

ICCA Argentina

Program Status – October 2012

The ICCA Argentina program has been under developing since late 2008, but it has had several problems along the last couple of years. Briefly, since a meeting that we put together with the Secretary of Agriculture in February 2011, there have been numerous obstacles and problems in the relationship with agronomists unions and universities. The main issue under discussion is that syndicated agronomists unions have complained about the “intromission of a north American organization” in the training of local agronomists. They were quite active and influenced universities making this a political point more than an issue on a certification program. Further, ICCA Argentina has been seen as an “intromission of a north America” by political groups.

We, as provisory ICCA Argentina committee, have worked talking and presenting ICCA to several institutions and organizations, such as the Secretary of University Politics of the Ministry of Education, several agronomist association, and universities at individual level and at their joint organization (AUDEAS, university association of deans of agronomy colleges). All these conversations greatly delayed and diluted our efforts on starting the program, even though the great support and collaboration from ASA, i.e. Luther Smith and Jim Vorst visited us on April 2011 and we greatly advanced in developing sections and evaluating local management of the program.

After several months of these lengthy conversations and meetings, we have decided to keep working in developing ICCA but with a lower profile. We are greatly supported by the Faculty of Agronomy of the National University of Mar del Plata (FCA-UNMDP), located at Balcarce (Buenos Aires), farmer’s association such as AACREA and AAPRESID, associations of ag companies such as CIAFA, CASAFE, ACTA, and ASA and Fertilizar AC, and organizations such as IPNI. The Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA) is also actively collaborating in the program.

The current group working for ICCA Argentina is as follows:

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Since August 2012, Juan J. Eyherabide (FCA-UNMdP) is the coordinator of our activities. His expenses are being paid by the different institutions that are supporting the program.

The current situation of the different topics is as follows:

1. Exams and Objectives

Pablo Prystupa (FAUBA) is leading this committee. We have the objectives of the Soils and Water Management and Nutrient Management sections almost done. The Pest Management and Crop Management sections are under local revision. We hope to have the Exams and Objectives ready before the end of the year.

2. Business partner

Juan Eyherabide is working with two possible organizations: the Cooperative Association of FCA-UNMdP, and UBATEC which is an organization related to the University of Buenos Aires. We would decide which one would be most appropriate from our end by the end of November. The BP agreement was translated to Spanish.

3. Standards and Ethics

Materials are being translated to Spanish.

We would rather to avoid specific dates for exams or meetings because we have had so many problems, and we might face new ones. Thus, we propose to keep ICCA-ASA informed in our progress and hope to have our first exam by 2013.

Provisory Board
ICCA Argentina Program
15 October 2012