

# Cross Cultural Experiential Learning in El Salvador



*Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall  
Native Plants Extension Specialist  
Cambio de Colores Conference  
June 12, 2015*

# 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*





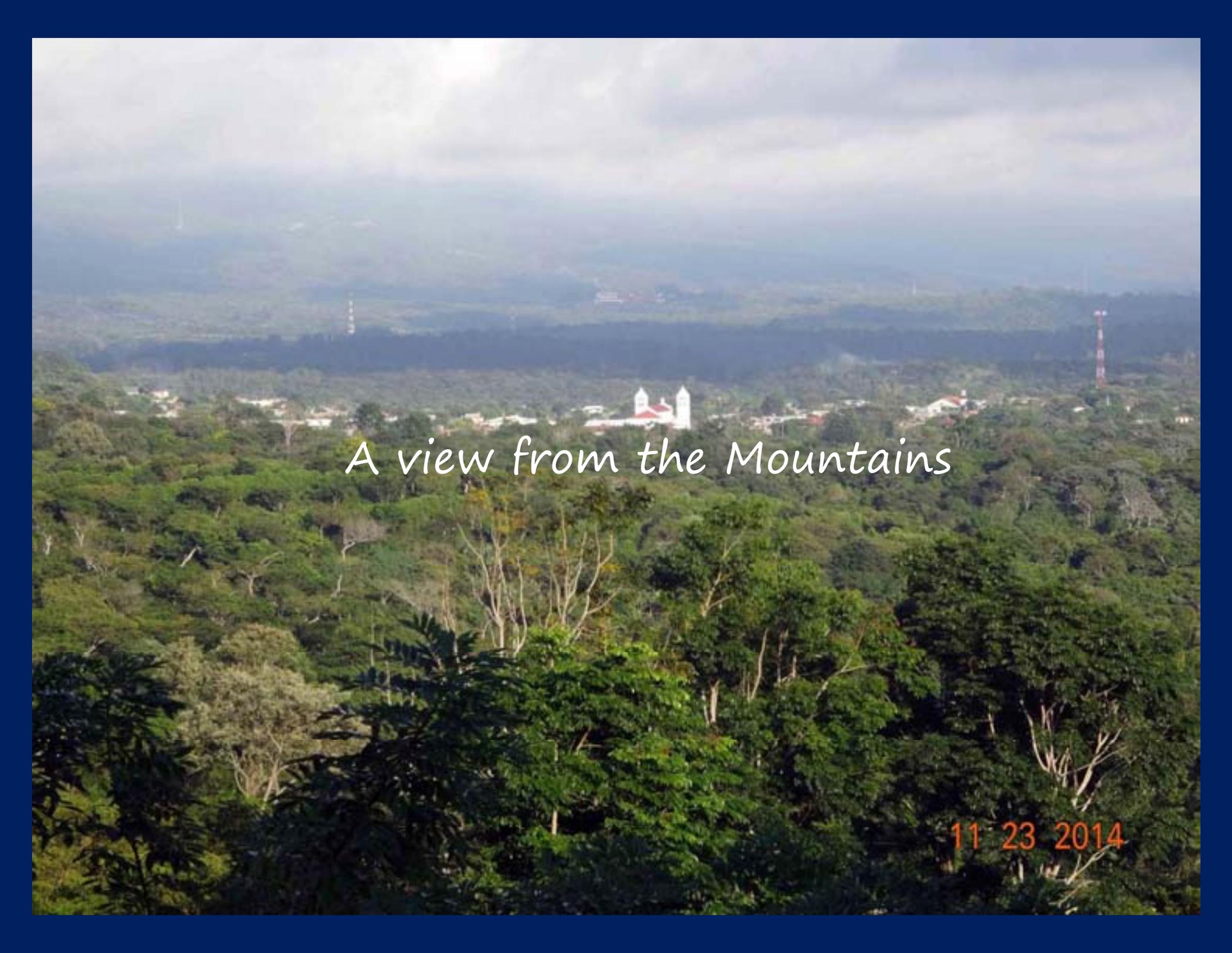
*Coffee Demonstration at  
Finca Los Pinos*

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



11 25 2014

# 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*

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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.’

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