

PROGRAM: Friday, 31 / 5

ONE & TWO

- Designing follow-up projects

Emotions, imagination vital to making dreams a reality

Meeting professional challenges, say workshop participants, goes beyond purely technical knowledge. Emotions and imagination are necessary, as well.

"We have a natural tendency to only think technically, but we have to be more human," said Paulo Pelissaro, the Coordinator of Animal Health of Cargill Inc..

Workshop facilitator Richard Bawden believes that "rarely in universities do we talk about emotions." And combining talk about emotions, he says, with looking, thinking, planning and acting is needed to meet the challenges within animal, human

New sources of food, diseases from space and social harmony: The planet Earth in 2038?

Will our world be in harmony or chaos in the year 2038?

It is difficult to predict, of course. But this did not prevent the participants of the Local Action Global Health workshop, held May 26-30, to tap into their imaginations and envision what could be.

"If we do not think about the future today, one of those scenarios (that we may imagine) will happen," said Richard Bawden, workshop facilitator.

The first of six groups predicted a water crisis, a rise in temperature, and food and alternative plants resistant to high temperatures. They also predicted environmental changes and social policies at odds with agricultural development. Climate change on the moon will also be an



Jorge Nuñez of Ecuador and Raúl Roccatagliata of Argentina.

important factor to take into account, theorized group one.

Group two saw an interesting partnership between humans and technology. Personal identification bands worn on our bodies will contain personal and financial data. This technol-

ogy will allow the expansion of global trade with less trade barriers.

Declining water resources, acid rain, modified foods, high temperatures and an addiction to technology are prevalent in the world envisioned by group three. Families living in

A voice for justice and dignity for women living in rural areas



Magalí Costa
National Network of Rural Women (RENAMUR)

While just one voice among those attending the Prepared Communities workshop, Magalí Costa speaks for many.

Costa represents the National Network of Rural Women (RENAMUR). The organization works to protect the justice and dignity of more than 70,000 women living in rural conditions in Latin America by developing economic services for women. These include a micro-credit loan system and helping women establish

their own businesses.

"Economic development is a necessity in the development of women," says Costa whose work has been concentrated in Mexico.

Part of Costa's responsibility is creating and marketing a line of products created by women. All of the products are handmade and include food, health products and items for home decor.

In partnership with organizations from Italy, Brazil and Colombia, the network that Costa has created aims to

sell these items in those countries, as well.

Costa's commitment to this cause is reflected in her belief that the program is improving the quality of life of the women and rural families with whom she works. Already there are several stories of women who have achieved economic goals and levels of respect and solidarity that were once only dreams.

Visit RENAMUR at:
www.renamur.org.mx



Science key to better nutrition for those in need

Marília Regina Nutti
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(EMBRAPA)*

Blindness, rickets, anemia, diarrhea and immunological problems are illnesses that are outcomes of hunger. Food insecurity across the globe means that millions of people living in poverty do not consume the minimum daily amounts of vitamin A, iron and zinc.

In an effort to overcome this nutritional deficiency, the Harvest Plus initiative was born in 2003 out of an alliance between two organizations, AgroSalud, and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Company (BARC). Together, these two organizations are fulfilling their private missions to develop, evaluate and disseminate bio-fortified crops to enrich food for consumption by select populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Marília Regina Nutti is part of this joint work and devoted to improving the health of undernourished populations and the nutritional value of available food resources.

Her specific work team is focused the bio-fortification of crops. A goal is engineering foods to retain a high level of nutritional value, even after processing and cooking that might lessen the nutritional impact. Nutti is also helping develop new markets for farmers to increase the demand for bio-fortified crops.

Increasing the levels of micronutrients in crops is a 10 year investment. Examples of current research interests include enriching yellow cassava with zinc and adding vitamin A to red cassava.

Harvest Plus is part of the broader Global Challenge Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It is coordinated by the Institute of International Food Policy Research (IFPRI).

Official Websites: www.harvestplus.org;
www.agrosalud.org; www.ctaa.embrapa.br

New sources of food, diseases from space (From page 1)

150-floor buildings will depend on solar energy. After a hurricane in 2013 destroys most of America, this practice of sustainable energy saving becomes crucial for survival. The small portion of agricultural land that will still exist will serve to feed families.

Costa Rica and Panama are the only surviving countries in Central America in 2038, says group four, due to increasing water levels and temperatures that threaten public health. Whales are an important food source and genetically modified foods have lead to sterile crops. A positive outcome is that Latin America is now committed to social and economic welfare and family values.

Science and technology play key roles in group five's 2038. Scientists have discovered how to increase milk production by allowing cows to sleep on water beds and listen to classical music; the company Kentucky Fried Chicken stopped selling chicken and will be devoted to the

business of seaweed; and, in 2038, the Center of Underwater Research at EARTH University will discover the wonders of dolphin milk. The moon will be visited more frequently during the next 30 years, as well.

Life is healthy and dignified in 2038 says group six. Due to the signing of the Kyoto Protocol by the United States of America in 2010, everyone now lives in greater harmony. Humans have grown to understand that one person alone cannot cope with challenges such as hunger, protecting water sources and making water more accessible to people, and combating global warming. These have consequently become group missions.

Acting as innovative leaders and picturing how our world may end up allows us to better understand the changes currently confronting our societies and how to achieve a just and equitable relationship between humans, animals and environment.

Emotions, imagination needed to achieve better living (From page 1)

and environmental health.

For Juan Garza, a professor from the National University of Mexico, imagination is an indispensable element that has enabled the success of this week's workshop. We must do better at "trying to imagine the world we want," said Garza.

In that sense, "we must promote convergence," said Jeannette Ayestas, a human health and food safety specialist from Honduras.

Recognizing scenarios affecting human, animal and environmental health, "changing the paradigm," "starting from scratch," "erasing the hard drive and learning as a child," were other requirements mentioned by participants in imagining the future.

Santiago Urcelay, a professor at the University of Chile,

commented, "I have to revert to being a little child, and be simpler to dream a better world."

"I always wonder, what I must stop doing in order to figure out what better thing could be done," said Arsenio Vasconcellos of Paraguay.

"What is difficult to recognize," said Pilar Agudelo, "is that the paradigms in which we have been operating are difficult to break. We often do not anticipate what must be done when "our cheese is moved," noted Agudelo, a Colombian health and safety specialist, echoing thoughts from the popular book, "Who Moved My Cheese?"

"You have to first change your community to change your country. And, in changing your country, you change the world," suggested Freddy Madrigal, the Agricultural Administrator for Cargill Inc. in Guatemala.