

## Visitors study at International Goat Research Center



Photographer Christi Landry

The International Goat Research Center at Prairie View A&M University recently hosted two international guests hoping to learn more about goat reproduction thanks to a partnership with Texas A&M University. Agricultural scientists Laurinda Augusto and Liveness Banda from Mozambique spent nearly a week studying goat reproduction and nutrition at the International Goat Research Center.

“We had a good experience and learned a lot about nutrition with the goats,” Banda said. “It was the hands-on experience we wanted to have.”

During their time at IGRC, Augusto and Banda focused on goat insemination and the

processing of goat semen. Banda said these were areas that they only read about back home and the hands-on research done at IGRC will allow them to return home to demonstrate procedures.

The research trip was made possible by Texas A&M University’s Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture. The institute’s goal is to train future agricultural scientists from around the world. It is named after Texas A&M University’s Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture. Borlaug is a 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner who is credited with developing a high-yield dwarf wheat to combat hunger in the world.

“It’s a program specifically for international agricultural scientists for the purpose of developing young scientists for the future on the idea that we would promote agricultural research between the US and the African countries,” said Karen L. Uetrecht, International Relations Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture. She accompanied the women, who are in the Borlaug Fellows program, on a preliminary visit to Prairie View.

“They prepared specific goats so we could do hands-on work and we don’t take that for granted. It was time well spent for us and we appreciate that,” Augusto said. “It was quite interesting and well-organized. The people there are friendly and they really accommodated us into the program. It’s a good place where one can learn in terms of goat issues.”

Michael McWhorter, Ph. D, International Training Coordinator with the Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University said the women are interested in small ruminant production in Africa, particularly Malawi and Mozambique.

“Because of my relationship with the faculty here at Prairie View A&M, I was aware of the Goat Center for years,” McWhorter said. “We want to have a dialogue and discuss the things they will be brought here for at Prairie View A&M.”

Uetrecht was eager for the women to begin their work at Prairie View. “I’m very excited about what the ladies have to learn here. I think Prairie View has the faculty and the knowledge and expertise that will also fit in to their situations in Africa and what they’re trying to do in teaching and research,” she said.

By Christi Landry  
Communications Specialist  
Cooperative Agricultural Research Center