RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

The role of informal trade in the production efficiency of small scale raspberry producers in Chile
Provided by Cynthia M. Lamb Portalatin
Coordinator Research Programs/Services
College of Agriculture and Food Sciences

Agribusiness Program Leader and assistant professor Daniel Solis, Ph.D., recently collaborated with an economist from the University of Connecticut and the University of Talca in Chile to study the role of informal trade in the efficiency of small-scale raspberry producers in Central Chile.

Raspberry production has become a significant cash crop that supports the livelihood of many small-scale growers in Central Chile. Almost 100 percent of raspberry production is exported, and the cultivation of this crop has put pressure on smallholder farmers to integrate into the modern agri-food chain system. The goal of this study was to analyze technical efficiency (TE) levels for small-scale raspberry farmers in the Maule region of Chile, the main production area for this crop in the country.

“One focus of this study was to evaluate the association between TE -understood as an indicator of managerial performance and farmers’ decisions to sell their production directly to the agri-industry or indirectly through an informal middleman,” said Solis who is part of the faculty at Florida A&M University’s College of Agriculture and Food Sciences. “Using a stochastic production frontier model, the researchers found that the commercialization decision plays an important role in the productivity and revenue of small-scale raspberry producers.”

The analysis also revealed a positive relationship between TE levels and income among experienced and trained farmers. The study also analyzed the role of implementing food quality and safety standards on farm income. This study was funded by the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.

Daniel Solis, Ph.D., Agribusiness Program Leader and Assistant Professor for Agribusiness in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences
FAMU’s aggressive research strategy prompts big prize

Posted by: Carma Henry | In: Local News

While FAMU scientist participates in historic Paris Climate Change Conference

Above: Professor Mbuya (c) and Vice President Al Gore (r).

Florida A&M University was awarded advanced research status earlier this year. The university is now a Carnegie Level II High Activity Research University. The designation places FAMU among the nation’s larger predominantly white institutions and that distinction is significant, according to FAMU Vice President for Research Timothy Moore, Ph.D., “Our faculty are demonstrating that FAMU can compete against other larger universities with double the faculty and continue to produce cutting edge research at ever increasing levels.”

In the late ’90’s there was an effort to restrict FAMU’s academic focus to undergraduate studies only. Then President Frederick Humphries successfully stopped that effort and kept the university on the research path. “Our current position is directly linked to the efforts of previous leaders and faculty scholars. We can stand on their shoulders and move this university forward and solve some of the nation’s most vexing scientific problems,” Moore said.

Meanwhile, Moore attributes the new status to the dramatic increase in research awards. FAMU research began the new fiscal year with a marked increase in research awards of $27.9 million in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2015–2016 more than doubling awards from the same period in the previous year. The total research awards in fiscal year 2014-2015 were $47 million.

Florida A&M University Professor Odemari Mbuya, Ph.D., was the FAMU representative for the Florida Climate Change Institute at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France recently. As an FCI representative, Mbuya was able to showcase climate change milestones confirming the commitment to address issues related to climate at national and global levels.

Mbuya, program leader of Agronomy, Soil and Water Sciences at the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences and faculty director of the Sustainability Institute met with former Vice President Al Gore and US Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell. He gave them the FCI statement commitment to climate change. Excerpts of the statement are as follows;

“We recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community’s economic prosperity and public health and are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low carbon future. Today our school pledges to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus.”

Mbuya also met with high ranking officials from the Government of India. India is willing to establish a recruitment center for FAMU for students interested in advanced degrees.
FAMU Promotes Climate Action Initiatives

By Domonique Davis  Community Feature, News, Research, STEM, Students

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., recently sent a letter to U.S. President Barack Obama pledging to solidify FAMU as a leading university in climate action.

In her letter, Mangum applauded President Obama for the progress made to promote clean energy and climate action before the United Nations Climate Negotiations that took place in Paris in November. To ensure FAMU’s active participation in climate change discourse, FAMU Sustainability Institute (FAMU-SI) Faculty Director Odemari Mbuya travelled to Paris to attend the United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention of the Parties 21st (COP21) convening, where he gave a presentation.

As part of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Climate Change Initiative, political science professor John Warford, Ph.D., accompanied FAMU environmental and political science students who traveled to Paris to participate in COP21.

In addition to encouraging University participation in climate action on a global scale, Mangum is also dedicated to making all FAMU campuses more environmentally conscious. Her efforts include signing the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in January 2014; FAMU’s participation in the Better Buildings Challenge, committing to ensure all buildings on campus are 20 percent more energy efficient within 10 years; and the establishment of the FAMU Sustainability Institute (FAMU-SI), which is tasked with coordinating the implementation of broad social, environmental, and economic sustainability programs. “Although we are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low-carbon future, we recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community’s economic prosperity and public health,” Mangum said in the letter.

Mangum is among 600 college and university presidents and chancellors who have committed their institutions to take bold and catalytic climate actions. As part of Mangum’s climate leadership commitment, she pledged that FAMU will develop a Climate Action Plan by May 2016, make carbon neutrality and climate resilience a part of the curriculum, expand research in climate science, and establish community partnerships to implement strategies for reducing carbon dependency on campus and in the surrounding community.
TechGrant A

Application Orientation Scheduled for February 16

Mark your calendars! The application orientation session is scheduled for February 16 at 4 p.m. at the Knight Administrative Centre, 1736 W. Paul Dirac Drive. During this session, you can expect to meet Innovation Park staff and other potential applicants, review the competition timeline, and ask questions about the competition. We highly recommend first-time applicants attend.

Other Important Dates to Remember

February 16, 2016: TechGrant Application Orientation, 4 p.m., Knight Administrative Centre, 1736 W. Paul Dirac Drive

March 14, 2016: Applications due (Note: Only complete applications will be considered. Application must include: Application Form, Company Profile, signed Applicant Agreement, Business and Commercialization Plan and, if appropriate, Prior Grant Recipient Form.)

April 11, 2016: Finalists announced

May 19, 2016: Elevator Pitch Night event, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Goodwood Museum & Gardens’ Carriage House

Apply for the 2016 Innovation Park TechGrant

Anyone in Leon County who has an original idea for technology commercialization is encouraged to apply for the 2016 TechGrant program. Take a moment to review the application packet and determine if this program is right for you. If any questions come up, please email Executive Director Ron Miller.

Download the 2016 Innovation Park TechGrant Application Packet

850.575.0343 | lcrda@innovpark.com | www.lcrda.org

STAY CONNECTED:
Above: Reis Alsberry (right hand extended) admits to being an aggressive salesman; he’s proud of that status. Alsberry said selling science is the ultimate game-changer in a global economy that is constantly evolving. As the new director of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Division of Research, Alsberry is responsible for getting laboratory science into a competitive marketplace. And he says he’s in the perfect place.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) reports that Florida A&M University ranks No.1 among Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the expenditure of research dollars. FAMU research captured more than $51 million in the most recent NSF survey done in 2013. This past spring, FAMU researchers won the NSF Innovation Corps Atlanta Competition outpacing 21 top national institutions in the region. When it comes to research dollars, FAMU holds a nearly $9 million lead over its closest competitor, Howard University, and the strategy is to make FAMU a regional player among all institutions.

Alsberry said FAMU is a treasure-trove of patents, research, and technologies that are ripe for commercialization, that in turn fuels the continued search for answers.

“I am excited about cancer research, viticulture, engineering, material science and a host of other areas that dramatically impact our world. And I want to create a culture of change,” he said.

The plans are already in play. He’s helping to engage students in competitions like the App Challenge at Domi Station. Alsberry is also evaluating invention disclosures, research projects, and ensuring proper intellectual property protection is implemented. He has extensive experience in managing intellectual property.

“Our commitment is to do things that no one else can do,” said vice president of Research Timothy Moore, Ph.D. Moore has detailed a host of incentives and initiatives to stimulate sponsored programs, contracts, grants, technology transfers, patents and intellectual property that are self-sustaining and revenue generating. Reis Alsberry will clearly play a major role in that effort.

Reis D. Alsberry, J.D., is a patent agent, who most recently served as intellectual property (IP) and export control (EC) manager in the Office of Innovations Commercialization at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.
SUMMER 2016 OPPORTUNITIES

The HBCU/MEI Faculty Student Research Initiative (SRI) with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has extended its application deadline to February 12th. For more information please see the information below:

http://www.orau.org/ornl/faculty/hbcu-mei-summer-program.htm#a

HBCU/MEI Faculty Summer Research Program at ORNL

www.orau.org

2016 HBCU/MEI Faculty Summer Research Program.
Program Description | Eligibility and Benefits | Duration and Location Research Areas | Application Process | …

Summer 2016 Research Experiences for Undergraduate (REU) Programs

http://mrsec.columbia.edu/reu

http://spur.uoregon.edu/

http://undergrad.rpi.edu/update.do?artcenterkey=481

http://my.umbc.edu/groups/undergradresearch/posts/57056


http://okbio.org/summer-2016-research-experience-for-undergraduate-students/

http://scholarship-positions.com/internships/university-kansas-medical-center-summer-undergraduate-research-fellowship-program/

Student Opportunities at the University of Florida, Gainesville

http://cur.aa.ufl.edu/summer-research-experiences-for-undergraduates.aspx

http://reu.chem.ufl.edu/index.php

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/reu/index.shtml

http://www.collegescholarships.org/grants/

FAMU School of Graduate Studies and Research

2015-2016 Calendar (March 2016 Events)
http://gradsense.org/gradsense
When: March 28, 2016 – March 30, 2016 all-day
Cost: Free
Contact: School of Graduate Studies and Research
(850) 599-3505

Graduate Student Appreciation Week (March 28 – April 1, 2016)
March 30 – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Graduate Research Poster Competition – Grand Ballroom
3MT Competition – Lee Hall Auditorium 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Awards Reception – Graduate Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Award – Grand Ballroom 7:35 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
For more information, call (850) 599-3505
Two Intellectual Property Awareness Events Scheduled

Friday, February 5, 2016
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Room 106
10 a.m.

and

Innovation Park
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
Material Research Building, Conference Room 114
3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Tanaga A. Boozer, J.D.
Program Advisor: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
(Former Director, FAMU Office of Technology Transfer)

Both events are open to all interested faculty, staff and students!
For additional information, please call 850-412-7232.

If you require a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at 605-586-3076 at least 10 working days prior to the start of the event.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
College of Education

Dr. Elmira Mangum, President
Marcella David, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Professor of Law
Dr. Traci Taylor, Dean, College of Education

Florida Conference of Black State Legislators
3rd Annual Educational Symposium
Theme: "Issues Affecting the Education of African-Americans in Florida"

Friday, February 5, 2016
Florida A&M University Campus
College of Pharmacy Building
1415 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32307
Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm
# Conference Agenda

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
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## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 AM – 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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### Concurrent "What Works" Sessions

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - Student poster Set-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Luncheon Key</td>
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## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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### Student-Centered Panels

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Graduates</td>
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### Closing Wrap up

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
The Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Education and Human Resources Programs (EHR) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), within the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). The conference is aimed at college and university undergraduate and graduate students who participate in programs funded by the NSF HRD Unit, including underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities.

The objectives of the conference are to help undergraduate and graduate students to enhance their science communication skills and to better understand how to prepare for science careers in a global workforce. Towards this end, the general format for the 2-1/2 day conference will include:

- Student poster and oral presentations.

Other conference activities include workshops focused on:

- Strategies for applying for and succeeding in graduate programs and finding funding for graduate school;
- Career preparation workshops focused on employment searches and retention; and
- Understanding STEM careers in a global context and identifying international research and education opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Exhibitors will include representatives from academic, government, business, and the non-profit sector with information about graduate school admissions, fellowships, summer research opportunities, professional development activities, and employment opportunities. Visit: http://www.emerging-researchers.org/#
The REU program provides undergraduate students in mechanical engineering and related fields an opportunity to participate in ongoing research programs through an integrated learning process including individualized projects, group design experience, field trips and other professional development.

**Summer Activities**
- Individualized Research Projects
- Group Design Project
- Professional Development Sessions
- Social and Outreach Activities
- Tours of Research Labs and Local Industry
- Open House Oral and Poster Presentations

**Research Topics**
- Micro Air Vehicle
- Multi-modal Robots
- Autonomous Motion Control
- Smart Materials
- Active Flow Control
- Aerodynamics
- Aeronautics
- Sensors and Actuators
- Computational Physics

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**Important Dates**
- March 4: Application deadline
- March 18: Acceptance notifications

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**Program duration:** June 6—August 12, 2016
10-week program: $4,000 stipend for all participants. External participants will be provided living accommodation and travel assistance with the total package exceeding $7,000.

**Mailbox:** REU-MASS Summer Program, Aero-propulsion, Mechatronics and Energy Center
**Web site:** http://www.aue.fsu.edu/Programs/NSF-REU-Summer-Program

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**FAMU Day at the Capitol**
Tallahassee, Florida
February 4, 2016

**Reception**
6–8 P.M.
22nd Floor
Florida State Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

*All FAMU Supporters are invited to participate*
*Explore FAMU's legislative priorities*
*Sponsor visits with your state legislators*

**FAMU’s Legislative Priorities:**
http://rattlerimpact.famu.edu 2016LegislativePriorities

**Sponsored by:** The FAMU National Alumni Association
For More Information:
Call: 855-622-4368  NAA-FAMU | E-mail: naafamurattlers@gmail.com
CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS
The IFMA Foundation’s fourth annual Academic and Research (A&R) Track “Papers and Presentations” is open for paper (abstract) submissions. The A&R track is a blind peer review initiative that runs within a separate venue at the World Workplace. Accepted papers will be published in the IFMA Academic & Research Conference Proceedings.

The call for papers is open to all academics and researchers in the Facility Management, Build Environment and related fields of study. All abstracts and final papers must be written in English. Authors will be contacted via e-mail regarding invitation to submit full papers and further information will be provided regarding full paper formatting and submission. Accepted papers will participate in the Academic & Research track presentation track at IFMA’s World Workplace in San Diego, California, U.S.A., October 5 – 7, 2016 (exact dates and times will be verified). Authors of accepted papers will receive a one-day registration or the equivalent discount to a full World Workplace registration. Travel costs will be the full responsibility of the author.

Please submit your Abstract online here: http://bit.ly/ifma-2016-abstract

THEME: Advancement of research in facility management is the focus of the Academic & Research track

Research Photos, Videos, News/Story Ideas Needed

Do you take pictures of your research? Capture videos of experiments, creative endeavors, etc.? Do you blog or have a refereed paper just published, a book authored/co-authored/edited? Just made or making a fresh conference presentation? Traveling to conduct global research explorations or received a new grant? Are you engaged in a research collaboration impacting the community right now? If any of these even slightly apply, we need to hear from you please!

RESEARCH REVELATIONS™, a monthly newswire; Captiveyes’ monitors (anchored campus wide); our walls or display cases featuring research accomplishments of FAMU’s Finest (fourth floor, Foote-Hilyer Administration Center) or press releases in general, we have many ways to help promote your research! But we need your help in getting the content so we can communicate it to the masses!! Please contact os.lamar@famu.edu with any captioned photos, videos or news/story ideas you would like to send along.

CONTACTS FOR THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH
Office of the Vice President for Research | 850-412-5102
Office of Sponsored Programs | 850-599-3531
Office of Animal Welfare and Research Integrity | 850-412-5246
Office of Contracts and Grants | 850-412-5067
Office of Technology Transfer | 850-412-7232
Office of Title III Programs | 850-599-3527
Office of the Sustainability Institute| 850-412-5413

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