

## An Interdisciplinary Team Approach to International Collaboration in Organic Agriculture

*In 2006, an interdisciplinary team from the NC State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences received an International Science and Education grant from USDA-CSREES to create new programs focused on organic production and marketing. The project builds on an existing relationship between the University of North Carolina system and the nation of Uruguay to promote internationalization of NCSU research, extension, and education and strengthen cross-cultural services and programs.*

### *Project period:*

1 May 2006 – 30 April 2010

### *Cooperating CALS Departments:*

Animal Science  
Agricultural & Resource Economics  
Crop Science  
Food Science  
Horticultural Science

### *Partner Institutions in Uruguay:*

BIO-Uruguay  
Universidad de la Empresa

### *Project Objectives:*

- Increase knowledge of international organic production technologies, marketing, and food safety
- Initiate international collaborative research on organic agriculture in Uruguay
- Assist in the internationalizing the outlook of extension programs in North Carolina
- Integrate international themes and examples into food and agriculture courses at NCSU

## Project Calendar

### *September 2006 - September 2007:*

- Team recruitment
- Project website development

### *Ongoing*

- Spanish language training

### *December 2007*

- **Short Course in Uruguay**

### *May 2008 – April 2009*

- Student exchange programs in Uruguay
- Extension activities in North Carolina
- Research and education proposal development with Uruguayan collaborators

### *May 2009 - April 2010*

- Communication of project results
- Campus seminar series on Uruguay
- Culminating workshop in North Carolina



**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

BIO uruguay  
INTERNACIONAL



Batoví Instituto Orgánico

UDE  
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA EMPRESA

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## International Collaboration in Organic Agriculture



*Opportunities for  
Research, Extension, and  
Education in Uruguay*

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY  
BATOVÍ INSTITUTO ORGÁNICO  
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA EMPRESA**

# Become a Member of the Project Team

## Working Groups

Six project working groups, each coordinated by one of the project leaders, have been organized to address the following themes:

*Organic Crop Production*  
Paul Mueller

*Organic Horticulture*  
Nancy Creamer

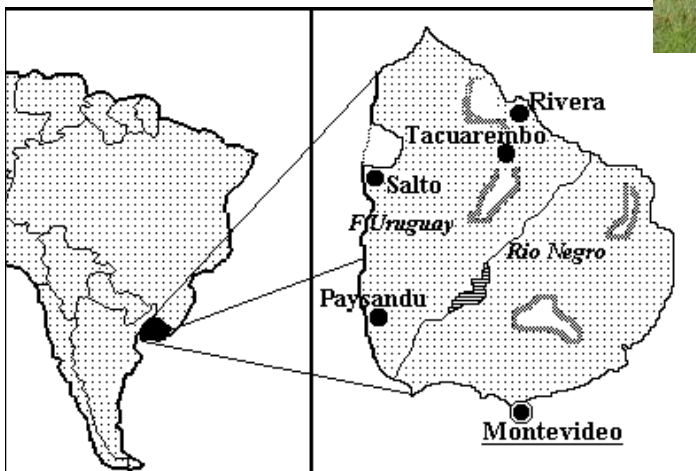
*Organic Livestock Production*  
Jean-Marie Luginbuhl

*Food Safety & Organic Production*  
Sophia Kathariou

*Marketing & Economics of Organic Crops*  
Gary Bullen

*Int'l & Organic Agriculture Education*  
Michelle Schroeder

Each working group leader is responsible for recruiting additional team members composed of students (graduate or undergraduate), extension agents, and university faculty. The project goal is to involve 10 extension agents and 6 students for the project team. The entire project team when fully formed will consist of 24 members. Additional members may be recruited as funding and interest permit.



## Project Activities

- Spanish language study
- Organic production short course in Uruguay (based at BIO-Uruguay)
- One of the following special projects:
  1. collaborative research or extension proposal with Uruguayan colleagues (Faculty team members)
  2. study abroad or research program in Uruguay (Student team members)
  3. extension program or project in NC (Extension team members)
- On-campus seminar series on Uruguay
- Visits from Uruguayan collaborators
- Culminating project workshop
- Project website



*BIO-Uruguay, the host of the project short course on organic production, is the only institute in Uruguay dedicated to agroecological research and education. BIO is located in Tacuarembó, approximately 4 hours from Montevideo. Cattle represent the primary agricultural activity in the area. The region is also considered the heart of gaucha culture in Uruguay.*



## Project Provisions

Members of the Uruguay team will receive the following:

- Spanish language training tools (such as computer software, tutoring, etc.)
- Funding to support travel to and participation in the Organic Production Short Course in Uruguay
- Opportunity to apply for funding to support a study abroad or research program (to cover travel, living, and/or project expenses)
- Funding to support an extension program

## Commitment

This four-year project began in May, 2006, and will conclude in April, 2010. **Project team members must make a commitment to participate in the project through April 2010.** Student team members must be able to participate during the following academic years: 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010.

It is suggested that undergraduate students have sophomore standing during the 2007/2008 school year. Juniors who anticipate graduating in December 2009 or May 2010 may also be invited to join the project team. Invited graduate students should have an anticipated graduation date no earlier than December 2009.

All project participants are expected to attend and contribute to special seminars, group planning sessions, workshops and to make a commitment to improving their Spanish language skills.

Due to limited funding, participants will be asked to augment existing funds by leveraging resources where possible. It is estimated that each individual will be responsible for a maximum of \$400. Project leaders will provide assistance in securing these funds from additional sources.