Arnold P. Appleby & W. R. Furtick: Meaningful experiences for agronomists from abroad who attend U.S. universities for professional training

This symposium has been described as a session for sharing ideas. We concur in this objective because no one person or team holds a monopoly on the best methods of doing anything, perhaps especially the training of students. Therefore, we are pleased at the opportunity of contributing some ideas to this discussion but we do so with the full realization that our contribution may not be applicable in all cases and it will certainly not be complete. We hope that it will be helpful to others engaged in working with students from abroad.

Training requirements for visiting agronomists from abroad may be different than for agronomy students being prepared for work within the United States. Usually agronomists from abroad need a broader and more diversified training program than U. S. agronomists. This does not mean a "watered-down" program of elementary courses. Perhaps you will agree that a thorough understanding of the interrelationships between a plant and its environment is as difficult to master as the chemical steps in glycolysis. Designing the best cropping sequence for a given combination of soil, climatic, and market conditions may require a more astute mind than calculating a genetic ratio. Certainly a broad, flexible program need not be less demanding than a more specialized one.

A training program must be tailored to fit the specific needs of each individual and the needs of his home country. The major objective in a training program should be to provide experiences that