

Banking on Biodiversity: The Ecological and Socio-Economic Dimensions of Sustainable Agriculture

October 28, 2006

Tentative Symposium Schedule

- Symposium Goals:**
- 1) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current agricultural practices in terms of:
 - a) their ability to support ecological systems and ecosystem services (including soil and water conservation, nutrient cycling, carbon-sequestration, native species habitat, & riparian buffers) and
 - b) their economic viability.
 - 2) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of organizations or programs dedicated to bridging the Ecology-Economy interface on farms in New England and the Tropics
 - 3) Discuss the role that sustainable agriculture plays in community-building and land stewardship in New England and the tropics.

8:30-9:00am **Registration**

9:00-9:05am **Welcoming Remarks from Antioch University New England President, David Caruso**

9:05-9:15am **CTEC Co-Director, Peter Palmiotta, Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**

9:15-10:00am **Keynote Presentation**

"Living Your Values: How Your Personal and Professional Choices Affect Sustainability"

Dean Cycon, *Founder/Owner, Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company*

Goal/s addressed 1,2 & 3

10:00-10:15am **Coffee/Tea Break**

10:15-12:00pm **Concurrent Panel Sessions**

"Living Histories, Living Economies: Local Alternatives in *in-situ* Agrobiodiversity Conservation from New England and the Tropics"

Continuity and Resistance: Central Vermont Farmers' Motivations for Cultivating Heirloom Vegetables
Virginia Nickerson, Ph.D. *University of Michigan School of Natural Resources*

Local Food Sovereignty, Global Food Security, and Evolving Livelihood Strategies: Economic Change and the *in situ* Conservation of Maize Diversity in the Guatemalan Highlands
Ryan Isakson, Ph.D. Candidate, *University of Mass., Amherst, Dept. of Economics*

Elanor Tison Ph.D., *Green Mountain College*

Spiritual and Cultural Attitudes Towards "Transgenicos" Among Small-Scale Farmers in Highland and Lowland Regions of Chiapas, Mexico"

Tatiana Schreiber, Ph.D., *Vermont College/Union Institute and University*

Moderator Carrie Abels, M.A., *Organizing and Advocacy Program, Antioch University New England*

Goal/s addressed 1&3

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10:15-12:00pm **Concurrent Panel Sessions (continued)**

"The Impact of Local, National and International Policy on Sustainable Agriculture in New England and the Tropics"

A Look at US Agriculture Policy: The Domestic and Global Impacts

Stephanie Demmons, *New England Field Organizer, Oxfam America*

The Environmental Agricultural Effects of CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement)

Abby Lindsay M.A. Candidate, *Tufts University, Dept. of Urban & Environmental*

Sustainable Harvest International: Extension Sustainable Agricultural Growth Strategy in Belize

Nana kofi Mensah, *Belize Country Director, Sustainable Harvest International*

Toward Food Sovereignty in Vermont

Brian Tokar, *Biotechnology Project Director, Institute for Social Ecology*

Moderator Steve Chase Ph.D., *Dir. of Organizing and Advocacy Program, Antioch University New England*
Goal/s addressed 2

"The Economic Viability of Community Supported Agriculture in New England"

Buyers, Sellers and the Channels that Connect Them.

Mary Ann Kristiansen, *Executive Director, Hannah Grimes*

Is Community Supported Agriculture the Answer to a New Farm's Viability Challenges?

Maryellen Sheehan, *CSA Farmer, Village Roots CSA*

Kim Peevy, *Hillside Springs CSA*

Frank Hunter, *Hillside Springs CSA*

Moderator Rachel Thiet Ph.D., *Core Faculty, E.S. Dept., Antioch University New England*
Goal/s addressed 2&3

12:00-1:00pm **Lunch in Community Room**

1:00-1:45pm **General Session (Concurrent Presentations)**

"Small Farming in New England: the Sustainable Edge"

Becky Grube Ph.D., *Extension Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension*

Goal/s addressed 1

"ForesTrade; a Case Study of International Trade in Organic and Fair Trade Products"

Sylvia Blanchet, *Co-Founder, ForesTrade Inc.*

Goal/s addressed 2

"Nature Conservation as a Tool for Stimulating Interest in Declining Farmlands: Experiences from Eastern New York State"

Conrad Vispo Ph.D., *Co-Founder, Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorn Valley Farm*

Claudia Knab-Vispo, Ph.D., *Coordinator, Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorn Valley Farm*

Goal/s addressed 1&3

1:45-2:00pm **Coffee/Tea Break**

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2:00-3:45pm **Concurrent Panel Sessions**

"Sustainable Agriculture and the Conservation Objectives"

Reconciling Agriculture and the Conservation Agenda

Sue Ellen Johnson Ph.D., *New England Small Farm Institute*

Sustainable Agriculture and Land Conservation in Southwestern New Hampshire

Emily Hague, *Stewardship Manager, Monadnock Conservancy*

Steve Davis, *Co-founder, Cold Pond Community Land Trust*

Tracie Smith, *Owner, Tracie's Farm CSA*

Moderator Peter Palmiotto M.F.S., D.F, *Core Faculty, E.S. Dept., Antioch University New England, Co-Director, Center for Tropical Ecology and Conservation*

Goal/s addressed 1&2

"Sustainable Agriculture working from New England to Central America"

Resources, Rights and Livelihoods: an Overview of Political, Social, Ecological and Economic Situation as they Relate to Agriculture in Toledo, Belize

Sophia Haines Ph.D. Candidate, *University College London, Dept. of Anthropology*

Saving Trees by Saving Families: Sustainable Agriculture in Central America

Phil Bailey, *Development Coordinator, Sustainable Harvest International*

Sustainable Harvest International: Extension Sustainable Agricultural Growth Strategy in Belize

Nana kofi Mensah, *Belize Country Director, Sustainable Harvest International*

Measuring Success, Gauging Problems: The Necessity of Monitoring and Evaluating our Sustainable Agriculture Programs

Ashley Mason, *B.S Environmental Conservation, University of New Hampshire*

Moderator Christine Armiger, M.S. Candidate, *Conservation Biology, Antioch University New England*

Goal/s addressed 1&2

"Sustainable Agriculture and Community Building"

Ellen Denny, *CSA Farmer, Orchard Hill CSA*

Barb Davis *Co-founder, Cold Pond Community Land Trust*

Moderator Becky Grube Ph.D., *Extension Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension*

Goal/s addressed 3

3:45-4:00pm **Coffee/Tea Break**

4:00-4:50pm **Creating Links and Partnerships**

5:00-5:15pm **Closing Remarks from CTEC**

5:15-6:00pm **Reception**