

# Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture

## *About the Consortium*

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### Introduction

The growing challenge of feeding the world's population while simultaneously reducing environmental pollution suggests the need to actively seek effective solutions on a worldwide scale. Two critical contributions toward solving the aforementioned problem are training of highly-qualified professionals and research to solve key problems.

The significance of this issue is growing with each new achievement in biological, physical, or social science. Up-to-date technologies such as biotechnology, improved storage, intercontinental shipping, precision agriculture, and agroecological approaches to production lend themselves to further development through global cooperation in education and research. The application of science and technology is essential to solving world food problems. Training our future work force in these areas is a challenge for the 21st Century. Global cooperation can assist in the dissemination of developments in teaching and scientific research activities.

Political and economic changes in the world occurring within the past 10 years have eliminated a large amount of global confrontation among nations. Global cooperation offers a mechanism for tackling the aforementioned problems.

### Background

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the NAUU, Kyiv, Ukraine, a scientific conference was held entitled, “*Globalizing Agricultural Higher Education and Science: Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century.*” Participants included over 400 representatives from 30 different countries. At the conference, the idea of a global consortium was born.

The three universities organizing the conference proposed a structure for a global consortium. They are:

- *Iowa State University*  
(Ames, Iowa, USA)
- *National Agricultural University of Ukraine*  
(Kyiv, Ukraine)
- *Humboldt University*  
(Berlin, Germany)

Each of these universities pledged to identify and recruit other universities to participate in the consortium. At the conference, other universities from Europe and the United States stepped forward to join the Founding Committee of the Global Consortium of Agricultural Universities.

In 1999, the consortium held a conference in Amsterdam with the theme of Leadership for Higher Education in Agriculture. The Founding and Organizing Committees met at this time and made several important decisions:

1. **The new name of the organization** will be the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture.
2. **An Executive Committee** would replace the Founding and Organizing Committees.
3. **Dr. Martin Jischke** would remain as President until the next conference scheduled for 2001.
4. **Dr. Dmytro Melnychuk** was elected as President-Elect and will take over as President at the conference in 2001.

## Consortium Leadership

The founding president of the Global Consortium of Agricultural Universities (now Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture) is President Martin C. Jischke of Iowa State University of Science and Technology. Dr. Jischke is the President of Iowa State University and a professor of Aerospace Engineering. Dr. Jischke is also the past chair of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in the United States. Dr. Dmytro Melnychuk is President-Elect of the Consortium. Dr. Melnychuk is Rector of the National Agricultural University of Ukraine.

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## Consortium Mission and Goals

The mission of the Consortium is to foster global cooperation for the improvement of higher education and research for agriculture as a prerequisite to solving the food security and environmental problems confronting our world.

### The goals are as follows:

- **Development of a world system of cooperation** in higher education and research for agriculture utilizing conferences, working groups, and new information technologies to facilitate interaction on a global scale, and;
- **Support activities and close cooperation** with international organizations in the areas of international education, and agricultural research and development (UNESCO, FAO, TACIS, OECD, TEMPUS, USAID, etc.).

## Objectives of the Consortium

- conduct international scientific conferences on topics of critical importance;
- share international models of curricula for training professionals in the field of agriculture;
- assist members in the reform and alignment of curricula for each specialization in agriculture;
- promote the exchange of faculty and students;
- provide assistance to universities in the reform of their organizational structure and activities;
- organize and promote working groups on topics of interest to members;
- organize international schools of professional improvement for university administrators and faculty;

- implement and disseminate up-to-date achievements in applying fundamental and applied sciences and information technologies in teaching;
- organize the publication of a proceedings of each conference; and,
- support the activities of existing international organizations such as UNESCO, the InterUniversity Conference of Agricultural and Related Universities, FAO, USAID, USIA, and special state and private foundations.

## Organizational Dimensions of the Consortium

### Management of the Consortium

Member universities, colleges, institutes, and associations in good standing will elect the Executive Committee of the Consortium. The members of the Consortium Executive Committee will elect a president-elect. These officers will operate as an Executive Committee. Details are available in the Bylaws.

### Conditions for membership in the Consortium

- Membership will include universities, colleges, institutes, education associations, and international organizations devoted to the improvement of higher education and research for agriculture.
- Membership is open to any university or research institute in the world which trains professionals and/or conducts research in the areas of agriculture, forestry/natural resources, fishery, storage and processing of agricultural products, plant protection, veterinary medicine, and the social sciences associated with agriculture.
- Payment of membership fees (U.S. \$25/year).

### Potential sources of funding for Consortium activities

- Donor support (UNESCO, FAO, OECD, USAID, EU, USIA)
- Membership fees of partner universities (annual membership fees)
- International grants and programs
- Donations (international foundations, individual donations)
- Payment for services rendered in reforming the programs of certain universities
- Loans
- Publishing activity