



C-MASC Assistant Director Viewpoint

FROM THE DESK OF KLAUS LORENZ

More good news – at the end of 2020 the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) reaffirmed C-MASC as the CFAES Dr. Rattan Lal Carbon Management and Sequestration Center. The process started in the middle of 2019 when Dr. Jeff Sharp, Director School of Environment and Natural Resources, invited me to help drafting the C-MASC proposal, and meet regularly to discuss the progress. We organized two workshops with a broad range of natural and social scientists from faculties across campus to ask for their opinion on how C-MASC should be organized, what kind of research should be undertaken, and how it could serve them, stakeholders and the broader public. The valuable inputs and outcomes of the discussions fed into developing and strengthening the proposal text.

Then, the proposal was submitted to CFAES right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020. We are all thankful that CFAES supports the proposal, and we immediately began implementing some proposed activities at the end of 2020 during the ongoing pandemic. For example, two working groups – one on agricultural soils, and one on forestry carbon – were established and tentative members invited for active collaborations. Each working group consists of natural and social scientists, and meet on-line regularly monthly since December 2020. Major task initially was to compile research hypotheses and objectives for each group.

Outcomes so far are a policy document and a small grant proposal. It is anticipated that the working groups will respond with inter- and transdisciplinary proposals to proposal calls. One topic that is emerging is the need to assist forest land owners and farm managers in their response to the emerging carbon markets which would generate an additional revenue stream to make their operations more viable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Klaus Lorenz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Klaus Lorenz
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