

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Ecuador**

**Post:** Quito

### **FAS Quito Jumpstarts Extension Cooperation**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

FAS Quito coordinated and supported the April 18, 2016 visit to Ecuador of University of Georgia (UGA) rural extension service specialists. The visit by the 16-member strong delegation is part of the UGA's EXTEND Advanced Leadership Program. The University of Georgia aims to collaborate with Ecuador on developing extension services in this Andean country. FAS Quito supported the exchange of experiences between UGA and the Vice Ministry of Rural Development. FAS previously also coordinated the signing of a memorandum-of-understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Texas A&M University.

## General Information:

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In meetings with Ecuador's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) University of Georgia officials provided details about the university's cooperative extension programs. During the April visit UGA highlighted the role that extension agents play in the communities that they serve; stressing that these disseminate research-based information as well as provide outreach programs. The delegation received ample press coverage by [Ecuador's Official Media](#) in addition to coverage by one of [Ecuador's main online news sites](#).

Members of the UGA ExTEND Program on April 19 lectured at the Rural Extension Seminar. The seminar was attended by over 200 Ecuadorian extension agents, faculty of agriculture members, agricultural scientists and technicians, as well as by numerous students. Representatives of civil society organizations involved in agricultural production and extension work were also present. The seminar served as a forum for discussing the U.S. and the Ecuadorian rural extension models. The University of Georgia shared information on agriculture and natural resources, livestock cooperatives, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and online training initiatives.



Photo Credits: University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, head of the UGA delegation, stressed the importance of this exchange for the greater mission of UGA Cooperative Extension: “not only to educate citizens in Georgia but also collaborate nationally and internationally!” The Ministry of Agriculture reiterated its interest in holding these seminars annually to strengthen the capacities of technicians and students at the country's national universities.

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