



i-ACES

{inquiry-ACES: Highlights of Undergraduate Research in ACES}

Dear *i-ACES* Readers:

The ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (PHL) was the lead organizer for the First International Congress on Postharvest Loss, which was held Oct. 4-7, 2015, in Rome, Italy.

The PHL Congress aimed to develop better tools and interventions to prevent postharvest losses for smallholders in developing countries through evidence-based dialogue among the world's leading experts and actors working in the field. Technical presentations were given using four thematic areas: postharvest loss scenario and status, assessment methods and metrics of PHL measurement, intervention strategies for PHL mitigation, and education platform and decision support systems. Highly experienced professionals also shared case studies from all four of these themes.

Seven students from the UIUC campus honors program had the opportunity to attend the Congress as a consequence of financial help from the ADM Institute, UIUC Campus Honors Program, College of ACES James Honors/Scholars Program, and the UIUC Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The students assisted the ADAMI organizing team by helping with setup and registration before and during the three-day conference. More importantly they attended sessions and learned about the issues being discussed. The students also interviewed some of the global leaders who presented at the Congress and interacted with them on a one-on-one basis. The students were struck by the experience of seeing 260 people from 62 different countries come together to tackle a global food security problem. They were able to get to know these people at the Congress and learn from them. These students are our best and brightest. Many of them are thinking of careers in that area now.

The ADM Institute is proud to be able to offer global experiences to students at the University of Illinois. Through these experiences, they learn about the broader world, and how they can do important work that can make a difference for thousands. These are mind-altering experiences for undergraduates looking to find their way in the world.

For some of the students, this was their first trip abroad, which added to the excitement. But all of the students took away a sense of amazement from the entire experience. After returning to the University of Illinois, the students wrote about their experiences for the ADM Institute's blog, and some of their experiences are printed in this issue of *i-ACES*.

Sincerely,

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