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**Educational experiences in agricultural sciences: a discovery call to high school students on the options and possibilities of the field of study**

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A two-week summer experience in Agricultural Sciences was offered to 11 high school students during summer 2009 with the objective of exposing them to various areas of the Agricultural Sciences that go beyond the “planting the farm” stereotype. It is expected for this awareness to spike student’s interest in pursuing higher education studies in Agricultural Sciences. Hands-on activities focused on Entomology, Biotechnology, Environmental Horticulture, Waste Management, Dairy Farm Management, Extraction of Essential Oils, Meat Processing, Dairy Processing, Agricultural Meteorology, Hydroponics, Home Gardening and Agricultural Machinery were planned for day or half-day sessions, depending on the subject, so as to provide variety, promote interactivity and avoid saturation. A day was dedicated to tour the Campus and laboratory facilities of the College of Agriculture, and counsel students on the admission process and University life. Participants filled out an exit questionnaire to rate their impressions on the various activities, overall logistics and impact of the activity over their interest towards studies in Agricultural Sciences. Collected data showed that 64% percent of participants had not considered Agricultural Sciences as a field of study before the activity. Yet, by the end of the two weeks, the same amount was clear on their interest to pursue higher education in the area. Students liked many of the activities, especially those in Biotechnology, Dairy Farm Management, Extraction of Essential Oils, Meat Processing and Dairy Processing. The event was part of a project sponsored by the USDA-NIFA Residence Instruction Grant for Insular Areas.

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