

Name: Dr. Cory W. Whitney

Country of origin: United States

PhD Studies: Agrobiodiversity and nutrition in traditional cropping systems - Homegardens of the indigenous Bakiga and Banyakole in southwestern Uganda.

Supervised by Prof. Dr. Oliver Hensel, University of Kassel

Finished PhD: 2018

Job: Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Bonn's Horticulture Institute (INRES) with Prof. Dr. Eike Luedeling

I joined the Sustainable International Agriculture MSc. program (SIA) in 2009 with funding from the Partridge Foundation's Trans Atlantic Partnership in Sustainable Food Systems. I was lucky enough to be the first of the College of the Atlantic (COA) alumni to join the SIA program. After graduating from COA and before starting at SIA I spent several years at sea as an environmental educator on traditional tall-ships. This led me, rather circuitously, to an organic farm in the south of France and to a job with the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) in Bonn, Germany. It was my good fortune to share an office there with Dr. Hervé Bouagnimbeck, a Witzenhausen graduate, who recommended SIA for the strong focus on smallholder farming systems in the tropics and sub-tropics. It turns out to have been good advice. SIA was a great experience for me. The mixture of theory and hand's-on classes with Prof. Dr. Eva Schlecht and Prof. Dr. Buerket in Germany, Kenya and in the Czech Republic provided me with a good foundation in the processes and approaches of agricultural and ethnobiological sciences. My work with Dr. Christian Hülsebusch and Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kaufmann at the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) and the Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Tropics and Subtropics (JARTS) offered training in scientific methods and writing techniques. My time in the SIA program gave me a solid foundation for international research on issues related to agricultural development and ethnobiology.

I finished the SIA MSc. program as part of the first class of graduates in 2011. The thesis was the basis for a Human Ecology paper on ethnobotany and conservation in the North Atlantic (Whitney, Gebauer, and Anderson 2012). After SIA I followed a rather circuitous route around the world and back to Germany. I continued to pursue links between ethnobotany and conservation in other regions through a series of ethnobotany studies with indigenous communities in Southeast Asia. Years later I came back to Germany to do my PhD on homegardens in the southwest of Uganda under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Oliver Hensel. Currently I am working as a postdoctoral researcher with Prof. Dr. Eike Luedeling at the University of Bonn's Horticulture Institute (INRES) and as a Guest Researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF).