

Issues and Lessons Learned through Distance Education Initiatives

CIAT Seminar Series

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Agenda

- **Background**
- **Distance education initiatives: a pilot course**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Other relevant distance education initiatives**
- **Prospects for distance education at CIAT**
- **Conclusions**

Background

- **Encouragement by CIAT Management**
 - Engage in distance education
- **Creation of a task force**
- **Analysis of distance education initiatives**
 - What activities already exist and where do we fit in?
 - What is CIAT's role and comparative advantage?
 - How can we complement existing initiatives?
- **Distance education consultancy and workshop**
- **Pilot course**

Pilot course:

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Rational for Selection

- Previously taught at CIAT headquarters
- High demand
- Well defined target audience
- Institutional partners agree on new joint venture
- Support and quality insurance by CIAT's Genetic Resource Unit (GRU)

Pilot course:

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Role of Institutional Partners

CIAT

Coordination

Joint preparation of course objectives and content

Principal tutor, adult education advisor, and quality control

IPGRI

Joint preparation of objectives and content

Workshop on virtual communication

Mailing list of germplasm banks; bibliographic support

Pilot course:

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Role of Institutional Partners

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Joint preparation of objectives and content

Second tutor

Integration into master's degree program on genetic resources

REDCAPA

Lessons learned in 10 years

Software platform

Technical support and troubleshooting

Student administration

Pilot course:
Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources
Target Audience

- Professionals and technicians in gene banks
 - IPGRI mailing list - 230 gene banks
 - REDCAPA listserver - 10,000 entries
- High interest - 110 applicants
- Rigorous selection - 30 finalists

Planisferio político

The map shows various countries with small portrait photos of individuals placed over them. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion across the continents. The map is titled 'Planisferio político'.

Coordinación, Tutoría y Asistencia

1. Edith Hesse: [CIAT/CIAT/CIAT](#)
2. Mariano Mejía: [CIAT/CIAT/CIAT](#)
3. Risoberto Hidalgo: [Universidad Nacional](#)
4. Benjamin Fineda L.: [CIAT/CIAT](#)
5. Daniel Debouck: [CIAT/CIAT](#)
6. Margarita Baena y Dumary Libreros: [CIAT/CIAT](#)
7. Josiana Almeida y Nora Fresno: [CIAT/CIAT](#)



Pilot course:
Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources
Methodology

**Computer Supported Collaborative Learning
(CSCL)**

- Web-based
- Four-month part-time course
- Students continue day-to-day activities
- Asynchronous communication (e-mail based; not in real-time)



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REDCAPA a través de su navegador!

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The desktop environment contains the following icons:

- MailBox
- Address Book
- Ajuda
- Boletines Informacion
- Calendar
- Aula Conservación Ex Situ
- Bibl. Conservación Ex Situ
- Bibl Preparat Conservac Ex-situ
- Preparativos Conservac Ex-situ
- Aula Agroecologia C39
- Bibl Agroecologia C39

The REDCAPA logo is displayed in the background, featuring the text "REDCAPA" in a large, stylized font with a red horizontal line through it.





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Name	Size	Subject	Last Modified
Judith García (Ex-situ)	60K	Respuesta lección 1, sub-módulo C Mód 3	Tue, 23 Nov 2004 11
Andreas W. Ebert (Ex-situ)	5.1K	Lección 1, Módulo 3, Sub-módulo C	Mon, 22 Nov 2004 1
María_Marcela Godoy (Ex-)	27K		Mon, 22 Nov 2004 1
Ricardo Lorenzo (Ex-situ)	39K	Respuesta Módulo 3 Submódulo B Lección 2	Sun, 21 Nov 2004 0
Benjamin Pineda (Ex-situ)	745K	Registered: Urgent: Lección 1 Módulo 3	Thu, 18 Nov 2004 11
Emma I. Manco (Ex-situ)	5.1K	Lección2, Mód.3-Submód.B	Thu, 18 Nov 2004 0
Emma I. Manco (Ex-situ)	5.1K	Lección1, Módulo 3, SubmóduloB	Thu, 18 Nov 2004 0
Juan_Ramón Pérez (Ex-sit)	5.1K	envio leccion 2 del sub-modulo A	Tue, 16 Nov 2004 2
Andreas W. Ebert (Ex-situ)	6.1K	Lección 2, Módulo 3, Sub-Módulo B	Mon, 15 Nov 2004 2
Fredesvinda Carrillo (Ex-si)	41K	respuesta lección 2 -B ,modulo 3	Mon, 15 Nov 2004 1
Sandra M. Salazar (Ex-situ)	4K	Respuestas del modulo 3B leccion 2	Mon, 15 Nov 2004 1
María_Marcela Godoy (Ex-)	25K		Mon, 15 Nov 2004 0
Norma C. Manrique (Ex-sit)	7.1K	Informe lección 2-B Modulo 3	Mon, 15 Nov 2004 0
Cristina Y. Méndez (Ex-sit)	5.1K	Resp. Mód. 3, sub-mód. B, lecc. 2	Mon, 15 Nov 2004 0
Victor H. Chávez (Ex-situ)	88K	Envio de lecciones 3-2A, 3-1B y 3-2B	Sat, 13 Nov 2004 11
Nury_Patricia Escobar (Ex)	23K	Módulo 1 Lección 3	Sat, 13 Nov 2004 10
Judith García (Ex-situ)	63K	Respuesta lección 2, sub-módulo B Mód 3	Fri, 12 Nov 2004 18
Emma I. Manco (Ex-situ)	7.1K	Módulo3, SubmóduloA, Lección 2	Thu, 11 Nov 2004 2
Sixto_Alfredo Iman (Ex-sit)	24K	Rpta módulo 3 Lecc2 Sub Mód B	Thu, 11 Nov 2004 1
Juan B. Beltrán (Ex-situ)	9.2K	Modulo3 submodulo B Leccion 1	Wed, 10 Nov 2004 2

Conservación Ex Situ de Recursos Fitogenéticos



Módulo 3: Conservación de Germoplasma Vegetal

Sub-módulo B: Cosecha, acondicionamiento, cuantificación

LECCIÓN 2

Acondicionamiento y Cuantificación

Objetivos

- Discutir el concepto de calidad de germoplasma
- Describir el proceso de acondicionamiento del germoplasma
- Describir generalidades de la cuantificación de la cosecha.

Introducción

Si las labores de multiplicación y cosecha han sido exitosas y el mantenimiento de la identi-

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Pilot course:

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Capacity Strengthening Components for Partners

Before the course - workshops and lectures on:

Distance Education concepts and issues

Objective/content development and design

Idiosyncrasies of online communication

Software platform

During the course

Software, hardware, connectivity support

Facilitation advise

After the course

Evaluation, documentation, dissemination of lessons learned

Pilot course:
Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources
Content Development

Modules for distance education

- Take much more time than traditional courses
- Require team work:
 - subject expert
 - distance education expert
 - design expert

Pilot course:
Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources
Tutoring

- 2-4 hours per day during the four-months period
- Compensation according to group size
- Partnership with universities is crucial

Pilot course:

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Payments

- Distance education courses should not be free
- Pilot course students paid US\$100
- Scholarships: Reimbursement upon successful termination

Pilot Course:
Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources
Next Steps

- Evaluation
- Documentation
- Updating course materials; second course
- Small team at CIAT that can support further distance education initiatives for CIAT projects

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Other relevant distance education initiatives

- **CIAT-University of Florida partnership on capacity strengthening**
- **Global Open Agriculture and Food University (GO-AFU) of the CGIAR**
- **Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank**

*CIAT-University of Florida
Partnership on Capacity Strengthening
Objectives*

- Cooperative program to strengthen capacities
- Long-term
- Extendable to several locations

CIAT-University of Florida Partnership on Capacity Strengthening Components

Capacity strengthening at institutional level

- Curricula and syllabus in line with developing country needs
- Joint course development; team teaching
- Courtesy professorships
- Joint degrees (breaking bureaucratic hurdles)

Capacity strengthening for professionals

- Research at CIAT locations
- M.Sc. Program entirely via distance (while employed part-time)

*CIAT-University of Florida
Partnership on Capacity Strengthening
M.Sc. Distance Education Programs*

- **Master of Science in Environmental Science**

Department of Soil and Water Science

www.distancelearning.ufl.edu/programs.asp?id=18; <http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/distance>

- **Master of Science in Entomology**

Department of Entomology and Nematology

www.distancelearning.ufl.edu/programs.asp?id=33

- Other M.Sc. Degree programs being converted into distance mode

*CIAT-University of Florida
Partnership on Capacity Strengthening
Distance Education Course Trials*

Four CIAT professionals attending courses in:

- GIS and Land Resource Management
- Integrated Pest & Disease Management
- Strategic Agribusiness Human Resource Management

*CIAT-University of Florida
Partnership on Capacity Strengthening
Next Steps*

- Discuss pilot project with partners
 - Makerere University
 - University of Nairobi
 - Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- Define pilot project components and budget
- May 2005: start pilot project (with USAID seed money)
- Prepare project proposal 2006-2011

Other relevant distance education initiatives

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- **Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank**

Global Open Agriculture and Food University (GO-AFU) for the CGIAR

Initial concept

- M.Sc. Programs (5); Ph.D. Programs (2) developed by distance education specialists and CGIAR researchers
- Postgraduate degrees granted by GO-AFU

New concept (still under discussion)

- Strengthen developing country universities rather than compete
- Joint degrees

Other relevant distance education initiatives

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Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank

- Network of institutions with video conferencing facilities
- Useful for multi-location teams:
 - Lectures and seminars
 - Job interviews
 - Thesis defense
 - Multi-institutional team meetings

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Prospects for distance education at CIAT

CIAT's comparative advantages:

- Convenor/facilitator of multi-institutional ventures
- Place for thesis research
- Contents (research results) for team-teaching
- Advisors, coaches, and mentors

Prospects for distance education at CIAT

CIAT's comparative advantages (contin.):

- Information technology infrastructure
- Access to electronic information resources worldwide under the guidance of experienced library professionals
- Online document and learning resources repositories
- Experience in:
 - Participatory approaches
 - Knowledge sharing methods and techniques
 - Copyright issues

Prospects for distance education at CIAT

Developing courses in-house requires

- Additional resources (staff; infrastructure)
- Multi-institutional partnership
- Working teams with complementary skills
- Proper incentive structure
- Funding

Conclusions

Distance Education

- Opportunity for institutional capacity strengthening
- More efficient use of resources
- Reaching broader and remote audiences
- Less costs

Acknowledgements

Pilot Course: Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources

Coordination Team:

Edith Hesse (InforCap) Coordination

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