

CAN ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2009

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Executive Summary

2008 was an important year for CAN. During our fifth year as an official 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization we experienced the foundational growth that will strengthen the organization as we continue to develop our programs to meet our mission. We have seen growth in staff positions, community participation, university student involvement, researcher collaboration and outreach. For CAN staff in 2008, three newly funded positions were created:

- it was the first full year of funding for the Co-Director position (which had been a volunteer position);
- a newly created Associate Director position was developed and funded to support the organizational work as well as develop the alternative trade program and Participatory Action Research (PAR) programs;
- and a staff position for marketing coordinator was also created to manage the alternative trade programs (this had previously been a student position).

Community participation from the network partners increased in several ways:

- the addition of a sixth community to our network with the affiliation of the partner organization Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo led by PAR liaison Dr. Francisco Rosado May, president of the University. He is working with Mayan communities in the state of Quintana Roo on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico engaging Mayan students in sustainable community development;
- the establishment of internship coordinators in five of the CAN communities;
- and our first intern coordinator meeting and training was held in Santa Cruz.

University student involvement also continued to expand:

- the students at UCSC were actively engaged in multiple aspects of their student organization, Friends of CAN, from student leadership to teaching high school students to organizing conferences and much more;
- students from UCSC and other universities participated in our field internship program;
- and courses from University of Vermont and Cal State-Monterey Bay participated in 2-week field courses in CAN partner communities.

The PAR researchers, whose work with the communities forms the core of CAN, continued their collaboration with the hosting of the IX Annual Agroecology Shortcourse in the Yucatan, Mexico. In addition researchers in three of the coffee growing regions are collaborating on data collection and analysis so we are able to analyze ecological and social factors in diverse regions of Mesoamerica. Finally our outreach efforts have expanded in a range of areas from an Agroecology strand organized by PAR liaison, Chris Bacon at the Specialty Coffee Assn's annual conference; to CAN participating in and organizing regional conferences for the west coast; to educating high school students about food systems and agroecology.

In our 3 program areas: Action Education, Participatory Research, and Alternative Trade we have analyzed our strengths and what works best to meet our overall goals. This has led to the development of strategic plans for both our Action Education and Alternative Trade programs. Reports on these programs are included in this report and provide a summary of accomplishments, challenges and future directions.

Robbie Jaffe
Co-Director

CAN Financial Report

The following summarizes updates and new components to the 2008 budget.

CAN Staffing Positions

Position	Who	% FTE	Funding Source
Co-Director	Robbie	.6	UCSC/ Webster Foundation
Co-Director	Ernesto	.2	In-kind
Program Coord.	Karie	1.0	Webster Foundation
Marketing Coord.	Daniela	1.0	Webster -.6/ Other (CSC, Mulago, income) -.4
Outreach Coord.	Grace	1.0	Webster Fdn
*Associate Director	Eric	1.0	Webster -.6/ Mulago-.4

* This position began in January 2009

Additional Positions:

Student Stipends	3-5 per quarter	CSC Grant
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2008 Sources of Income

Grants	\$168,000
Coffee Sales	\$111,000
Internships & Field Courses	\$ 30,000
Shortcourse	\$ 7,000
Donations	\$ 6,000
In-kind	\$70,000
TOTAL	\$399,000

2008 Funds to Communities

	Tacuba	Agua Buena	Matagalpa	Yucatan	QRoo
Interns/Field Courses	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000			
Research	\$ 2,500	\$ 800	\$ 10,000		
Coffee Sales	1,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 8,000		
Intercambio	3,000	3,000	3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Shortcourse				\$ 5,000	
Total	\$140,300	\$19,500	\$ 88,800	\$ 21,000	\$ 8,000

Grants

Key grants received in 2008:

Helen and Will Webster Foundation

In 2008 CAN received \$127,000 from the Webster Foundation for core staff support from July 2008-June 30 2009. In addition, Robbie's position is supported from a Webster Foundation grant to UCSC. This grant supports staff in the development of the Sustainable Living Center (SLC) at UCSC, a place where students get hands-on education on environmental and sustainability education. The SLC brings together the CAN and PICA programs and is institutionalizing them within the Environmental Studies Dept. of UCSC.

Campus Sustainability Council (CSC)

This is a UCSC grant to the student group, Friends of CAN, from the CSC- a student led group that allocates funding from student fees for organizations doing work related to the Campus Blueprint for Sustainability. In 2008 we received two grants for approximately \$35,000 total plus a permanent funding grant for a student staff position of \$8000=\$47,000.

This funding supports our student marketing coordinator position, core work of Friends of CAN/CAN at UCSC and supported the Intercambio when representatives from 5 communities came to UCSC for 2 weeks to plan and promote internship programs for their communities.

Mulago Foundation

In 2008 Mulago continued to support CAN with \$50,000 that went toward the development of a business plan for conservation-based coffee, support of baseline data collection and analysis for 3 CAN researchers with their communities and support of staff to begin the implementation of AgroEco coffee. The business plan has been accomplished, the baseline data collected and AgroEco is being launched. At this point we do not expect to receive further funding from Mulago.

Fiscal Planning

In 2009 we are shifting our fiscal year from January through December to July through June.

This is to provide better alignment with the school year which so much of our planning revolves around. As we present this report we are at the beginning of our new fiscal year. We are entering it with several fiscal goals:

- to diversify our sources of funding
- to increase our income revenue
- to ensure that funds are directed toward community based projects
- to plan for fiscal 2011 staff support

We are also in a position of needing an additional \$41,000 in staff funds for 2009-10 from a total of \$250,000 to cover personnel. For the coming year we are setting the following objectives for our fundraising plan:

CAN - Fundraising Plan for Fiscal Year 2009-10

Needs	Grants	Donors/Memb	Income	Events
Salary 09-10 - \$41,000	X		X	
Salary 2010-11 - \$250,000	X		X	
Database - \$5,000			X	
Technology - \$3,000			X	
Intercambio 2010 - \$5,000		X		X
Comm. Fund - \$15,000		X		X
Misc. - \$5,000				
TOTAL	\$324,000	\$270,000	\$5,000	\$40,000*
				\$10,000

* Income represents the % of funds that stays with the organization. It does not include the funds that are transferred to the partner communities.

x the bold x signifies the dominant source of funds for that line item

Action Education Program July 2008 - June 2009

By Karie Boone, CAN Program Coordinator and Grace Voorheis, CAN Outreach Coordinator

International field internships

What a year! Our efforts have been characterized by opening spaces for more involvement from diverse actors in the network. As the network strengthens we are taking time to more clearly define roles and guidelines for participation in CAN.

To facilitate this, we hosted el Intercambio in Santa Cruz at the end of October 2008. Internship Coordinators from 5 communities throughout Central America and Mexico converged to define the international network in the context of the international internship program. We envisioned together, planned programs, and tirelessly attended events and presentations to promote the program. Since then, we have maintained monthly conference calls with all the coordinators to share experiences, resources, and *chisme* across borders.



The fruits of these labors are now being harvested as we prepare student interns to participate in pilot programs in the Yucatan with the Intercultural University in the state of Quintana Roo and with the research group PROTROPICO at the Univeridad Autonimo de Yucatan in Yucatan State; as well as in Nicaragua with la UCA San Ramon coffee growing cooperative. The program continues with a new coordinator in Agua Buena, Costa Rica at the CoopePueblos cooperative while ASINDEC, our organizational partner in Tacuba, El Salvador is currently hosting its final interns for 2009. From July 2008 – June 2009 we have sent 19 interns through the CAN network. With hope that the pilot programs run smoothly, we are projecting to increase participation to 30 interns in 2009–10.

Although enhanced communication has proven key to balancing the community needs with those of visiting students, there still seems to be a missing link in the program development. To address this, we look forward to defining a more active role from the PAR liaisons to continue strengthening and improving the impact of CAN's programs. Namely, we see the need for a more defined connection between PAR principles and projects with the projects that CAN interns participate in during their 10 week stay. This connection has the potential to improve the impact of the program on multiple levels, including with the community, research goals, and student experience.

The CAN headquarters in Santa Cruz has been working on the coordination of resources and program development with each individual intern coordinator by offering sample procedures and developing formal agreements that outline roles and intentions. Our outreach has been focused on the UC Santa Cruz campus and the surrounding Bay Area universities. We look

forward to improving on marketing the program by allocating resources towards the website and updated promotional materials in order to reach more students from different universities. This strategy also includes more networking and outreach events in collaboration with CAN's Marketing and Outreach programs. As we grow it will be essential to overlap our efforts across program areas in an effective manner.

In addition, this Spring we held strategic planning sessions building on the visions developed during the intercambio and taking them a step further to strategize our trajectory for the next few years. Below are some of the main goals that came from the 2 days of meetings:

- Have efficiently structured programs and components in both the CAN offices and partner organizations. This includes having more structured preparation and projects that involve student, faculty, and communities.
- To increase the stability of the program in CAN partner communities and to make sure it is accessible to all students, CAN will maintain an ongoing flow of students who are prepared through a structured orientation program that includes an introduction to project management skills.
- Diversification of funding support for field internship infrastructure
- Integrate CAN's international internship activities, before, during and after the experience, more directly with PAR Research.

Each location and program is unique in its own context, but the thread that bonds us all together is a common set of values shared around sustainability, education and interculturality.

2 Week Field Courses

As part of developing the Action Education program, CAN began coordination of 2 week Field Courses in the partner communities. This year two courses were offered. One was organized and facilitated by PAR Researcher and Co-Director, Ernesto Mendez through the University of Vermont to Tacuba, El Salvador. Based on this model CAN organized a two-week field course to Agua Buena, Costa Rica. In the beginning, this pilot project was planned as an "alternative spring break", an idea which still holds potential for the future. Our university partner, a professor at California State University Monterey Bay, expressed interest in sponsoring a field course of his own, so the projects were merged.

The course focused on developing community business strategies with support from on-the-ground TA and CAN research liaison, Nick Babin, to work with 15 students in Agua Buena, Costa Rica. As with the 10-week internships, the project component of the course provided excellent context for academic concepts learned at their university, as well as providing valuable information to the cooperative through community-based projects. This type of 2-week educational experience has proven to be mutually beneficial in the financial sense as well by supporting local homestays and the cooperative. Including staff time and overhead necessary in coordination, the course brought about \$3500 income to CAN and is a viable program for the future.



The longevity of this project depends on several factors. We have found that a successful model for the course prototype includes: CAN partnering with a faculty at a college or university



to sponsor the course and that the PAR researcher or other qualified CAN staff organize the course with the partner community and be a co-instructor for the course. In this coming year CAN staff will reach out to other qualified professors and field course coordinators on university campuses in order to further develop this model. We will work with professors on course focus and curriculum content to ensure appropriate preparedness for students and faculty participating, coordinating logistics, etc. We are planning to coordinate at least two of these courses in the coming year.

Program: Alternative Trade Solutions

By Eric Gabriel, CAN Associate Director and Daniela Aceves, CAN Marketing Coordinator

Purpose:

The Alternative Trade Solutions program and its role within CAN is expanding as new communities and initiatives have developed over the course of the last year. One of the primary goals for marketing is to continue educating members and the public about the work that CAN and the network partners are doing to promote sustainable community development. The marketing program also focuses on increasing access to markets for coffee growing communities and fostering direct relations between producers and consumers. At the moment the marketing program concentrates its efforts in three primary program areas:



*Picture above is of coffee being roasted for the CoopePueblos Cooperative in Costa Rica

1. Fair Trade Direct (FTD) program

A.) Value-Added Relationship: CAN works with the CoopePueblos cooperative in Agua Buena, Costa Rica to create a direct relationship between consumers and producers. Through the FTD program consumers can place an order and have coffee that is grown, harvested and roasted in community shipped directly to them from the farmer cooperative in Costa Rica. This allows for the highest return possible to the community, nearly four times the amount received through Fair Trade Certified™.

B.) Profit Share Program – This program

currently supports CAN two partner coffee cooperatives: UCA San Ramon in Nicaragua and CoopePueblos in Costa Rica. Through the profit sharing program, coffee from these cooperatives is imported and stored at a U.S. roaster as green beans. Through different relationships and collaborations that CAN has established, the coffee is then sold and marketed. The final profits are shared between CAN and the corresponding community to help further their efforts toward sustainable community development.

2. **Educational Outreach** – This program educates consumers and students around issues of fair trade, environmental sustainability, and farmer livelihood. Educational outreach works with consumers, CAN members, and university students to create conscious citizens who support and understand how their actions and purchases can create a more sustainable world.
3. **AgroEco Coffee™** – The AgroEco Coffee initiative is *new for 2009* and creates a partnership through a collaborative network involving researchers, roasters, farmer cooperatives, and CAN to develop long-term relationship agreements to support coffee farmers and provide agroecological stewardship, participatory monitoring and evaluation, increased return for coffee, and accessible data to all partners on environmental and livelihood outcomes. An example of one of the partnerships established in 2009 involves Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting (SCCR) and CoopePueblos cooperative in Agua Buena, Costa Rica. As a result of this partnership, SCCR has recently launched their new line of AgroEco Coffee and this collaboration has resulted in:
 - Increased tropical biodiversity
 - Greater economic return to farmers and cooperative
 - Direct relationship between coffee producers and roasters (and ultimately consumers)

- Accessible data to roasters and consumers about coffee farms and farm families

Market Sales Update 2009

Costa Rican Sales Report:

July 2008 – June, 2009

	Lbs Sold	Return to Community (\$)
FairTrade Direct	5,723 lbs	\$54,813
UCSC- PERK	1200 lbs	\$7,200
Office*	1,275 lbs	\$8,925
AgroEco	3,344 lbs	\$6,688
TOTAL	11,542 lbs.	\$77,624

Nicaraguan Sales Report:

January – June, 2009

	Lbs Sold	Return to Community (\$)
UCSC & Office**	1,971 lbs	\$4,435

*Office includes sales from Farmers Market, CAN Office, and special accounts

** The return to the community is estimated based on a prior six month return of \$2.25 per pound

New Developments:

- Launching of AgroEco Coffee™ Initiative:
 - Partnership developed with 2 Roasters and 1 Coffee Importer (representing 24 roasters)
 - Successfully imported 30 sacks (150 lbs./sack) of Nicaragua and 30 sacks of Costa Rican green beans from CAN coffee partner
 - Importing of coffee and launch of AgroEco Coffee Initiative in collaboration with Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company
 - Development of marketing materials for initiative
- Santa Cruz-based coffee roasting established for CAN partners for current customers, universities, and future wholesale clients

Key Accomplishments

- Established CAN subscriber list of over 1,800 members
- Successfully imported and delivered 12 sacks of green bean coffee to a new campus - Evergreen University - via Olympia Coffee Roasting.
- Educated and marketed information about CAN and sustainable coffee to roughly 2,400 students in Fall, Winter & Spring 2008-09 through the Dining Hall Education campaign and Preview Day at UCSC,
- Successful transition from paper newsletter to E-Newsletter
- Established and launched new price



Coopueblos Cooperative prepares Fair Trade Direct coffee mailing with support of student interns.

Needs & Challenges

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- More user-friendly shopping cart and website
- Providing sustainable packaging for FairTrade Direct orders
- Increasing sales for 2009-10
- Effectively promote and publicize our Holiday campaign
 - Identify and transition to a new database to improve customer care and communication
- Educate consumers about the importance and value of AgroEco Coffee in a clear, concise manner
- Involving more roasters in the AgroEco Coffee network

Looking Forward to 2009-10:

CAN is excited about the many new changes and initiatives for the coming year. We are looking forward to increasing customer outreach and seeing growth in the Fair Trade Direct market and AgroEco Coffee™ initiative as well as increasing the effectiveness of customer service and support.

In witnessing the growth and development for the new AgroEco Coffee™ line, it seems to date that there is no initiative quite like AgroEco Coffee. We feel that CAN may become a pioneer in furthering the sustainability movement, transparency in reporting, and education of consumers. We are seeing potential opportunities to collaborate with international development agencies who share similar goals around sustainable community development. We have also witnessed a lot of excitement about AgroEco Coffee on the part of roasters and look forward to seeing the response from consumers to this new product as well as the recent launch of a new coffee learning center by Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company to highlight some of the work being done by university researchers around agroecology in the CAN partner community in Agua Buena, Costa Rica. Additionally, we hope to develop AgroEco Tourism and offer to roasters, consumers, and members of the CAN network the opportunity to meet and interact with the CAN coffee growing communities and potentially with other CAN communities that don't produce coffee.

Finally, we are excited to continue to be part of the commitment by the University of California Santa Cruz to provide CAN coffee in the dining halls and coffee stations across campus. The university's continued support and commitment to sustainable community development (of both the environmental and livelihood) of the CAN partner coffee communities further strengthens our presence and connection with the farm-to-college movement and education.

Agua Buena Annual Report: July 2008-June 2009

By Nick Babin, Ph.D. candidate UCSC and CAN Research Liaison

2008-2009 was an active year for work in CAN/ Coopepueblos's shared research, marketing and education programs. In July, 2008 I began a year-long spell of dissertation field research. We carried out 116 livelihood surveys, 54 from Coopepueblos Coffee Cooperative and 62 from randomly selected farm-households in the district of Agua Buena. We also conducted 72, 1000 m² tree inventories, one in each of Coopepueblos's 54 coffee-producing farms and 18 from randomly selected coffee farms in the district. This data, compiled in an MS Access database and currently being analyzed, will provide key baseline information for future research, marketing and intern projects.



In July, 3 coop members, 1 staff member and I traveled to Matagalpa, Nicaragua to engage in an agroecological exchange with our partner community, San Ramon and CAN researcher Chris Bacon. The trip was very successful and the Coopepueblos farmers and I were trained in the tree inventory methodologies.



In February, CAN Directors: Steve Gliessman and Robbie Jaffe visited the community and a workshop was carried out with Coopepueblos farmers to divulge research results as well as discuss the agroecological role of shade-trees in coffee farms. Prior to the visit the cooperative management and board of directors agreed to use the results of my research project to differentiate farms that will continue to sell to the CAN market. The visit culminated with the signing of a new memorandum of understanding between CAN and Coopepueblos that more explicitly links direct-market sales to the fulfillment of sustainability standards as measured in the research.



12 interns worked in Agua Buena during the last year, working on variety of marketing, research and education projects. We also saw the hiring of a new internship coordinator, Merlin Abarca.

In May, 2009 Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company (SCCRC) owner Sarah Crosby visited the community to concretize commercial relations between the coop and SCCRC and celebrate the first purchase of Coopepueblos coffee under the AGROECO label. We are excited for growth in the direct-to roaster sector of Coopepueblos sales.



In June, 2009 15 students from Cal-State Monterey Bay participated in a two-week long field course in Agua Buena. The subject of the course was community economic development. The course has been an overwhelming success and both the coop, the course professor and I hope to increase the number of these offerings in the years to come.



All in all a busy year in Agua Buena!

Matagalpa Annual Report: July 2008-June 2009

By Chris Bacon, Ph.D. UC Berkeley and CAN Research Liaison

The CAN-Nicaragua partnership continues organic growth

The CAN-Nicaragua partnership continued its organic growth last year. As our relationships mature more branches extend themselves from the roots that we planted during the depths of the post 1999 coffee crisis. Several highlights, perhaps we could call them re-emerging buds, are summarized below:

Our Participatory Action Research partnership continued as we partnered with the UCA San Ramón and ten affiliated young men and women to conduct more than 30 tree and orchid biodiversity inventories in over 70 household level interviews. The UCA San Ramón's general manager, Blanca Rosa, and Yadira Montenegro, their social development director, pre-selected a terrific team. The team together with Maria Eugenia Flores-Gómez, Raúl Diaz and I spent more than three weeks in workshops and many days of mountain hikes as we shared interviewed, inventoried and shared experiences. It was compensation enough to see these young people both share and learn about cultures, livelihoods and agroecology where they were born. We will use the results of this research to develop a bi-lingual field guide and to also advance the AgroEco coffee project. Each of these young people are studying part time in the university and would greatly benefit from a donations to their scholarship funds.



Two weeks into the long days in the coffee fields and delicious lunches we shared with the coffee farm families that cultivate the CAN coffee from this community, we told our young team that a group of farmers and a fellow PAR researcher would like come up from Costa Rica to learn from our experiences much in the same way that we learned from the Dr. Ernesto Méndez's experience in El Salvador before starting these inventories in Nicaragua. At first, some of the Nicaraguan farmers and youth were reluctant to receive this new delegation. They knew only too well the stories of the ill treatment received by many of the 500,000 Nicaraguan's that migrate to Costa Rica. However, the warm hearts, hard work and great sense of humor of our Tico visitors soon transformed the visit into a wonderful exchange of research ideas,

cooperative-led community develop strategies and ideas to advance the Action Education Projects.

CAN's action education program also saw more action in 2008/09. Things were off to a great start when CAN invited the UCA San Ramón to send a representative (Yadira Montenegro) to our Intercambio event in Santa Cruz, California. This enlivened the direct flow of communication with Karie Boone and after many conference calls, revised plans and follow up collaborations the field-based internship program is alive again, and it will receive its first intern this summer!! I look forward to the continued development of this program.

The golden beans continued to move through our expanding alternative trade relationships. We initiated AgroEco coffee through our conversations with the UCA and the PAR research process. Inspired by Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting co-founder Colleen Crosby's solidarity work with Nicaragua, CAN also partnered with Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting to carry Nicaraguan as well as Costa Rican coffee through their emerging AgroEco Coffee line. All of these and other partnerships enabled CAN to more than double its coffee purchases from Nicaragua and continue paying final prices that are at least 2.00/lb.

If we continue to water and add a little compost here and there, I have little doubt that this relationship will continue to grow as these buds grow into blossoms in the coming years.



CAN-UIMQRoo Annual Report 2009

By Francisco Rosado May, Ph.D. : Rector of UIMQROO and CAN Research Liaison
and Susanne Kissman, faculty UIMQROO and Internship Coordinator

May 2007:

In May of 2007 the signing of the Agreement for Academic Cooperation, between the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of New Mexico and the Coordinación General de Educación Intercultural y Bilingüe (Coordinating body for Intercultural and Bilingual Education) was held in Mexico City. This agreement laid the foundation for exploration of student exchanges between the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) and the Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo (UIMQRoo).

February, 2008:

UIMQRoo faculty, Susanne Kissmann, visited with various professors and administrators at UCSC, the Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA) coordinator, and the CAN coordinator and staff members to better explore possibilities for future student and academic exchanges. The exploratory visit helped UIMQRoo to initiate its 2008 UIMQRoo Student Exchange Program. In the summer of 2008, five first generation UIMQRoo students participated in academic exchanges in the US and Canada, with two students participating in a two week course at UCSC.

June-July, 2008:

Two first year UIMQRoo students, Sharon Renee Cano Chulim from Mérida, Yucatan, and Claudia Otilia Vela Sosa, from Dziuché, Quintana Roo, both majors in Engineering in Agroecological Production Systems, were selected through a vigorous and transparent selection process to participate in a two week exchange to the University of California Santa Cruz, hosted by PICA with the participation of CAN staff. This hands-on field course served as an introduction to Community Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems for the visiting UIMQRoo students.

October-November, 2008:

UIMQRoo faculty and CAN internship coordinator, Susanne Kissmann, participated in the first Workshop of CAN international partners, entitled, *Intercambio: Bridging Global Communities* held at the CAN offices at UCSC. In this workshop all international partners participated in the presentation of partner programs at UCSC and UC Berkeley, clarification of CAN Network goals, objectives and vision, especially concerning student exchanges, sharing of key concepts and discussions on how to strengthen the CAN Network.

This experience and exchange with CAN staff and CAN partners was one of the cornerstones for the continued growth of the UIMQRoo Student Exchange Program, which expanded its goals and objectives, and became the Academic and Institutional Exchange Program.

January-May, 2009:

Building on the results of the Intercambio, the coordinator of the Academic and Institutional Exchange Program and the five students who participated in the 2008 exchange to the US and

Canada focused on building the Student Exchange program with CAN and preparing for CAN exchange students. These months were crucial for establishing the institutional and structural support needed to host CAN students.

Accomplishments include:

- Drafting of the Memorandum of Agreement between CAN and UIMQRoo (to be signed in the Agro-ecology short course 2009),
- Development of a ten week exchange program
- Inclusion of International Exchanges as part of the UIMQRoo Intercultural Education Model
- Completion of the CAN/UIMQRoo student orientation packet
- Development of the process for selection of host families and contracts, selection of host students and host teams for the CAN exchange students, and establishment of accounting for payment and distribution of funds for the exchange program.

UIMQRoo defines the exchange program as:

The UIMQRoo/CAN exchange program is about interculturality. It is about foreign and local students actively engaging and interacting in a rural Maya community, and laying the foundation for collaborative action. By joining our students in field projects in the community, we offer visiting students the opportunity to experience the day to day reality of life in a rural Maya village, and at the same time an opportunity to reflect about who they are, as they come to terms with living in a community which often has very different cultural assumptions and worldviews from their own. The experience is rounded out by intensive language study and travel to alternative community projects.

The Ten Week UIMQRoo/CAN Course includes:

Week 1-6: Exchange students join UIMQRoo student research teams as they research and document different aspects of daily life in Maya communities. This initial research builds the knowledge base with which to guide future development projects implemented by UIMQRoo students in partnership with communities. After an initial training in field methods, exchange students and UIMQRoo students move into a rural community for six weeks of field research. While in the community, students live with their research partners or host families, thus engaging with the community on all levels, intellectual and personal.

Week 7-8: For the next two weeks of the program, students choose an intensive language course in either Maya or Spanish in the community of Felipe Carrillo Puerto. The course also includes excursions in and around the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto.

Week 9-10: In the final two weeks exchange students travel to three alternative rural community tourism or development projects. Exchange students are part of choosing which projects to visit along with UIMQRoo host students who also accompany exchange students and act as their guides.

The program in Quinta Roo allows undergraduate and graduate students to earn credit through their universities while experiencing the issues and challenges, joys and unexpected discoveries in this journey of intercultural connections.

Next Steps:

- Continued participation as an active partner in the CAN network and CAN intercambios
- Expansion of the UIMQRoo student exchange program with CAN
- Feedback and evaluation of the 2009 CAN exchange students to help shape future programs.

Possible results include:

- Updating of Orientation Packet
- Improvement of the design and structure of the 10 week course

- Video of interviews by CAN exchange student Tom Maimon with UIMQRoo students and faculty and CAN participants to explore how to strengthen exchange program
- Video clips of interviews by Moises Munoz Plascencia that explores the exchange program and the Intercultural Education Model at UIMQRoo
- Update of CAN web site to include details of the UIMQRoo partnership and exchange program
- Possible collaboration with CAN partner Universidad Atonima de Yucatan (UADY) in regards to development of school gardens
- Building on UIMQRoo's participation in the Agroecology short course to explore possibilities of expansion of CAN partnership into research opportunities



CAN and UIMQRoo students in the field, Quintana Roo Mexico at UIMQRoo, and



The installations
UIMQRoo host students

Tacuba Annual Report: July 2008-June 2009

By Ernesto Mendez, Ph.D. faculty University of Vermont and CAN Research Liaison

The coffee growing region of Tacuba, El Salvador continued to be actively involved in the CAN Network and its three programs: Participatory Action Research (PAR), Action Education and Alternative Trade through CAN's partner organizations in Tacuba: ACOES, the second level cooperative made up of small-scale coffee farmers and the NGO, ASINDEC that coordinates research and advocacy in the region. In addition, with my affiliation at the University of Vermont, UVM students have become engaged in the network as well.

Key events for 2008-09 included:

- In summer 2008 Tacuba received two interns from Santa Clara University who helped in conducting research with ACOES related to food security issues.
- CAN continued to support the relationship between ACOES, ASINDEC and Cooperative Coffees, especially in relation to the establishment of the AgroEco coffee line from El Salvador within Cooperative Coffees.
- During winter break 2008/2009, I led a CAN-UVM field course of 10 students to Tacuba. They were there for 10 days, and helped farmers with the coffee harvest, among other activities.
- Oscar Ortiz, ASINDEC field coordinator and research assistant attended the CAN Intercambio in Santa Cruz to meet the other network intern coordinators, participate in trainings and educate the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Regions about coffee farming in El Salvador.
- UVM, Cooperative Coffees and CAN brought up the president of ACOES and Oscar Ortiz from ASINDEC to meet with buyers, and present educational forums at UVM related to Participatory Action Research.

In the year ahead we're looking forward to further developing our PAR research program to include issues related to food security and to developing the direct relationship between coffee farmers and roasters as part of the AgroEco program.



Oscar Ortiz, center, discusses El Salvador with students and colleagues at UCSC.

Yucatán Annual Report

By Juan Jiménez Osorio, Ph.D., faculty Autonomous University of Yucatán (UADY) and CAN Researcher Liaison

El grupo de PROTROPICO ha estado trabajando en conjunto con PROAFT A.C. en las comunidades rurales, durante el periodo 2008 – 2009 se lograron concretar algunas acciones entre PROTROPICO- UADY, PROAFT y CAN. Patricia I. Montañéz Escalante de PROTROPICO_CCBA_UADY y Alfonso Castillo y Dzul de PROAFT tuvieron oportunidad de participar en el Intercambio organizado por CAN en febrero. Esta reunión ayudó para que quienes están participando con CAN se conozcan y tuvieran posibilidades de intercambiar ideas y hacer compromisos.

Se trabajo en los lineamientos y manuales para recibir estudiantes que quieran realizar estancias en las comunidades donde trabajamos. En estas comunidades se organizó el trabajo con las familias que estarán recibiendo estudiantes dejando claros los compromisos de todos. Las familias ya han recibido algunos estudiantes mexicanos: un biologo que realiza su tesis trabajando con plantas medicinales y dos estudiantes de Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Patzcuaro Michoacán que colaboraron con la identificación de actores y grupos organizados en el Municipio de Tzucacab.

Juan Jiménez y Rosana Gutiérrez tuvieron oportunidad de participar en la Planificación Estratégica de CAN, dar platicas en UCSC a estudiantes de CAN y en la clase de Etnobotanica, convivir con los estudiantes de PICA y platicar con quienes estaban interesados en ir a Yucatan

Se disminuyo la intensidad de trabajo en los Solares Escolares pero los proyectos continúan especialmente aquellos que se originaron con los Fondos Semillas otorgados por PROTROPICO. Ya se inicio el Ordenamiento Ecológico Territorial Municipal de Tzucacab donde podrán participar estudiantes de CAN. Devon Samson iniciará la planificación para desarrollar su trabajo de investigación en agrobiodiversidad en Yucatan por lo que el siguiente tendremos mas interacción.

The PROTROPICO research group at the Autonomous University of Yucatán (UADY) has been working with the Mexican NGO PROAFT in rural communities in Yucatán. During the 2008-2009 year we have been able to advance a few partnerships between PROTROPICO, UADY, PROAFT, and CAN. Patricia Montañéz of PROTROPICO and Alfonso Castillo of PROAFT had the opportunity to participate in the Intercambio organized by CAN in February. This meeting helped facilitate the exchange of ideas and planning with the other CAN internship coordinators.

They worked on the arrangements and orientation guides to be able to accept student interns in the communities where we work. In the communities, we worked with the families that will be receiving students to make sure all the commitments were clear. The families have already hosted some students from within Mexico, including a biology student from Michuacán working on his thesis on medicinal plants who helped to identify individual actors and organized groups in the municipality of Tzucacab.

Spring 2009 Juan Jiménez and Rosana Gutiérrez had the opportunity to participate in CAN's strategic planning session for the internship program, give talks at the UCSC ethnobotany class and to CAN and PICA students, and to talk with students interested in doing a field internship in Yucatán.

Work on the Solares Escolares project has slowed, but the projects continue, especially those that originated with PROTROPICO's microcredit programs. The Municipal Ecological Land Use Planning project is underway in Tzucacab, the municipality where CAN students participate. Devon Sampson is in the planning stage of his study on agrobiodiversity in Yucatan, a project that will keep us in more communication.

