

Agriculture and Sustainability in Costa Rica
Summer short course 2010
Texas Tech University

Learning objectives:

- Learning about sustainable development in the tropics
- Experience efforts made to improve conservation and environmental awareness
- Develop an appreciation for diversity of cultures

Date	Activity	Place	Logistics
<p>Day 1 <i>(Learning about sustainability and tropical agriculture: EARTH Model, and hands on experience on tropical crop production)</i></p>	<p>Leading concepts: Introduction to Sustainability <i>-concepts</i> <i>-indicators</i> <i>-challenges in the humid tropics</i> Costa Rican case EARTH model</p> <p>Orientation and tour around the university facilities</p> <p>Tour around the academic farms: <i>-EARTH commercial farm and paper production plant</i> <i>-Animal Integrated Farm: Animal Husbandry in the tropics, animal welfare and biodigestors</i> <i>-Practice of pineapple growth and harvest.</i></p> <p><i>EARTH professors</i></p>	<p>EARTH Guácimo</p>	<p>Talks and guide (professors EARTH)</p> <p>Transportation inside the campus</p>
<p>Day 2 <i>(Sustainability, is it viable?:: Traditional vs. alternative production systems)</i></p>	<p>Leading concepts: <i>-Monoculture vs diversify farm</i> <i>-Management of natural resources</i> <i>-Eco-friendly practices</i></p> <p>Visit to Chiquita Company (banana and pineapple production and forest reserve)</p> <p><i>Chiquita Company and Notal Reserve</i></p> <p>Visit to Organic Farm at EARTH</p> <p><i>EARTH staff</i></p>	<p>Chiquita Company and Notal Reserve in Sarapiquí</p>	<p>Transportation to Chiquita Company and Notal Reserve</p> <p>Transportation to Organic Farm</p> <p>Guide from EARTH staff</p>

<p>Day 3</p> <p><i>(Assesing sustainability in rural areas and exchange activity with EARTH students)</i></p>	<p>Leading concepts: -Sustainability -Rural development -Latinamerican culture</p> <p>Work experience module in the community schools with EARTH students <i>EARTH professors</i></p> <p>Cultural exchange activity with EARTH students from different countries <i>EARTH professors</i></p>	<p>Rural Communities around EARTH</p> <p>EARTH main campus</p>	<p>Transportation to the communities</p> <p>Guide from EARTH professors and staff</p> <p>Coordination with EARTH English professor</p>
<p>Day 4</p> <p><i>(Free time)</i></p>	<p>White Water Rarfting</p> <p><i>Aventuras del Sarapiquí</i></p>	<p>Sarapiquí</p>	<p>Transportation to White Water Rarfting</p> <p>Reservation for the tour</p>
<p>Day 5</p> <p><i>(Coffee in Costa Rica)</i></p>	<p>Coffee plantations: forest coffee, organic coffee and fair trade for small farmers</p> <p><i>EARTH Graduated</i></p>	<p>San Ramón</p>	<p>Transportation Hotel and food</p> <p>Tour to coffee plantations</p>
<p>Day 6</p> <p><i>(Small production and organic agriculture)</i></p>	<p>Visit to small production and organic agriculture</p> <p><i>EARTH Graduated</i></p>	<p>La Fortuna</p>	<p>Transportation Hotel and food</p> <p>Tour to small farms</p>
<p>Day 7</p> <p><i>(Sustainability and alternative management of natural resources: Ecotourism and socioeconomic impact)</i></p>	<p>Visits to La Fortuna, Arenal Volcano National Park and hot springs</p> <p><i>EARTH Graduated</i></p>	<p>La Fortuna</p>	<p>Transportation Hotel and food Tour to National Park and hot springs</p>

<p>Day 8</p> <p><i>(Agriculture in tropical dry forest)</i></p>	<p>Arrival to La Flor</p> <p>Orientation walk: Guide Tour through the farm: Rice, Sugar Cane, Passion Fruit</p> <p>Wrap up session: Sustainability in the Tropics</p> <p>Night walk through the Forest, Identifying stars for Orientation</p> <p><i>La Flor team</i></p>	<p>EARTH-La Flor</p>	<p>Transportation to La Flor (Liberia)</p> <p>Tour of La Flor</p> <p>Room and food at La Flor</p>
<p>Day 9</p>	<p>Airport and departure to USA</p>	<p>Liberia Airport</p>	<p>Transportation from La Flor to the airport</p>