The Noragric Bulletin gives a summary of Noragric's activities during the intervals between each Bulletin (normally twice a year), including information on staff and visitors, seminars, projects, etc. The Bulletin is sent by e-mail to our networks and partners but is also available on the Noragric website http://www.umb.no/noragric/article/information-dissemination

If this Bulletin fails to display properly, please see the pdf version on the Noragric website.

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To reach staff by e-mail, write <firstname.lastname@umb.no>. An overview of staff names, telephone extensions and e-mail addresses can also be found on the Noragric website (Staff).

This issue of the Bulletin summarizes Noragric’s activities since August 2010.

Editor:
Joanna Boddens-Hosang,
Communication Advisor

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News
“Noragric is an important centre for research on key topics in international geography”, according to RCN evaluation

This is the conclusion of an independent Nordic review team in an evaluation of research in geography in Norway for the Research Council of Norway (RCN). The reviewers state that “Noragric is a strong, internationally recognised research environment that plays an important role in the broader field of geography research in Norway. Noragric is a strikingly multidisciplinary research environment from which some of the most promising research for the renewal of (political) geography in Norway has recently been launched. Studies of natural resource management with a focus on land and water in tropical areas and with a clear social science perspective are well represented in Norwegian geography. The most important research environment for such studies is the interdisciplinary Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric, at the University of Life Sciences (UMB). It will be a challenge for Norwegian geography to better integrate the work being carried out at UMB into the broader geography research arena”. Summarizing and quoting from the report, The Research Council of Norway writes that research at Noragric is focused and of high quality. "This is a research environment that other Norwegian geography environments should look to". The report can be downloaded on RCN's website.

Projects

Noragric is participating in three projects under the 5-year ‘Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation’ (CCIAM) programme. The projects are starting in 2011. These are: “Climate change, non-timber forest products and livelihood of forest dependent communities: Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in selected parts of Tanzania” (main Noragric researcher is Siri Eriksen); “Development of adaptive simulation model for predicting carbon stock dynamics in wetland ecosystems under different management options” (main Noragric researchers are Arild Vatn, Paul Vedeld and Darley Kjosavik); “Government Challenges in REDD Implementation in Tanzania: Experiences from Participatory Forest Management in Manyara and Lindi Regions” (main Noragric researchers are Tor Arve Benjaminsen, Odd Helge Fjelstad and Knut Nustad). Read about the 5-year CCIAM programme on http://www.umb.no/noragric/article/climate-change-impacts-adaptation-and-mitigation-cciam-programme-in-tanzania. Noragric contact: Lars Olav Eik.

The Research Council of Norway approved two project applications from Noragric in the Norglobal programme: “The Politics of Climate Change Adaption: An Integrative Approach of Development and Climate Change Interventions in Nepal and Mongolia” (coordinators: Siri Eriksen, Andrei Marin and PhD student Sigrid Nagoda); and “Gender and Human Security in Post-Conflict Pakistan: Policy implications of local gendered perceptions of security and development” (coordinators Ingrid Nyborg/Noragric and Bahadar Nawab/CIIT).
The follow-up to the five-year PANTIL programme is called "Enhancing Pro-poor Innovations in Natural Resources and Agricultural Value-chains (EPINAV)" and has a budget frame of NOK 72 million over a four-year period. Similar to the set-up for the PANTIL and CCIAM programmes, roughly 20% of the budget will be allocated to Norwegian partners. Activities to be funded include programme coordination, impact assessment, student training, exchange programmes and institutional compensation for involvement of researchers. In EPINAV emphasis is on up-scaling of proven technologies developed in previous programmes. EPINAV will formally be launched in Tanzania on 23 February 2011.

Noragric contact: Lars Olav Eik

The programme period for HERD (Programme in Higher Education, Research and Development in the Western Balkans) has been extended until the end of 2014. A second call for applications under the Agriculture Sector of the programme (HERD/Agriculture) will be announced on UMB’s home page in the near future. Noragric contact: Thor S. Larsen

Research clusters
The cluster “Governance and Climate Change Cluster (GOVCLIM) organized two seminars with external speakers. On 28 October Audun Rosland (Special envoy for climate and forest in the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment) gave a presentation on "What can we expect from Cancun? - General Issues and Issues for REDD". On 13 December Violeta Dirimanova (Assistant Professor, Agricultural University Plovdiv, Bulgaria) talked about "Economic Effects of Land Fragmentation: Property Rights, Markets and Contracts in Bulgaria". GOVCLIM is planning a conference on national REDD+ architectures in August 2011. The overall objective of the conference is to bring together policy-makers and researchers involved in developing REDD+ architectures at national levels to facilitate critical reflection, knowledge exchange and experience sharing between countries at various stages in REDD+ design and implementation.

The cluster “Rights, Accountabilities and Power in Development” (RAPID) invited Malcolm Langford (Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights) to Noragric on 9 December to talk about "Socio-economic rights and natural resources: State of the art in struggles over water rights in South Africa”.

The cluster "Environmental Governance & Protected Areas" (ENGOPA) organized a seminar on 15 November with Noragric Research Fellow Jon Geir Petursson who addressed "Going transboundary? Institutional and organizational analyses of transboundary protected area management challenges. The case of Mt. Elgon, Uganda and Kenya”.

The cluster “Agricultural Development, Livelihoods and Environmental Change” (ADLEC) held a seminar on 11 November with Noragric’s Professor Fred H. Johnsen speaking about “The Role of Governments and Markets in Development”. In addition, ADLEC, together with Africa Network Norway, organized a conference in Oslo on 14 December called "Local adaptation to climate change for improved food and energy security in rural Africa". The conference was attended by 55 participants.

The cluster “Conflict, Human Security and Development” (CHSD) met twice in the autumn. On 20 September the new PhD students in the
cluster gave presentations on their projects followed by discussion with other cluster members. These are Jason Miklian (USA), Mohamed Gaas (Norway), Shai Divon (Norway) and Ingvild Jacobsen (Norway). The students gave a short presentation of their projects and received feedback from the other cluster members. On 19 October CHSD met to discuss a book project based on the cluster’s main issues, conflict, human security and development, with contributions from the cluster members both regarding theoretical framework and case studies.

For further information on Noragric’s scientific clusters please consult http://www.umb.no/noragric-clusters/article/scientific-clusters-at-noragric/

PhD

Ten new PhD students joined Noragric in the autumn:

Yeshila Wondemeneh Bekele (Ethiopia)

Getachew Sime Feyissa (Ethiopia)

Jason Miklian (USA)

Mohamed Gaas (Norway)
• Getachew Sime Feyissa is doing research on “Impacts of agricultural intensification on livelihoods of small holding farmers and implications for environmental health in the rift valley region of Ethiopia” (supervisor Dr Jens Aune);

• Yeshtila Wondemeneh Bekele has chosen the research topic “The Political- Economy of Poverty and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Ethiopia: Perspectives from Rural Households in SNNPRS (supervisor Dr Darley Kjosavik);

• Jason Miklian’s research topic is “Green Mining, Displacement and the Maoist conflict in India” (supervisor Dr Stig Jarle Hansen);

• Mohamed Gaas is doing research on “The role and the impact of Somali
Diaspora in conflicts, peace and state buildings, and reconstructing of Somalia” (supervisor Dr Stig Jarle Hansen);

- Marianne Karlsson’s research topic is “Community based climate change vulnerability and adaptation in Small Island Developing States” (supervisor Prof Ian Bryceson);

- Jennifer West is focusing on “Actors, strategies and discourses in development: the case of REDD and climate adaptation in Tanzania” (supervisor Dr Siri Eriksen).

- Ingvild Jacobsen’s research topic is “Womens’ security in a post-conflict context” (supervisor Dr Ingrid Nyborg).


- Grete Benjaminsen has chosen the research topic “Implementing REDD in Zanzibar: Risks, rights and revenue sharing” (supervisor Dr Randi Kaarhus).

- Shai Divon is doing research on “The effects of securitization on global development policy” (supervisors are Dr Stig J. Hansen, Prof Bill Derman and Dr Cassandra Bergstrøm).

In addition, Noragric also received two quota stipends and two UMB PhD stipends starting in 2011. The Research Committee is discussing whether to convert one of the latter into a 2-year post-doc stipend.

Five PhD students successfully defended their thesis in December 2010 and January 2011:

Waktole Tiki (Ethiopia)

Mohamed Ali Guyo (Kenya)

Zeinabu Kabale Khalif (Kenya)
Waktole Tiki defended on 3 December with the thesis title “The Dynamics of the Ancient Tula Wells Cultural Landscape: Environmental and Social History, ca 1560 to the Present”;

Mohamed Ali Guyo defended on 7 December with thesis title “The Shifting Sands of Politics in the Horn of Africa: Evolution and Securitisation of Islamism in Somalia”;

Zeinabu Kabale Khalif defended on 8 December whose thesis is on “Pastoral Transformation: Shifta-war, Livelihood, and Gender Perspectives Among the Waso Borana in Northern Kenya”;

Bed Mani Dahal defended on 16 December with thesis title “Agricultural Intensification in a Mid-Hill Watershed of Nepal: Socio-economic and Environmental Implications”.

Hussein Jemma successfully defended his thesis “Politics and Property Rights Regimes in Land in Arsi Negele and Hetossa, South-Central Oromia, Ethiopia: Late 1880s-2006” on 6 January 2011.

The abstracts of the theses are available on the Noragric web http://www.umb.no/noragric/article/noragric-phd-dissertations-2

Bachelor and master programmes
At the end of the autumn semester, Noragric had 37 bachelor students in the Development Studies programme, 32 master students for the Development Studies programme, 33 for the International Environmental Studies programme, and 39 for the new master programme in International Relations. Students in the latter programme spent two days a week at partner institution NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) in Oslo on individual studies. The programme will receive NOK 400,000 from UMB in 2011.

As part of the study abroad possibilities offered at Noragric, six master students spent the autumn semester at the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, India. Six bachelor students took the 25 credit field- and theoretical course at the Indian NGO Seva Mandir which works for the development of the rural and tribal population in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan.

MoU signed with Norwegian Police University College
A five-year Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Norwegian Police University College in connection with emerging joint
research in human security, development and security reform in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This will link to Noragric’s ongoing collaboration with COMSATS and the Pakistani NGOs Rozan and Hujra, focusing on human security and development in post-conflict contexts (Swat) in Pakistan. The research being conducted in Pakistan receives funding from Norad, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistani Planning Commission and the Norwegian Research Council. Project coordinator at Noragric is Dr Ingrid Nyborg. PhD students Ingvild Jacobsen and Kashif Khan are also involved.

Student efforts to raise funds for flood victims in Pakistan

Pakistani and Norwegian students at UMB worked hard to raise funds for the stricken areas in Pakistan following the July floods. Through the Norwegian Student Organisation (NSO) the students organized a campaign to raise money for the Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Campaign coordinated by the COMSATS Institute for Information Technology (CIIT) and headed by Dr. Bahadar Nawab, Head of Development Studies at CIIT, and a graduate of Noragric’s PhD programme. The students raised NOK 41,000 which was matched by UMB with the same sum, bringing the total to NOK 82,000 (approx. 10,500 Euro). Connor Cavanagh, Noragric master student in the Development Studies programme, travelled to Pakistan in December to see first-hand how the funds are put to use and report on the flood relief activities upon return to Noragric/UMB.

Some 21 students were involved in a joint project between UMB (Noragric and IPM, the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences) and CIIT focusing on Sustainable Water, Sanitation, Health and Development in the poor areas of northwest Pakistan, a region badly stricken by the recent floods. The students used their education and competence on sustainable approaches to water and sanitation in these areas.

Thor Heyerdahl summer school

A summer school series – the Thor Heyerdahl Summer School in Environmental Governance – is being established at UMB and organised by Noragric. The series aims at giving PhD students and young researchers the opportunity to develop high level skills in analyzing environmental governance issues. The first course (Environmental governance: Institutions for sustainable development) will run from June 20-July 1. The main focus will be on the institutional foundation of environmental governance and how issues at global, national and local scales are linked. Specific challenges related to creating sustainable development will be emphasized. Several internationally renowned
researchers will participate as lecturers. Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom will participate as keynote lecturer at the 2011 event. Professor Ostrom is especially known for her studies on the role of self governance and the capacities of local communities to craft their own rules to manage environmental resources. Over the years Ostrom has also increasingly focused on issues related to global environmental policy. Professor Arild Vatn is responsible for convening the series. Details can be found on www.umb.no/thor-heyerdahl-summer-school

International research fellowship to former PhD student
Former PhD student Ayana Angassa (defended in 2007) was awarded a prestigious Georg Forster Research Fellowship by the Alexander Humboldt Foundation. The Germany-based Humboldt Foundation grants up to 60 Georg Forster Research Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers and experienced researchers annually.

Expanding the focus on Latin America
Noragric already has academic activities with among others Earth University in Costa Rica (bachelor student exchange) and Instituto Socioambiental in Brazil (student/staff visiting arrangement) but is exploring possibilities of expanding its activities elsewhere on the continent. In September, Noragric (Dr Esben Leifsen, Prof. Fred Johnsen, Dr Randi Kaarhus and PhD student Simon Pahle) participated in a meeting organized by Norad who wished to establish an overview of Latin America competence and activities at UMB. A delegation from several Argentinian universities visited UMB in September to explore academic collaboration and Dr Esben Leifsen briefed them on Noragric’s activities. Visits from Guatemala and the University of Brasília may also lead to closer collaboration, the latter recently formalized in an agreement.

Food for thought
Head of Department Dr Gry Synnevåg is participating in a working group consisting of representatives of the UMB departments with the mandate to suggest ways of profiling UMB in the area of “food”. Food in this respect is related to food production, food quality, human nutrition, food security and global access to food.

Publications, articles, presentations at seminars

Tor A. Benjaminsen
The researcher with most publication points in 2010 at Noragric was Prof. Tor Arve Benjaminsen (4, 5 points) followed by Prof. Arild Vatn (3, 2 points). The researcher who scored the highest in the category “media and popular scientific presentations or publications” in 2010 was Associate Professor Stig Jarle Hansen (39 entries) followed by Prof. Clive Spash (13 entries) and Tor Arve Benjaminsen (also 13 entries).

The full list of publications and presentations produced by Noragric staff can be found on the Noragric website under ‘Publications registered in the Forskdok database’:  http://www.umb.no/noragric/article/publications

Seminars, meetings and travel

Noragric’s Head of Department, Dr Gry Synnevåg
• travelled to Tanzania in October with, among others, UMB rector Hans Fredrik Hoen and Prof. Lars Olav Eik for the annual meeting between UMB/Sokoine University of Agriculture/Norwegian School of Veterinary Science. A planning meeting was held for the start-up of the EPINAV programme (successor to the PANTIL programme, see under Projects above).
• presented Noragric’s research activities at a meeting organized by the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Oslo, in October
• gave opening remarks on the first day of the International Conference on Ecosystem Responses to Global Environmental Challenge in Nepal (13-17 November) and presented “An interdisciplinary approach to climate change” in one of the sessions which she co-chaired. Prof. Bishal Sitaula also attended the conference and gave a keynote speech on “A linked and multi-dimensional perspective of global environmental change”. (Bishal has photos) Gry also visited the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu for discussions on possible institutional collaboration with partners in Nepal.
• travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, where she attended the EADI
Director’s meeting on “Development research and training institutes: Responding to the global agenda” on 17-18 November.

- continued to Mali together with Dr Jens Aune from 29 November - 6 December to initiate a new project on adaptation to climate change in Mali. This project will focus on agricultural development and environmental rehabilitation in central and northern parts of Mali.
- gave a keynote speech on the role of technology in strengthening women’s empowerment, and participated in the panel discussion at the annual conference hosted by the Oslo-based Forum for Women and Development on 1 February. The focus of this year’s conference was on “women + technology = equality?” The conference was attended by, among others, the Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education, Tora Aasland.

Head of Research Prof. N. Shanmugaratnam

- presented “Conflict, peace processes and Norway’s role in Sri Lanka” at the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board in Oslo on 18 October.
- On 30 October he gave a public lecture at ATREE, Bangalore, India entitled “From failed peace processes to the military option – Reflections on Norway’s mediation and the post-war situation in Sri Lanka”.
- gave lectures at Ruhuna University, Sri Lanka, from 2-4 November for the master programme “Conflict, Peace and Development Studies (NOMA project) and a public lecture on 4 November on “Diasporas and Transnationalism – A perspective with reference to the Lankan Tamil diaspora”.
- On 9 November Shan gave a public lecture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka on “Development Studies then and now – a historical perspective”.
- On 29-30 November Shan gave a lecture on Post-war peace building and development at the Centre for Peace & Development Studies (CPDS), Juba University, South Sudan.

Head of Education Dr Kjell Esser travelled to Madagascar 2-13 December to participate in the establishment of the Antsirabe Cross-cultural Competence Centre. Five Norwegian universities/colleges participated. The option of offering bachelor students in the Development Studies programme a study tour to Madagascar and opportunities for master research are being considered.

Dr. Poul Wisborg and Prof. Fred H. Johnsen travelled to Malawi in September to lead two mid-term review
teams. While Poul Wisborg’s team assessed the Mulanje Mountain Biodiversity Conservation Project, Fred H. Johnsen’s team assessed the MACC (Management for Adaptation to Climate Change) programme implemented by Total Land Care. Fred went to Zambia in November to work on impact studies under the Conservation Agriculture Project (CAP) together with PhD students Progress Nyanga and Bridget Bwalya.

Dr Poul Wisborg travelled to Ghana 22 November-10 December as part of his post-doc studies (see under Staff news) to visit IFPRI in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of the trip was to discuss details of the study with IFPRI-Accra; draft the scope for the cases; interview key stakeholders and search for material on policy processes, politics and public debate around transnational land deals in Ghana. Meetings were held with various individuals and organizations in Accra, including IFPRI, the World Bank, the University of Ghana and a visit to the Scanfarm biofuel/agriculture project in Agopo, Kumasi.

Dr Jens B. Aune travelled to north and south Kordofan, Sudan, from 20-28 September to follow up the Ecofarm project of the Dryland Coordination Group. This project has focused developing low cost methods for improving soil fertility through the use of micro-dosing of mineral fertiliser. Good results have been produced and collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development has been initiated to scale-up the results from the project.

Dr Darley Kjosavik

• travelled to Jaipur and Udaipur in Rajasthan, India, on 1-9 August where she had preparation meetings with director Dr. Surjit Singh and staff of the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ) for the EDS287 (Role of state and civil society in development) course. She met with the six Noragric master students on their arrival at IDSJ and participated in the introductory lectures. She also visited Seva Mandir at Udaipur, had preparatory meetings with Director Neelima Khetan and the staff on the bachelor course and internship programme (EDS272) on 'Understanding Rural Development Challenges in India'. Six Bachelor students from Noragric are participating in the course.
• From 14-21 August she travelled to Manaus, Brazil, together with Prof. Arild Vatn and Dr Synne Movik, for the planning workshop of the REDD (Noragric-IIED) project and visited the project communities in the Amazon basin.
• From 21-31 October Darley travelled to Bangalore, India with Prof. Shanmugaratnam for the ATREE project. Field visits were conducted in Tamil Nadu and Kerala with ATREE staff for data collection for ongoing projects and exploratory visits for developing new project proposals.
Meetings were held with the director, involved staff and PhD students at ATREE.

- Travelled to Nairobi, Kenya on 24-28 November with Prof. Shanmugaratnam and Dr Stig Jarle Hansen for the planning meeting of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded project 'UN and war economy' where they met with research partners from Somalia and USA.
- From 29 November 29 – 12 December Darley travelled to South Sudan with Prof. Shanmugaratnam, Dr Trygve Berg and PhD student Christin Ormhaug. Darley gave lectures at the Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS), University of Juba, and had meetings with the staff. From 4-10 December she went on a field visit to Nimule (South Sudan-Uganda border) together with Victoria Gulí of the CPDS for data collection on the gender dimensions of resettlement and reintegration of the post-war returnees.

As a component of the third phase of the Norad-project on institutional collaboration between two universities in Ethiopia (Hawassa and Mekelle) and UMB/Noragric, an Ethiopian-Norwegian Alumni Organization was formally established in a meeting in Addis Ababa on 18 November 2010. The meeting was attended by among others Mr. Rolf Ree, Chargé d’Affaires at the Norwegian Embassy in Addis, Dr. Admasu, President of Hawassa University, Dr. Kindeya, Deputy President at Mekelle University, Mrs. Margot Skarpeteig, Norad, Dr Trygve Berg, Noragric, and about 40 Ethiopians who received a degree from a Norwegian university. There are several hundred Ethiopian staff with degrees from Norway now working in various sectors in Ethiopia, the largest group from UMB.

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Prof. Arild Vatn gave a number of keynote presentations at the following venues last autumn:

1. the ALTER-Net Conference on Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, Vienna, November 3-4. Title of presentation: Ecosystem services from a policy perspective.
2. the Thor Heyerdahl International Day 2010, NTNU, Trondheim, October 27. Title of presentation: Menneske og miljø – fra genetikk til klimapolitikk
3. the 1st Nordic Conference on Forest Policy Science, Uppsala, October 14. Title of presentation: The role of markets in forest conservation.

Conference lectures were given at:
1. the Albrecht Daniel Thaer Kolloquium 2010, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Berlin, on November 18-19.
2. the 11th ISEE conference in Oldenburg, Germany, 23-25 August, at the Session: Experimenting the Governance of the Commons on “Getting Ready for REDD+. A study of national governance structures for REDD+”, and on “Resolving Commons’ Dilemmas – the role of institutional
External lectures and scientific presentations were given at:
1. the Institut für Regional- und Umweltwirtschaft, Wirtschaftsuniversität, Vienna, November 4, on “Institutional economics - the new mainstream?”
2. a REDD+ seminar organised by the Center for Environment and Development, University of Oslo, 5 October. Title: “International and National Governance Structures for REDD+”.
3. Fundacion Sustaneval Amazonas, Manaus, Brazil, 18 August, on REDD+ architectures at the international and national level. A workshop for the IIED/UMB project 'Poverty and sustainable development impacts of REDD architecture: Options for equity, growth and the environment' was held in Manaus, on August 16-19. Other participants from Noragric were Dr Darley Kjosavik and Dr Synne Movik.

Prof. Paul Vedeld

- participated at the 11th ISSE conference in Oldenburg, Germany on 23-25 August where he presented a paper and a poster.
- presented a paper together with Prof. Arild Vatn at the Albrecht Daniel Thaer Colloquium, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Berlin, on November 18-19.
- spent two weeks from 8 – 20 October on field visits in Tanzania.

Prof. Tor Arve Benjaminsen

- was invited on 15 September to a seminar organised by SPIRE (The Development Fund’s Youth Organisation) in Oslo to give a presentation on “What is landgrabbing?”
- attended the annual seminar for the NUFU projects in Tanzania on 28 September in Dar es Salaam and co-presented with his Tanzanian counterparts, Dr Jumanne M. Abdallah and Dr Faustin Maganga, the status of activities in the project called "Political Ecology of Wildlife and Forest Governance in Tanzania (EKOSIASA)"
- was invited on 19 October for a meeting with the Minister of Environment and International Development Erik Solheim following a newspaper article Tor Arve and Dr Hanne Svarstad had written in Klassekampen (“Kritisk miljøforskning”, 14 August 2010) arguing that it is easier to obtain funding for mainstream rather than critical environmental research. The minister was interested to hear more about their arguments.
- gave a presentation at WWF-Norway on 21 October on “Conservation as recentralization: examples from Tanzania”

Prof. Bishal Sitaula attended the International Conference on Ecosystem Responses to Global Environmental Challenge in Nepal on 13-
17 November where he gave a keynote speech on “A linked and multi-dimensional perspective of global environmental change”. Gry Synnevåg (see above) also attended the conference.

On 14 December Noragric co-organised with Africa Network Norway a conference on “Local adaptation to climate change for improved food and energy security in rural Africa”. The venue was Norad. Presentations were given by Head of Department Dr Gry Synnevåg, Prof. Ruth Haug, Prof. Frik Sundstøl, Dr Jens Aune, Dr Trygve Berg, Dr Andrei Marin and Dr Kassim Kalindwa (guest researcher from the University of Dar es Salaam, now staff member).

On 26 January an exploratory workshop on “Development under Climate Change: Reshaping the Norwegian development agenda” was organised by Noragric with the intention to bring together central actors in the field of climate and development from Norwegian academia and NGOs. Siri Eriksen and Andrei Marin gave presentations and played a key role in the organisation of the workshop.

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**Staff news**

Prof. Fred H. Johnsen has been granted a four-year leave of absence from 1 January 2011 to become the Head of Department at the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Applied Ecology and Agricultural Sciences, Hedmark University College. Noragric’s Head of Department Dr Gry Synnevåg is now the main contact for the Norad frame agreement with UMB and Dr Kulindwa (see below) has taken over some of Fred’s teaching duties.

Dr Kassim Kulindwa, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, joined Noragric as guest researcher in August and is now (February 2011) Associate Professor on a 4-year contract. Among others, Dr Kulindwa has taken over Fred Johnsen’s teaching duties in the master programme on International Environment and Development Studies. Dr Kulindwa is an invited expert to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar convention and member of the West Indian Ocean Marine
Dr John McNeish (right in photo), a social anthropologist previously with the Christian Michelsen Institute in Bergen, joined Noragric on 1 November as Associate Professor – International Political Economy of the Environment. John’s research has focused on indigenous and marginalised rural communities in Latin America, specifically Bolivia and Guatemala. He has also been Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Bergen.

Dr Poul Wisborg has been granted a post-doc scholarship from the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and is at CAPRi/IFPRI (Washington D.C.) until 1 July 2012. Poul received the scholarship through RCN’s CGIAR programme to work on a 2-year project “Large land deals in Africa: Gendered processes of tenure insecurity, resource capture and collective action”. The goal is to contribute to the understanding of how power relations and processes shape the outcomes of land deals for different groups. He will be working together with the Program for Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRi), a CGIAR-wide programme hosted at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington D.C.

Noragric staff spent the annual Winter Seminar at Tyrifjord Hotel this year (24-25 January) to discuss international environment and development studies at Noragric and the changing global context. Noragric’s education programmes, research focus and scientific clusters were reviewed in working groups and further discussed in plenary.

Dr Kjell Esser has stepped down as Head of Education after six years. An internal replacement will be appointed early this spring. In the meantime, Dr John McNeish is Acting Head of Education.

Visitors
A delegation (Bert Kohlmann, Pedro Bidegaray, Julieta Carolina Mazzola) from Earth University, Costa Rica, visited Noragric on 22 October to discuss details of the bachelor student exchange agreement and Noragric's interdisciplinary model. Possible future research collaboration was also addressed. Noragric contact: Esben Leifsen.

Yahia Mahmoud and Axel Fredholm from Lund University, Sweden, visited Noragric on 23 November to discuss with Head of Education Dr Kjell Esser collaboration on a master programme on Global Challenges and Management with a focus on the Middle East/Horn of Africa leading to a Master’s Degree in Sustainability Studies. Some 20 students will be taking courses at Noragric in 2013.

John Beer from CATIE, Costa Rica visited Noragric on 25 November to discuss academic collaboration and research possibilities. Representatives from Norad, Bioforsk and the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute participated at the meeting which was led by Prof. Ruth Haug.

Dr. T. Ganesh and Dr. Soubadra from ATREE visited Noragric during a week in October for discussions with Torbjørn Haugaasen (UMB Dept. of Ecology and Natural Resource Management) and Prof Bishal Sitaula. During their stay at UMB, they also gave lectures to UMB students. ATREE staff Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy and Dr. Robert Chandran were at Noragric from 21 January - 3 February developing a proposal for future collaborative work with Noragric. Contact: Prof. Bishal Sitaula.