

Technical Assistance

NRCS employees travel throughout the world to provide short and long-term technical assistance. NRCS bases its assistance depending on the needs of the host country. Following is a summary of international activities completed by agency personnel during Fiscal Year 2007.

Afghanistan was a main focus again for NRCS in FY 2007. NRCS sent seven specialists on short and long-term assignments to assist in training, planning, development and reconstruction efforts. They worked closely with Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development and military representatives. The agency also began assisting in Iraq.

The following employees provided assistance or are currently serving in Afghanistan:

- Anthony Beals, Soil Conservationist, Price, Utah
- Gary Domian, Assistant State Conservationist, Durham, New Hampshire
- Jon Fripp, Civil Engineer, Fort Worth, Texas
- Joseph Fuchtman, Resources Conservationist, Hanover, Virginia
- Michael Gangwer, Soil Conservationist, East Lansing, Michigan
- Alex Johnson, Soil Conservationist, Marion, South Carolina
- John Minnick, District Conservationist, Annapolis, Maryland

The following employees provided assistance or are currently serving in Iraq:

- Manuel Ayala, Jr., International Program Specialist, Beltsville, Maryland
- Rebecca Burt, Research Soil Scientist, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Steven Welker, RC&D Coordinator, Arecibo, Puerto Rico

Embassy Science Fellows Program

NRCS sponsored two employees for The Department of State's Embassy Science Fellows Program. Projects consisted of renewable energy projects and GIS in Moldova and Nigeria, respectively. Employees were from state office and regional offices.

International Meetings

International meetings provide forums for exchange and NRCS employees benefit by learning and sharing new ideas from our foreign hosts. Forty-seven NRCS employees attended international meetings in eighteen countries for information exchange, as members of committees, or to present papers at the meetings. The trend continued with Canada and Mexico being the two countries where employees traveled most.

Foreign Visitors

This year NRCS met with 112 foreign visitors from 23 Countries. Topics covered during these meetings ranged from conservation programs, water resources management to overviews of NRCS' functions.

The agency's leadership, specialists, and field staff all played important roles as itineraries and training were developed for our foreign guests.