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 long-term 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
IMPACT ON ORGANIZATION

PHOTO CONTEST
women and agricultural biodiversity

Share your story by 22 July 2015
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!)