BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL ROME, ITALY

ANNE MERRILL '18



BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Vision: agricultural biodiversity nourishes people and sustains the planet **Mission:** to deliver scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural and tree biodiversity to attain sustainable global food and nutrition security

- headquartered in Maccarese, Rome, Italy
- intern in the Communications Department
- valued how Bioversity affects the lives of individuals, communities, and regional landscapes



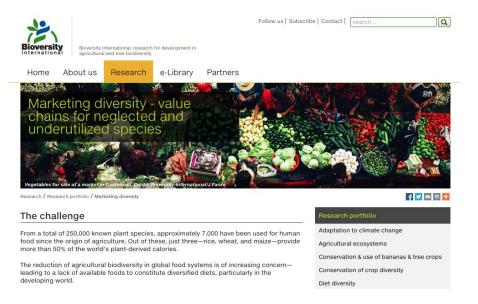
RESPONSIBILITIES

- broader role than anticipated, participating in staff meetings with other departments
- researched scientific studies and synthesized information for web pages appearing on the Bioversity website and in the annual report
- interviewed scientists from south Asia, Africa, and South America to glean background information for articles
- researched the life of a prominent scientist, interviewed his co-scientists, and published an article celebrating his accomplishments
- interviewed a scientist and reviewed her group's longterm study, then distilled the information for donors and wrote an article for the 2015 annual report
- researched facts and prepared PowerPoint presentations for use by senior management
- edited and posted hundreds of submissions for Bioversity's photo contest on Women and Agricultural Biodiversity
- wrote and edited daily social media posts (twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr)
- proofread and edited the 2014 annual report
- researched photo image bank, cropped, and published photos for the website, articles, development, and publicity
- proofread monthly newsletter, located and uploaded photos



IMPACT ON ORGANIZATION

- my articles and webpages distilling studies into "teaser" paragraphs and summaries written for donors and the general public are published by Bioversity
- one of my articles was the front page of Bioversity's website for over two weeks (including a byline and reference to IIP)
- my writing will appear in Bioversity's upcoming annual report





Ann Tutwiler, Director General, said "Everyone here at

Swaminathan a very special 90th birthday. We have

enjoyed a close collaboration from the day we first

Bioversity International would like to wish M.S.

opened our doors in 1974 as the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources. On our 40th

birthday last year, we were honoured that M.S. Swaminathan sent us a personal video

message (view it above). We look forward to many more years of collaborative working to promote the importance of agricultural biodiversity to nourish people and sustain the planet.

Known as the 'Father of the Green Revolution,' M.S. Swaminathan was inspired to pursue a

new wheat seed that produced high yields, was disease resistant, and suited Indian growing

career in agricultural science after seeing widespread malnutrition in Asia and famines in Bengal and China. His creativity and advanced education in genetics led to his developing a Research initiatives

Healthy diets

Research areas

Diet diversity

Genetic resources

Farms, forests, landscapes

Agricultural ecosystems Climate change

Conservation of bananas and tree crops

Conservation of crop diversity

Read more about Marketing Diversity here

Written by Anne Merrill, Princeton University International Internship Program



IMPACT ON ORGANIZATION









WORK ENVIRONMENT

- traditional office environment
- upscale suburb of Rome, Italy
- weekly office meetings with entire staff (including cornetto!)







PART OF A TEAM

- extremely welcoming team
- tremendous support
- clear directions
- opportunities to direct my research to my interests
- enhanced with discussions over lunch, coffee breaks, and occasional field trips







PERSONAL IMPACT

- my understanding of environmental concerns and agriculture was incredibly broadened by this internship
- access to scientists and their research was fascinating—from work tracing viable, nutritious grains, testing various leafy greens, and genetically modifying crops to thrive in the changing climate
- engaging with policy makers helped me appreciate the complexity of introducing agricultural changes when faced with political challenges
- interning in this dynamic firm affirmed the rewards of working towards a cause that I believe in

CULTURAL AWARENESS

- working with and getting to know my coworkers helped me appreciate the connections gained from a shared passion
- in an office of non-native English speakers, I learned the value of native fluency in communicating scientific reports
- observing a global company first-hand
- how connected the world is—acting globally in this global world is critical

COFFEE COFFEE (ESSENTIAL TO ITALIAN CULTURE!)













