include farming systems practitioners associated with universities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations interested in agricultural development around the world. While early work began with a field and small farm focus, IFSA has increasingly been concerned about sustainable agriculture, policy and ecosystem issues on a watershed or larger scale.

Tool Bazaar and Exhibit Displays
In keeping with tradition, the 2002 Symposium will feature a TOOL BAZAAR, which provides an open forum for participants to demonstrate new instruments, methodological applications, kits, manuals, software and any other tools applicable to farming systems and rural development professionals. This is an excellent opportunity to experience new tools, network with colleagues and share ideas. Participation in the TOOL BAZAAR is open to all registered participants and is free of charge, however, exhibitors must pay all costs associated with setting up their display, including equipment rental, freight and electricity charges or the purchase of items needed to create the display. Exhibit space is limited, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Display specifications and space registration forms are available on the conference web site located at:

http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa/
Programmatic Themes

1. Small Farm Diversification and Competitiveness
   - Options for increasing small farm income
   - Strengthening farmer advisory and support services
   - Gender impacts of commercialization
   - Farmer empowerment and self-help action
   - Challenges facing small farms in high-income countries

2. Engaging Stakeholders in Support of Small Farms
   - Livelihood and resource conservation trade-offs
   - Environmental sources of on-farm income
   - Policy and regulatory frameworks
   - Innovative inter-institutional arrangements
   - Farmer-private sector partnerships and contracts
   - Resource management and conflict resolution
   - Environmental services (habitat preservation, ecotourism, carbon sequestration)
   - Water scarcity and quality

3. Farming Systems Knowledge and Information Systems
   - Implications of the information technology and systems revolution for farming systems practitioners

4. Farming Systems Education and Training
   - Professional training curriculum development in interdisciplinary systems approaches
   - Pushing the frontier in ecosystems management sciences
   - Systems oriented curriculum development for farmers
   - Systems training for field technicians

5. Food Safety and Security
   - Biotechnology, intellectual property rights and conventional technologies and the small farm
   - Food safety and globalization
   - Policies, trade liberalization and the impacts on small farms
   - Small farms and certification

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Call for Papers

All individuals interested in making an oral or poster presentation at the symposium should submit a full paper, including an abstract, by March 15, 2002. All approved papers will be published in a proceedings to be distributed at the conference on CDROM. Papers MUST be submitted electronically via the conference web site, and only electronic submissions of full papers will be considered. Detailed format specifications and submission instructions are posted at:

http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa/

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Tentative Agenda

Day I - Sunday, November 17, 2002
4:00pm - 7:00pm Registration Office Open
1:00pm - 7:00pm Set-Up of Posters, Exhibits and Tool Bazaar Table Top Displays
7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception (Pool Side)

Day II - Monday, November 18, 2002
7:00am - 6:00pm Registration Office Open
7:00am - 6:00pm Posters, Tools & Exhibits on Display (with morning refreshments)
8:00am - 9:30am General Session
9:30am - 10:30am Refreshment Break and Networking (in Poster, Exhibit and Tool Bazaar Display Area)
10:30am - 12:00pm Five Concurrent Sessions
12:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch on Own
1:30pm - 3:00pm Five Concurrent Sessions (continued)
3:00pm - 4:00pm Refreshment Break and Networking (in Poster, Exhibit and Tool Bazaar Display Area)
4:00pm - 5:30pm Five Concurrent Sessions (continued)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Networking Social (in Poster, Exhibit & Tool Bazaar Display Area)

Day III - Tuesday, November 19, 2002
7:00am - 6:00pm Registration Office Open
7:00am - 6:00pm Posters, Tools & Exhibits on Display (with morning refreshments)
8:00am - 9:30am General Session
9:30am - 10:30am Refreshment Break and Networking (in Poster, Exhibit and Tool Bazaar Display Area)
10:30am - 12:00pm Five Concurrent Sessions
12:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch on Own
1:30pm - 3:00pm Five Concurrent Sessions (continued)
3:00pm - 4:00pm Refreshment Break and Networking (in Poster, Exhibit and Tool Bazaar Display Area)
4:00pm - 5:30pm Five Concurrent Sessions (continued)
5:30pm - 6:30pm Networking Social (in Poster, Exhibit & Tool Bazaar Display Area)
7:00pm Deadline for poster presentations, exhibits and displays to be removed

Day IV - Wednesday, November 20, 2002
7:00am - 8:00am Morning Refreshments
7:00am - 12:00pm Registration Office Open
8:00am - 12:00pm General Session
12:00pm Conference Concludes / Remainder of Day on Own
2:00pm - 10:00pm OPTIONAL Behind-the-Scenes Tour of The Land at Epcot
The conference will be held at the beautiful Grosvenor Resort located in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA, just 18 miles from the Orlando International Airport. The Grosvenor is an official hotel of Walt Disney World. It is conveniently located across the street from the famous Downtown Disney, and complimentary shuttle service is offered to a multitude of nearby Disney World® theme parks including Epcot, Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom and MGM Studios, just to name a few.

The Grosvenor is offering a special rate of $99 per night plus 11 percent tax, with one or two people in a room. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference, based on availability.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, contact the hotel directly on its toll free number, 1-800-624-4109. Outside the United States, call the hotel directly at 1-407-828-4444. Be sure to specify you are attending the International Farming Systems Association Symposium. All hotel reservations must be made by Tuesday, October 1, 2002. After this date, neither availability nor the discounted group rate is guaranteed.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: A first night’s room deposit must be made with a credit card, check or cash within 10 days of placing your reservation. For any reservations that “no show” or are canceled within 72 hours of arrival, the deposit will not be refunded. Check-in time is after 3pm and check-out time is 11am. Should you arrive early or depart after these times, baggage storage areas are available for early arrivals and late departures.