

Cross Cultural Experiential Learning in El Salvador



*Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
Native Plants Extension Specialist
Cambio de Colores Conference
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Lincoln University of Missouri

Created in 1866



1890 Institution

Historically Black Colleges and Universities HBCU

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE)



The primary mission of Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) is to enhance the quality of life of underserved populations.

LUCE

Native Plants Program

Promote the use of native plants for conservation to improve biodiversity in rural and urban areas.

Increase awareness about their potential as specialty crops to provide income in urban and rural areas.

Promote native plants to improve the well-being of underserved communities.

What do we do?

Organize and offer seminars, workshops and field days for producers, farmers, students, master gardeners, master naturalists and the public at large in urban and rural areas.

During these events, hands-on demonstrations are offered for audiences of all ages.

Objectives of this experiential learning

1. To have a better understanding of the culture.
2. Exchange knowledge between the LU delegation and Agriculture and Environmental Education specialists and communities in El Salvador.
3. Identify non-governmental organizations and agencies in El Salvador to collaborate with LU Cooperative Extension.

Expected Outcomes

- The LU-Native Plants Program staff will improve relations with Latinos in Missouri.
- Collaborative efforts between LU and organizations in El Salvador to advance agricultural and ecological education for communities in El Salvador and in Missouri.
- Create opportunities for students from El Salvador to pursue master's degree at Lincoln University.
- Continue the Experiential Learning with other groups.

Participants

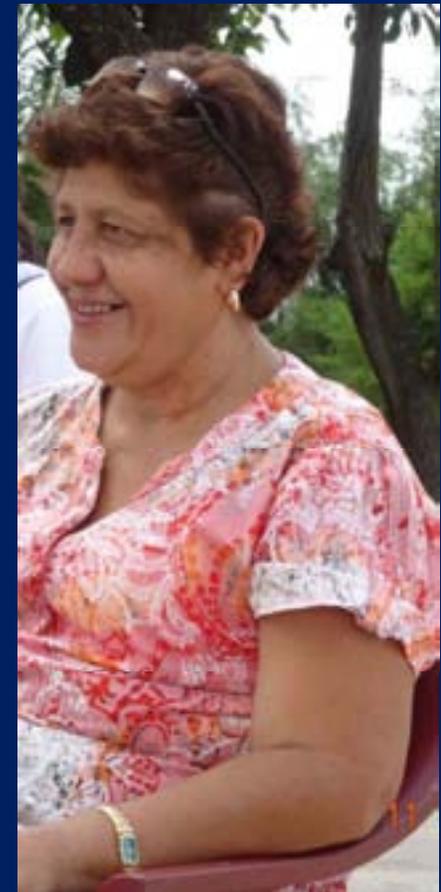
- Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
- Sue Bartelette and Jeff Hargrove, program assistants.
- Hugh Flowers and Mary Glaspers, senior citizens, leaders of their communities.
- Randy Tindall, photographer volunteer
- Casi Lock, Spanish-English interpreter



Our Driver
Don Enrique
Balsamo
Association



Casi Avard
Interpreter
Rural
Sociologist



Agronomist
Nidia Lara
Our guide
AGAPE

Activities

- 10 day visit
- Formal presentations at the University of El Salvador for students and faculty.
- Visit 10 different communities.
- In some we met with local leaders from different agencies and community organizations, in others with communities members.
- During all visits we engaged in conversations to learn from each other's experiences.

Workshop 'Gardening in Containers' University of El Salvador



Eco-hotel as part of the experience



A FINCA in El Salvador
Support system for chayotes-huisquiles
Made with 'bambu'



Their own fruit and vegetable sale stand





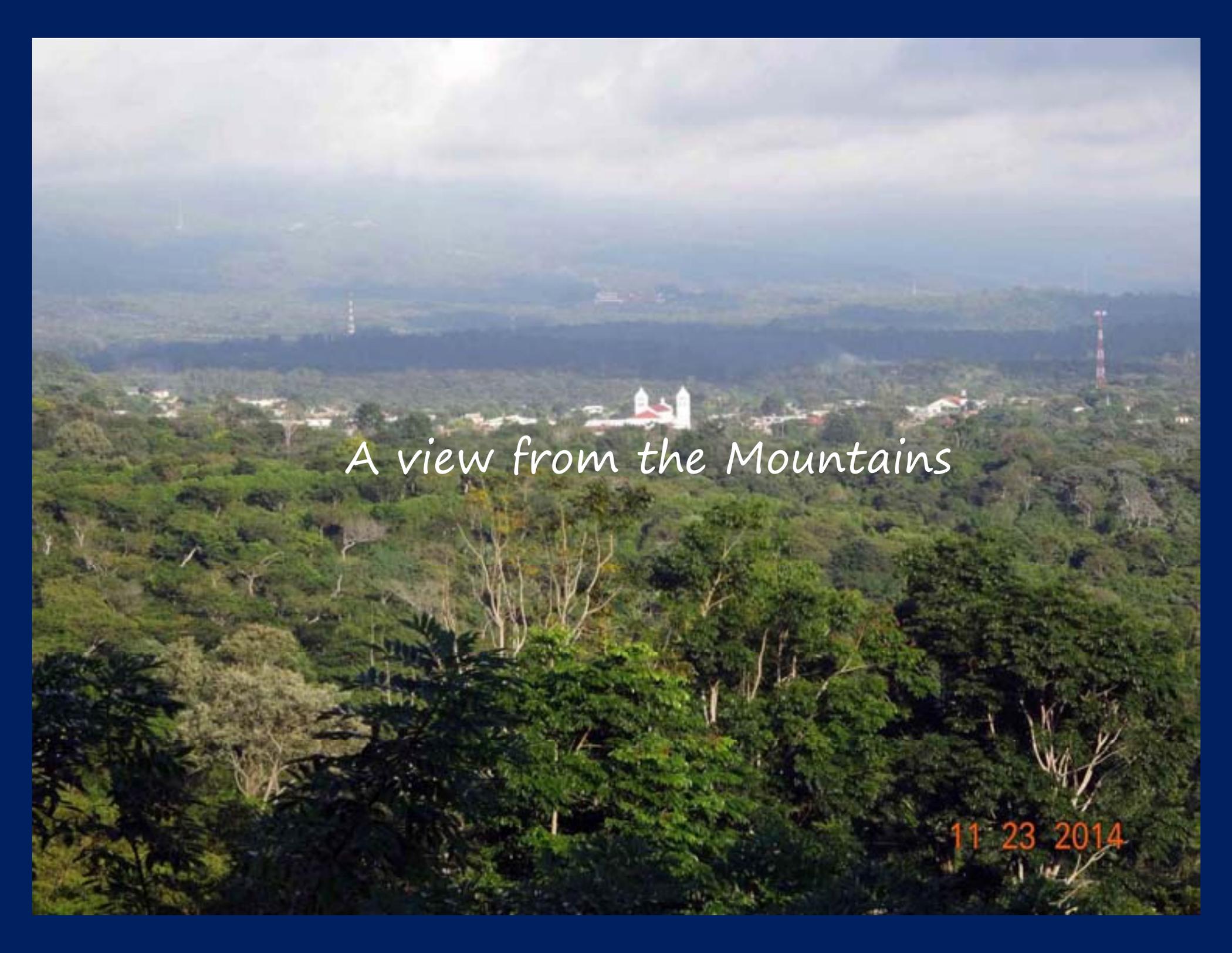
*Coffee Demonstration at
Finca Los Pinos*

11 23 2014



11-23-2014

*Coatepeque Lake
Volcano Crater*

A panoramic view from a mountain looking down at a town. The foreground is filled with dense, lush green forest. In the middle ground, a town is visible, featuring a prominent white church with two towers and a tall, thin tower. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky.

A view from the Mountains

11 23 2014

Nahuizalco



Museo Viviente Living Museum

*Faces and Sounds
Heritage
Nahuat-Pipil*



Traditional food at the Eco-Hotel



Desayuno tipico
Traditional Breakfast

*Carolina Baiza
Eco-hotel owner*

*Raingarden-
Gray Water Filtering System and
rain recycled for irrigation*



Senior Citizens Home San Vicente de Paul

Native Plants Program offered financial and technical support to grow vegetables and flowers



Participants of gardening program with LU staff.



Arts and Crafts Market
Mercado de Artesanias
Cultural Experience



11 24 2014

Experiencing the culture through food



Like tamales, pupusas are prepared with masa or corn flour and filled with cheese, ground meat or vegetables



Demonstrations and exhibits were offered during visits in communities.
Cacao and value-added products



At the City Hall of Cuisnahuat, a small community in the mountains, with the Mayor



Indigo-Anil Processing and Marketing



In Izalco: Conversation and Celebration



Findings

- Salvadoran Specialists were surprised to learn that Lincoln University also works with low income communities and that farms not only grow cash crops.
- Both groups learned that many of the Native Plant Program lessons learned could be adopted in El Salvador to help farmers.
- The delegation increased their level of understanding of the Latino culture and some had the opportunity to practice their Spanish-English skills to apply them in Missouri.

Follow up

- Continue the Experiential Learning with other groups.
- In October 2015 we will initiate a project to establish a community garden for orphan children.

Acknowledgements

- NIFA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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- AGAPE of El Salvador
- Universidad de El Salvador
- Eco-Hotel Arbol de Fuego
- Asociacion Balsamo
- Felipe Franco
- Volunteers

‘Gardening as Therapy for Physical and Mental Health” and
‘Families Integrating, Nature, Conservation and Agriculture. The
FINCA Model.’

Both projects funded by NIFA Capacity Building Grants