Title: Regional/Global Food Security Cluster Hire
Meeting 12-1, May 11, 2012 in Rice 300

Motivation: Feeding 9+ billion people on this planet, while not destroying the environment, is arguably the most important task humans will undertake in the next 50 years. While Cornell has great strength and depth in agricultural sciences, scholars in regional to global scale assessment of human agriculture are lacking in many fields. Thus, this cluster seeks to identify potential gaps in Food Security issues, especially across the regional to global scales, in agricultural modeling, remote sensing, economics, sociology and/or policy, or other appropriate areas.

Minutes:
We had an open discussion of the important science questions and where new hires might make the most difference. A great deal of enthusiasm was expressed for the ideal of a cluster hire in this area. A more apt name of the cluster might be: Global sustainable agriculture and food security, because we want to include the idea of agriculture not damaging the planet, but providing food security.

The following list of potential hires came out of the discussion

- Agriculture modeling or GIS or remote sensing
- Agricultural economics
- Nutrition: Food systems: human consumption linking to broader scales. Human access to food is food security.
- Intensification of agriculture and associated environmental problems.
- Human-food systems interactions (social and behavior): human aspects of production and consumption

For these positions we want to be sure that at some of the hires would be able to take a system approach, and integrate across disciplines (e.g. combine agricultural productivity with food access to estimate human consumption and thus food security). In addition, having some of the hires be able to do extension work, thus applying research to the field, would also be an important asset of the cluster.

Food security and agricultural production are tightly coupled to other issues, including water management, land use, land ownership, urbanization, and soil fertility limitation (associated with limits in phosphorus extraction).

Tasks:

- Individuals who think their department might be interested in a related hire should work with colleagues to draft a 1-2 paragraph description of what their department would be interested in. To include in the application, the hire will need the support of the department chair.
- Continue to brainstorm with colleagues on where the most important hires would be. Please send emails to Natalie with more colleagues or departments who should be included in future discussion.
- Natalie will organize another meeting on this topic in late August or early September.

Attendees:

Organizers:

Last Name	First Name	NetID or email	Dept (if known)	College (If known)
Mahowald	Natalie	nmm63@cornell.edu		

Participant RSVP (attending): 18

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