Although teak, Caribbean pine and other fast-growing, non-native trees have been the species of choice for reforestation projects in Latin America in the past, native tree species are often better suited to local conditions and are more resistant to pests and disease.

Jan. 21-22, the Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative, ELTI, and the Native Species Reforestation Project, PRORENA, joint initiatives of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, hosted a group of international experts to share their experiences in native species reforestation and land restoration projects. Shibu Jose, director of the MU Center for Agroforestry, was one of the invited experts to the conference, held at the Smithsonian’s Earl S. Tupper Center in Panama.

Jose chaired the session on “Native Trees in Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems,” giving talks both to kick off the panel and to close. Jose’s session featured speakers from Conservation International, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, State University of New York and the Center for Research on Sustainable Farming Systems.

Other talks included “Where, When, Why and How?” which shared data on field experiments in Panama and the region; “Restoring Environmental Services”; and “The Use and Management of Native Trees by Rural Landholders.”

“This was a unique gathering of scholars in varied but cohesive fields,” Jose said. “Our hosts were extremely gracious and allowed us to see some of the culture and history of Panama during our stay. This was a unique opportunity to meet with an international group of experts and aid in a very important project: the reforestation of Mesoamerica.”

According to the director of ELTI, the goal of the conference was to translate the scientific results from experimental work with native trees into information that can be used by decision makers, conservationists and land holders.

**ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY**

**KUDOS**

Chung-Ho Lin is the primary investigator on the grant “Introduction of biological agents for enhancing rhizodegradation of munitions explosives TNT and RDX,” from the Army Research Office & Lincoln University Cooperative Research and Extension Programs. The grant runs through 2010. Articles about the promising research have gone national; Lin has been featured in the Christian Science Monitor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Kansas City Star, Columbia Daily Tribune, Richmond Times Dispatch, KBIA, WLII-TV (Univision of Puerto Rico) and more than 60 other news media outlets.

**OUTREACH**

Mike Gold presented “How to Grow, Harvest, Manage and Market Nut Crops” for two break-out sessions at the 19th annual Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture’s Farming for the Future Conference. The event was Feb. 4-6 at Pennsylvania State University. More than 2,300 people attended the conference.

**RESEARCH**


Agroforestry systems are believed to provide a number of ecosystem services; however, until recently evidence in the agroforestry literature supporting these perceived benefits has been lacking. This volume brings together a series of papers from around the globe to address recent findings on the ecosystem services and environmental benefits provided by agroforestry.

Specifically, this volume examines four major ecosystem services and environmental benefits: (1) carbon sequestration, (2) biodiversity conservation, (3) soil enrichment and (4) air and water quality. Past and present evidence clearly indicates that agroforestry, as part of a multifunctional working landscape, can be a viable land-use option that, in addition to alleviating poverty, offers a number of ecosystem services and environmental benefits.

This realization should help promote agroforestry and its role as an integral part of a multifunctional working landscape the world over.

**IMPACT**

Michele Warmund and Mark Coggeshall conducted a study to determine the optimal time of Chinese chestnut chip budding ‘AU-Super’ on Qing and AU-Cropper seedling rootstocks. Budding success increased from 15 percent on July 21 to 65 percent and 75 percent for Qing and AU-Cropper rootstocks, respectively, Sept. 19.


**COMING SOON…**

March 23

UMCA Chestnut Workshop Series, workshop #1
Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center,
New Franklin
Contact Julie Rhoads, 573-882-3234 or rhoadsj@missouri.edu, for more information

University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry
203 ABNR  573-884-2874  umca@missouri.edu
www.centerforagroforestry.org
Shibu Jose, Ph.D., Director