



New Program Proposal: MS-Agroecology

College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

UW System Board of Regents, February, 2005



What is Agroecology?

What is the need for this expertise?

- Intersection of agriculture and ecology
- Nexus of business, environment, culture, human needs
- Diverse stakeholders assert standing in farm decisions
- Negotiating agriculture's relationship to the society



Mission Alignment and Context

- Embraces the land-grant philosophy, responds to societal needs
- An emerging discipline – consistent with the research focus of the University
- Faculty – cluster hires
- First new program in CALS in 10 years



Authorization Proposal: MS-Agroecology, UW-Madison

Program Overview

Common Core: 2 courses, seminar, field immersion

Public Practice Option

- Skills for action in the community
- Learning Plan and “Cross-training” in electives

Research Option

- Train researchers, Create knowledge
- Research methods, Multidisciplinary thesis



Outlook for Graduates

Intense interest among those working in field

Employment options in:

Farming

Agribusiness and agri-food system

Government

Local

State

Federal

Private non-profit organizations



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Diversity

Outreach program will build linkages

1890 Land Grant Colleges (Historically Black)

1994 Land Grant Colleges (Tribal Colleges)

Curriculum incorporates diversity

Goal is to recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff,
students



Comments on Proposal:

“This is an innovative, well-designed and exciting programme...it will stretch and train students appropriately”

Prof. Jules Pretty, Head, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Essex University, England

“Over time, I would expect them to significantly change the social landscape of agriculture...and contribute to a renewal of the Land Grant mission.”

Prof. Lawrence Busch, Director, Inst. for Food and Agricultural Standards, Michigan State University



Comments on Proposal:

“The convergence of agriculture and environment will require professionals who understand the complex interactions....The program is ideally designed to foster that understanding and prepare students for exciting and difficult challenges in this field.”

Denny Caneff, River Alliance