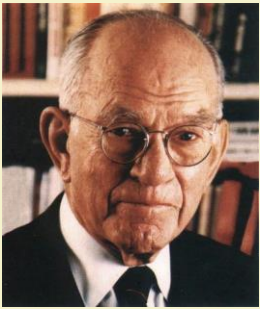


*Small Fruit Crop Research and Training Program
with the Moroccan National Agronomic Research Institute*

Mark Gaskell, Ph.D.

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Fulbright Senior Scholar 2011-2014



About Senator J. William Fulbright

- Prominent and gifted American statesman of the 20th century
- 30 years US Congress
- Proposed at end of WW II – educational exchanges in all fields of endeavor include
 - science, business, academe, public service, government, and the arts
- Passed unanimously in 1946 – US > post-war leadership role in the world
- Increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries
 - now in 155 countries
- Binational partnerships - Administered by US Dept. of State
- Funded by war reparations, foreign loan repayments, war surplus

Background

- *Morocco's climate and geographic position create important advantages for producing out of season fruits and vegetables for EU markets.*
- *Moroccan Plan Green initiated in 2008*
 - *intensify and diversify horticulture in Morocco*
 - *improve income on small farms and in rural areas.*
- *Moroccan climatic and soil conditions mimic those of similar areas in California.*



Small fruit berry crops



- Blueberry
(*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.)



- Blackberry
(*Rubus* spp.)



- Raspberry
(*Rubus ideaus* L.)



Fulbright Scholar teaching / research program (2011-2014)

Develop small fruit research base in the Moroccan National Agronomic Research Institute (INRA)

Two principal components:

- Small fruit horticulture training program for Moroccan researchers and agronomists.*
- Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program.*

Small fruit horticulture technical training program

- *Plan, organize, and conduct two research conferences with Moroccan researchers.*
 - *include on-site train via field visits to farms and research projects*
- *Utilize planning exercises, field visits, site selection and preparation, and establishment of research trial sites as in-service training opportunities.*



*Le Centre Régional de la Recherche
Agronomique de Tanger en collaboration
avec l'USDA organise:*

Cours Intégré sur les Petits Fruits Rouges au Maroc

*Pour une meilleure intégration
et valorisation de l'agriculture
au Maroc.*

T A N G E R
du 13 au 15 Mars 2012



المعهد الوطني للبحث الزراعي
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique



Cours Intégré sur les Petits Fruits Rouges au Maroc

TANGER du 13 au 15 Mars 2012







Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
- *Review opportunities for research trials at each site*
- *Meet with stakeholder groups to seek input, collaboration*
- *Prepare specific research proposal for multi-year research program with small fruits*
 - *long-term perennial crops*
 - *basis for funding under INRA and "Plan Green"*

Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- ✓ *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
 - *agroecological requirements of berry crops*
 - *market alternatives? local? / export ?*

Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- ✓ *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
- ✓ *Review opportunities for research trials at each site*
 - *local facilities, collaborators, etc.?*
 - *INRA administrative organisation; funding, etc.*

Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- ✓ *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
- ✓ *Review opportunities for research trials at each site*
- ✓ *Meet with stakeholder groups to seek input, collaboration*
 - *complex array of stakeholders
varying desires, needs, goals,*
 - *INRA has a research mandate
developing information based on research*

Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- ✓ *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
- ✓ *Review opportunities for research trials at each site*
- ✓ *Meet with stakeholder groups to seek input, collaboration*
- ✓ *Prepare specific research proposal for multi-year research program with small fruits*
 - *proposal approved / funded for 3 yrs beginning 2013*



Plan and establish a small fruit field trial research program

- ✓ *Identify key potential production areas for small fruits in Morocco*
- ✓ *Review opportunities for research trials at each site*
- ✓ *Meet with stakeholder groups to seek input, collaboration*
- ✓ *Prepare specific research proposal for multi-year research program with small fruits*
- ✓ *Install field trials to initiate research program
initial trials planted; additional plants ordered,
establishment of field site continuing.*



- *Small fruit berry crop production and export is an important new agricultural enterprise in Morocco.*
- *Establishment of new berry crop plantings is expanding in Morocco with positive effects on employment and the economies of Moroccan rural communities.*



Fulbright Program Outcome

The Moroccan National Agronomic Research Institute is positioned to provide research-based support to the developing small fruit production industry.

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