



Farms and Food For the Future

Center for Integrated
Agricultural Systems

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016 Annual Report



Center for Integrated
Agricultural Systems
UW-Madison



College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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CIAS Citizens Advisory Council

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CIAS Faculty Associates

54 faculty members in 24 departments
across the UW-Madison campus

CIAS Associate Staff

CIAS works closely with staff members
in campus departments and UW-
Extension

From the CIAS Director

Dear friends,

The UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) is honored to have worked with many dedicated partners in 2016 as we furthered our research, education and outreach in sustainable agriculture and food. Your commitment to our cause helped us tackle complex questions and prepare a new generation of farmers and students to continue this work in the future. We are grateful for your support.

In 2016, our popular grower schools trained 172 beginning farmers in production, marketing and business management. New in 2016, CIAS offered an online option for students in the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDF). CIAS awarded scholarships, generously provided by donors, to aspiring grass-based livestock farmers and organic vegetable growers participating in our schools.

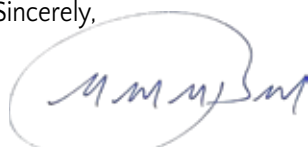
In its fourth year, the CIAS mini-grant program supported eight UW-Madison graduate students with funding for summer research in sustainable agriculture. These students investigated topics ranging from breeding flavorful beets for organic production to racial equity in food systems. Our mini-grant program not only helps students, but also raises the visibility of sustainable agriculture research at UW-Madison.

Our 2016 work in food systems included farm to school, domestic fair trade, outreach and technical assistance to diverse growers, and workshops with Tribal colleges and the Intertribal Agriculture Council. CIAS organized two notable farm to school events in 2016. The third annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, an event to raise awareness of farm to school, had over one million participants. CIAS hosted the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in Madison, which drew 1,000 attendees.

Our effort to create more resilient farms, communities and ecosystems by incorporating perennial crops into agricultural systems is taking hold. In 2016, our work in this area included publishing a report on midwestern tree nut businesses, evaluation of apple varieties for cider, and research on perennial biofuels and bioproducts. CIAS is also the home of the Wisconsin Integrated Cropping Systems Trial, now in its 28th year.

These are exciting and challenging times to be working in sustainable agriculture. Together, we can make a difference and create a bright future for everyone who grows and eats food sustainably.

Sincerely,



Michael Bell, CIAS Director



The 2016 CIAS summer Citizens Advisory Council meeting included a tour of Waseda Farms. Here, Tom Lutsey explains his organic production system.

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems — 2016 Annual Report

In 1989, farmers, farm and environmental groups, researchers, educators and others joined forces to start the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Across the state and beyond, we've put the Wisconsin Idea to work by engaging with citizens to further the cause of sustainable agriculture and food. Our projects continue to reflect priorities identified by farmers, food practitioners and others.

Notable Achievements

Investing in students

Trained **172** beginning farmers in production and marketing of grass-based dairy and livestock, organic grain, fresh market vegetables and cut flowers

Developed an **online course** for the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

Offered **scholarships** to aspiring growers at the Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Growers

Offered summer minigrants to **8** UW-Madison graduate students researching sustainable agriculture and food

Sent **15** undergraduates and **3** graduate students to South Africa on a service learning project

Advised **FH King Students for Sustainable Agriculture** and supported their organic garden



Building markets and supporting growers

Organized the Third Annual **Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch** promoting farm to school with over **one million participants**, including 200,000 in Wisconsin

Hosted the **8th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference** with 1,000 attendees

Organized talks at the national **Domestic Fair Trade** conference

Researched **regional food freight** and small supply chains

Provided outreach and technical assistance to diversify the growers served by the

Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative

Worked with **Tribal colleges** and the **Intertribal Agriculture Council** on food system issues, proposals and workshops



Growing perennial agriculture

Launched a project to **evaluate apple varieties** for use in hard cider

Reached over 400 people with **silvopasture** workshops and a listserv

Started development of a **financial tool** to plan fruit and nut plantings

Published a report and case studies of **midwestern tree nut businesses**

Researched development of a **midwestern perennial biofuels and bioproducts** system

Supported long-term sustainability research through the **Wisconsin Integrated Cropping Systems Trial**

Worked with Wisconsin farmers to install **prairie filter strips** into row crops for water quality



Financial progress in 2016

Administered **\$1.7 million** in grants

Served as co-principal investigator on an additional **\$1 million in grants**

Raised **\$67,950** from donors in 2016, including:

- **\$20,000** for graduate student research
- **\$25,000** to kick off the establishment of a CIAS endowed director fund
- **\$10,000** for the CIAS Organic Initiative

Hosted two CIAS fundraisers—the Loving of the Land Concert and the Harvest Dinner—with **193** attendees

Raised **\$21,000** for the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers from Ride to Farm and Partnering for Progress Barn Party and \$3,500 in scholarship funds from Organic Valley and the Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation

A heartfelt thank you ...

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our donors! Your generosity allows us to continue our programs to build sustainable agriculture and food in Wisconsin and beyond. And there are more good things to come in 2017. Gifts of all amounts are much appreciated: supportuw.org/giveto/cias.



Our 2016 supporters

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CIAS makes its best effort to include all donations made between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. If your name has been omitted, please contact us so we may properly show our appreciation. Thank you to our past and present donors for your generous support!