

2004 Programs Huge Success

Effective Conflict Resolution Skills in the Hands of HasNa Trainees

Twelve Turkish irrigation engineers of different cultural backgrounds came to Washington, DC to study conflict resolution, irrigation management, agroecology and farm extension. During their first two weeks in Washington, they immersed themselves in a Georgetown University English language course to maximize their ability to understand the challenging material ahead. After English immersion, the engineers were ready to learn.

Conflict resolution training began with a bang. **The engineers acted out role plays that led to shouting and pointing fingers.** Before the training finished however, everyone learned how to handle delicate issues so that disputes could be peacefully resolved. They also learned that some conflicts result in progress, and how we respond to conflict directly determines its outcome.

By the end of the week the engineers referred to each other as “my friends”.

Several days later, the conflict resolution facilitator, Kathy Owen, revisited and asked whether they had found the conflict resolution skills useful. One pair revealed that a heated discussion had arisen between them. Before they knew it, they were working through their disagreement. Although their conversation ended by agreeing to disagree, their friendship was preserved. The engineers also emphasized that conflict resolution skills would be especially helpful when trying to convince Turkish farmers to adopt new agricultural techniques. (cont. pg. 2)

Small Grants Get Results

The results of HasNa’s 2004 small grants programs are in! With a small grant, HasNa participant Servet Yazar published a new edition of “Harran Su”, a newsletter for farmers of the Harran Plain in Southeast Turkey. This issue featured an article explaining the transfer of the management of irrigation systems from the government to Water Users Associations (WUA). This information will help farmers better understand the WUA’s responsibilities and how their member fees are being used.



A second grant was to Fatih Yildiz, who completed a field study of Water Users Associations in the Harran Plain. He interviewed 74 farmers from seven villages, who gathered to discuss problems they faced in farming and irrigation and possible solutions. They also said that the Water Users Associations needed to be more responsive to farmers’ needs, and that they hope for a more democratic system of electing the WUA leaders. As a next step, Fatih will work with farmer groups to develop ideas for small projects. The irrigation engineers that have been trained by HasNa are playing an important role in improving relations between the farmers and the WUAs, and also in providing farmers the information they need.



Training in Sustainable Agriculture at North Carolina State University

(from page 1)

After studying conflict resolution, the group flew to Raleigh, North Carolina and participated in an intensive agriculture program with NC State University. The curriculum included courses on "no-till" farming where crops are grown annually without tilling the soil, as well as how to keep the ecology balanced through methods that let the system feed itself. Significant portions of the course also taught them how to educate and communicate with farmers resistant to change.



After agriculture training the group returned to DC and studied participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME). The engineers learned how to develop collaborative projects with stakeholders such as farmers and the community. The training also strengthened their ability to set goals and collect and analyze data to assist with planning. The several courses merged into a cohesive program when the PME training concluded by guiding the engineers on how to put their newly acquired skills to use.



Learning effective irrigation layout



Learning "no-till" techniques

Volunteers and Donors Key to HasNa's Success

The level of gratitude that HasNa holds for its donors and volunteers can never be fully expressed. From cooking, to driving, to translating, to acting as tour guides and funding the program, volunteers and donors came through time and time again. With the help of volunteers, the engineers were shown genuine hospitality and introduced to the American way of life.

Volunteers generously donated their time and showed the engineers popular sites like the American Indian Museum and the world-reknoned Air and Space

Museum. Some took the engineers on driving tours of Washington and organized celebrations on Turkish holidays. Others even invited the engineers into their homes for dinner or used their resourcefulness to show the engineers the White House Gardens. The acts of kindness are too numerous to list them all, but each and every one is remembered with sincere thanks.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to those who gave their time and contributions to make this year's program a complete success.

Special Thanks to the 2004 Program Volunteers

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