

SEMESTER INC. INTERNSHIPS

Soybeans are the most important grain legume in the world, containing approximately 20 percent oil and 40 percent protein. Producing the highest protein yield per unit area of any crop, this plant has the potential to serve as an alternative source of high quality dietary protein.

Despite the economic, industrial, and health benefits of soybeans, its production in Uganda and neighboring countries is relatively low. This is largely due to the fact that soybean production in these countries is beset with a wide range of constraints, including lower yielding varieties, poor knowledge of processing and use, and inadequate access to smallholder farmers to markets.

Henry Kizito-Musoke, founder of Soybean Products Uganda (SPU), has been working to develop the soybean value chain in Uganda. As SPU prepares for their next phase of development, Henry has reached out to Iowa State University and the AgEI program for assistance.

Through the AgEI Semester Inc. project, Danika Schaaf, a

senior in global resource systems and Jesse Lang, a freshman

in global resource systems completed a feasibility study including a product and industry analysis, as well as a processing/pricing system analysis for a potential soybean crushing facility. In addition, the students worked with Urbandale-based company Insta-Pro International to identify processing equipment needs.

With the students' assistance, work was initiated on the development of a scalable and sustainable business model that will increase soybean production, processing, consumption, and marketing in Uganda. SPU hopes to see increased crop productivity and quality among producers, greater use of soybeans for human consumption, and improved entrepreneurial opportunities for smallholder farmers through this new facility.



yield pop

Telecommuting to Switzerland? That's what three undergraduate students were required to do as they participated in a Semester, Inc. project this past spring. Seniors in agricultural education, Michael Dolch and Kate Grief, along with Emily Lyle, junior in agricultural studies, were able to get a taste of international agricultural business as they worked with Yield Pop.

Yield Pop, a company based out of Zurich, Switzerland, has developed an emerging online platform dedicated to creating connections in the agriculture community.

The students' goals were to research how creating connections could be of value to today's agricultural producers. Through extensive market research they were able to understand how agri-specialists



currently communicate with farmers and the role which technology plays in today's agricultural communication.

A major component of the market research project was a survey completed by 200 Iowa-based agri-specialists. Specialists contacted were involved in a wide variety of ag-focused roles including: crop inputs, equipment sales, grain marketing, ag financing, and advisory positions.