



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**LEADERSHIP
FOR A FOOD
REVOLUTION**





Our Mission

Prepare leaders with ethical values to contribute to sustainable development and to construct a prosperous and just society.



Our Vision

Our actions are mission-driven to alleviate poverty, promote social justice and build a future where our communities achieve sustainable and shared prosperity.

Vibrant rural areas are essential to the well-being of a sustainable world and to the future of humanity



70% of our global food supply is currently produced by smallholder farmers in rural areas of the developing world.



By 2050, global food demand will increase by 60 to 100%.

Two billion people around the world suffer from food insecurity.



80% of people living in extreme poverty live in rural areas of the developing world.



Sources: United Nations (2018), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (2019)

EARTH University prepares leaders of change to develop new solutions for global food security.

Cover:
Joseline Rosero ('20, Ecuador)

“ EARTH supports people’s ideas. It is one of its greatest features. The lab doors are always open for us to do research. We practice in the field and have many alternative learning spaces. This allows us to test the feasibility of our ideas and get good results. ”

A message from our President

Sharing EARTH's 2019 activities and achievements amidst a global crisis without precedent in our time forces us to see things from a different perspective. The COVID-19 pandemic, which is still unfolding as this report goes to press, has already caused us to change our daily routines and the way we work, learn, consume and relate to one another. At EARTH, in these times and just as we always have, we are focused on identifying new solutions and working together with our students and alumni to transform rural areas, advance food security and promote collective well-being.

This pandemic has shown us that our fate as human beings is inexorably intertwined. Our academic program and student experiences have always nurtured resilience, adaptability, innovation, empathy and solidarity. These skills are vital to address the challenges that lie ahead and to build a better future beyond the crisis. Our mission of shaping ethical leaders to build more prosperous and just societies is now more important than ever.

Before the crisis, we already knew that our food systems were failing humanity and the planet we inhabit. The adage "we are what we eat" had never made as much sense as it does today. In 2019, we stressed the need for systems transformation in order to achieve sustainable food security for all of the world's inhabitants. We revised our academic model to ensure our students are receiving the best preparation possible as future leaders of this transformation; we strengthened our Alumni Affairs office to support our graduates in their change efforts; and through EARTH Futures, our impact platform, we developed new models and solutions for rural producers and their communities.

I am proud and inspired by the progress of the entire EARTH community that is reflected in the pages of this report. At the same time, it is also clear that the situation we face calls on each of us to make a greater contribution. Going forward, EARTH will continue to build on the sound foundation developed over the last 30 years during which we consolidated our commitment to the University's mission. In these times of deep and lasting change, the world needs effective enlightened leaders and institutions that are committed to moving beyond the crisis and helping to shape a more inclusive and sustainable "next normal".

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped EARTH to grow and thrive over the last 30 years – our 2,400 graduates in 50 countries who work so hard to help their communities prosper and be more sustainable; our donors and strategic partners who have supported and believed in our mission; and our faculty, staff and students who have demonstrated resilience, perseverance and creativity. Together we can turn this global humanitarian crisis into an opportunity to build a better world. Our work has only just begun. Thank you all!



Arturo Condo,
President

“ We are focused on identifying new solutions and working together with our students and alumni to transform rural areas, advance food security and promote collective well-being. ”



Our students are preparing to create positive change in the world through sustainable agriculture and community development

Each year EARTH actively recruits more than 100 young leaders to join our highly experiential education program in Agricultural Sciences. During their four years at EARTH, students develop critical skills and attitudes to become effective leaders of positive change and prosperity through the core tenets of EARTH's academic program:

Hands-on learning

75% of all academic learning occurs through hands-on training and problem-solving on issues relevant to the sustainability challenges of today and tomorrow.

Community engagement

Students complete more than 350 hours of community service and training and spend seven weeks living in rural communities near EARTH's La Flor campus in Guanacaste.

Entrepreneurial innovation

All students receive a loan to start and operate a real business during their first two years at EARTH.

We believe that ethical and well-prepared leaders are essential to ensure food security, greater prosperity and environmental regeneration in rural communities, especially in developing countries

95%



of students come from developing countries

81%



come from rural areas

51%



are women

2,400+

GRADUATES

FROM

50

COUNTRIES

The class of 2019 was comprised of **56% women**

Our Academic Program

A glimpse into 2019

Since our founding, EARTH developed a unique and integrated academic model based on experiential learning. Using this model, we have trained and educated thousands of enlightened leaders for the world. In the field and in the classrooms, we work to ensure our students gain the knowledge, values, skills and attitudes they need to address global issues and create effective solutions. In 2019, we updated our graduate profile to include a focus on the use of science and technology to drive sustainable rural development.

Revising our graduate profile was a vital trigger to help us adapt our academic program to the skills and competencies that our world requires, especially during these challenging times. With this in mind, our main lines of action focus on promoting food security, sustainability and collective wellbeing.

Graduate Profile



Exercises leadership



Builds effective interpersonal relationships and teamwork



Possesses managerial and entrepreneurial capacity



Acts in accordance with EARTH values and principles



Shows a commitment to lifelong learning



Works for the sustainable development & management of agriculture and natural resources



Is aware of and committed to solving social and environmental problems



Solves problems in a structured way



Communicates effectively



Demonstrates a solid technical foundation



Applies science and technology



EARTH Faculty

Our professors are recognized worldwide as experts in tropical agriculture, sustainable rural development and education for leadership.

38 professors



18 Countries

52%
hold a PhD



47%
a Master's degree



34%
have taught at EARTH for 10 years or more

Social Impact

As part of the Work Experience component of our academic model, every Wednesday, groups of first- and second-year students leave the Guácimo campus to work with local producers in communities around Limón, Costa Rica. Similarly, as part of the Professional Experience component, our fourth-year students participate in EARTH's Community Development Program. This educational model has benefitted hundreds of thousands of Costa Ricans through training courses and projects that seek to improve agricultural practices, natural resource management, value-added production, entrepreneurship and leadership. Through this Program, our model empowers students to confront real-life issues and connect with local people to support their professional and emotional development, putting into practice what they have learned in the classroom.

At Villa Las Orquídeas, Juanita Loaiza and Oswaldo Calvo produce spices, fruit and dairy products from goats. Our students have worked together with them to improve their pasture, apply sustainable pest control techniques, improve financial management and strengthen social ties. EARTH's educational model helps build integrated and solid connections between and among students, producers and local leaders.

Our Alumni: Our Future

2,400+ graduates from 50 countries

In recent surveys, employers and community members recognize EARTH alumni for their strong leadership skills, solid technical knowledge, and their commitment to environmental sustainability, social justice and values.

82% of graduates are back in their home countries catalyzing positive change

During 2019, the Alumni Affairs Office focused on:

Consolidating its operation as part of the President's Office and establishing a work plan and strategy.

Strengthening communication, actions and joint work with alumni associations (AGEARTHS) in different countries around the world.

Strengthening collaboration with governance bodies like the President's Alumni Advisory Board, which aims to provide strategic support to the President through the eyes and experiences of graduates and to put forward ideas and proposals that help to strengthen the University.

Supporting greater participation of graduates in the Admissions process.



EARTH Alumni in the World:

Hajaratu Wumbei (15, Ghana)

Ever since Hajaratu returned to her country in 2015, she has been the Regional Manager of ECOM, a producer of crops such as coffee, cotton and cocoa that has operated in 40 countries for over 150 years. In this role, Hajaratu has been involved in international trade, sustainable development and agricultural economics. She is the first woman to hold a senior management position in the company. ECOM works with more than 100 thousand growers in Ghana to strengthen entrepreneurship, sustainability and good agricultural practices toward greater food security. Hajaratu is a member of a program that fosters the professional development of African women. She is also a wife and mother.

“ My education at EARTH helped me develop the strength and courage to continue fighting in any situation. In a world built around men, I was able to become the first woman in the company to hold a senior management position in the cocoa department. I have learned that it does not matter where you come from as long as you can succeed in life and help others. ”





“By putting the knowledge gained at EARTH into practice, we have started to develop high quality genetic seeds to then sell at a fair price. That is the best part about our company: we have an assortment of good quality seeds, at affordable prices.”

Carlos Herrarte ('03, Guatemala)

When Carlos went back to his country, he was very clear about something: in Guatemala, more than 800 thousand small and medium corn producers required access to better agricultural practices, inputs, and better genetic quality seeds at affordable prices. Since then, he has been Sales Manager at La Abundancia, a seed company started by his family. For Carlos, it is of utmost importance to work hand-in-hand with local communities, support local producers and grow crops that have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people.

EARTH Futures: The Future of Food

There is abundant evidence that our current food systems are failing us as humans and the planet we inhabit – new solutions are urgently needed. EARTH Futures is the University's impact platform, which seeks to grow EARTH's contribution toward a healthy, inclusive and sustainable future of food and to strengthen the role that rural producers and communities in developing regions will play in this effort. During 2019, EARTH Futures advanced with multiple efforts:

Education for Leadership Program

This program works toward the transformation of agricultural education in developing regions in order to promote a new generation of young leaders equipped to transform our global food systems in the face of population growth, climate change and endemic rural poverty. In 2019, we continued working with our longstanding partner RUFORUM, a network of more than 100 African universities, to strengthen their academic programs via greater focus on entrepreneurship and community development as core pillars to more sustainable food systems. Specifically, EARTH Futures expanded efforts with two additional universities in Uganda, Busitema University and Ugandan Christian University.

We are grateful for the engagement and support of our institutional partners and donors and to our local community partners, whose wisdom guides us in the solutions we seek to co-develop and whose resolve and leadership inspire us in all our work.

Developing Solutions Program

This program works to develop, test and scale new solutions to critical challenges in rural areas, where 70% of global food production is led by small farmers. One such challenge is that current food production systems are contributing to severe environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in rural areas and are threatening climate stability and ecosystem resilience globally. As an innovative response, EARTH Futures and our partners helped formalize the Rio Parismina Biological Corridor – comprised by over 80,000 acres with important rivers and biodiversity – and to promote alternatives for sustainable livelihoods alternatives and environmental awareness among local communities. Furthermore, in alliance with Fundación CRUSA, EARTH Futures developed an innovative training program and technical tools to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience practices among small farmers in climate-vulnerable regions. Finally, in alliance with Costa Rica's Development Bank (SBD), our Precision Agriculture Center worked to consolidate a model using precision agriculture technologies to support small and medium farmers in sustainable farm management, through an informed and efficient use of land and water resources and agricultural inputs.



Renewed Partnership with Mastercard Foundation

EARTH deeply appreciates our longstanding partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. 2019 was an important year, as we agreed to develop our collaboration with several exciting new components:

Mastercard Foundation will support a total of 125 new scholarships through the graduating class of 2028. Seventy-five percent of these scholarships will support African students, and 75% will support women. There will also be a rigorous effort to recruit students from refugee communities in both Latin America and Africa.

In addition, we are partnering on an exciting new Fellowship Program, developed to enhance and facilitate the transition of African students back to their home countries and communities as successful professionals and entrepreneurs. This competitive program will provide graduates with a modest stipend, mentoring and other services to support their transition following graduation. Through EARTH's strong network of African partners, EARTH plans to offer graduates attractive opportunities along four possible tracks:

- Agricultural Employment
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Innovation through Science and Research
- Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Finally, a third new component of the partnership includes the development of a series of online resources, focused on entrepreneurship, to support graduate entrepreneurs from EARTH as well as Mastercard Foundation partner institutions.

These new components align with EARTH's strategic plan to grow the University's overall impact by providing increased resources and support to our graduates in their role as change agents for a better world.

Funding Our Growth

2019 Financial Results for EARTH University Operations

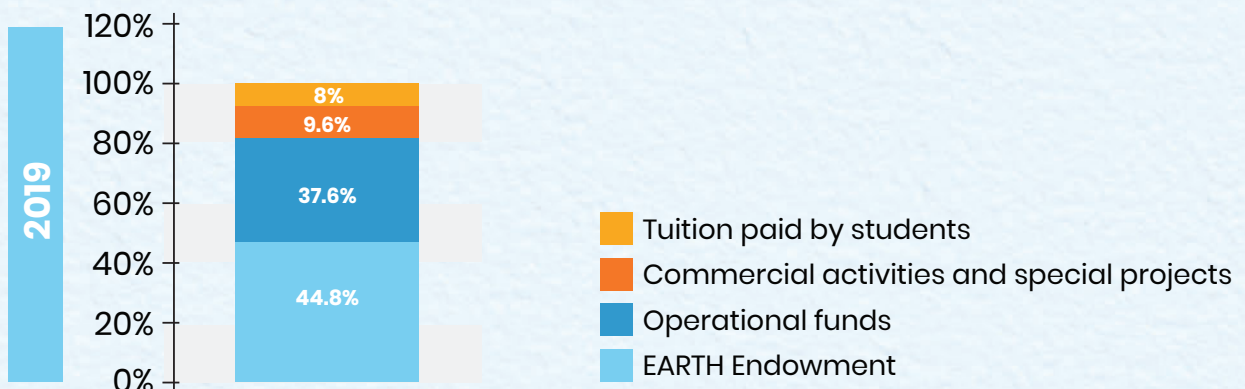
Careful stewardship of resources, together with growth in charitable gifts and commercial activities, are contributing to a healthy financial picture that enables us to fulfill our mission.

EARTH University Operational Budget 2019 Financial Results (in thousands of US dollars)

Fund Sources	2019
Tuition payments and donations	\$9,842
Other income (Commercial Activities and other)	\$2,073
EARTH Endowment	\$9,668
Total	\$21,584

Expenses	2019
Compensation and benefits for personnel	\$14,143
Operational expenses	\$6,964
Equipment investment and replacement	\$459
Contingencies	\$18
Total	\$21,584

Revenue Sources (%)



EARTH University Foundation

From its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, the EARTH University Foundation – a registered 501 (c)(3) public charity – provides vital funding for EARTH’s educational mission, programs and projects thanks to generous gifts from a global community of supporters.

EARTH University Foundation Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2019

Assets	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,076,165
Pledge receivable, net	\$4,345,743
Endowment and other investments	\$75,311,018
Other assets	\$636,876
Total assets	\$82,369,802

Liabilities and net assets	2019
Liabilities	\$380,940
Net assets	\$81,988,862
Total liabilities and net assets	\$82,369,802

EARTH University Foundation Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended December 31, 2019

	2019			Total Expenses
	Programs	Fundraising	Administrative	
Scholarships	\$4,871,839	-	-	\$4,871,839
Project and Program Expense	\$1,018,821	-	-	\$1,018,821
Foundation Operations	\$294,244	\$704,800	\$532,408	\$1,531,452
Total	\$6,184,904	\$704,800	\$532,408	\$7,422,112

Our Donors

We recognize and appreciate the generous support of the following donors whose gifts were received in 2019, with special thanks to those whose lifetime giving exceeds US\$1 million. These individuals, businesses, foundations, governments and international organizations make our mission possible.

Lifetime Gifts > \$1,000,000

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\$250,000-\$999,999

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“ Most EARTH graduates have shown to be professionals with strong ethical values, who share the knowledge gained at EARTH with their countries and communities, to support sustainable livelihoods and a natural environment and generate peace, progress and well-being, not just for individuals, but for a better world. ”

Ana Regina Aguirre De Riojas
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Diana Wege
Margaret and Terry Wittenberg
Randi S. N. Yoder and Michael J. Henley

Our Internship Hosts

We thank the following corporations and institutions around the world who hosted our third-year students as interns in 2019. The Internship helps our students build critical leadership skills and networks, while deepening their knowledge and giving them the opportunity to apply the skills developed at EARTH in a professional setting.

Advanced Farm Technologies, JA LTD
Agrícola El Cántaro
Agro Monteroga
Agropecuaria Las Pilas SA
AGRORUM SA
Alia2 S.A.
Alimentos Congelados S.A.
Associação dos Bananicultores de Corupá (Asbanco)
British Tobacco Company (BAT)
CACEP
Café Perú París SA de CV
CAFECOL A.C.
Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
Citrofrut Agrícola
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Consultorías Especializadas G&G, S.A.
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Costa Nursery Farms
Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana
Delaware State University
Desarrollo Rural y Medio Ambiente A.C.

Dole Food Company
ECOSUR, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur Unidad Campeche
ESPOL (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral)
GBT Global Ltda
Federación Comercializadora de Café Especial en Guatemala (FECCEG)
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Grasslands Research Station

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Grupo Xcaret
Hacienda Tempisque S.A.
Cooperativa de Usuários do Freixo do Meio, Crl
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Instituto de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (México)
Instituto de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria (IRTA)
Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Hopelchen (ITSH)
Kaiima Bio-agritech Ltd.
Kalimajari Foundation
Kalsec, Inc.
Kendall Farms
Kibbutz YAGUR
La Hammonia y Cía, Ltda
Unión de Productores Maya Vinic
Moonstone Farm

Grace Aguti ('20, Uganda)

During her internship at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, Grace closely studied the physiology of bean crops, searching for a way to improve their genetic tolerance to persistent drought.

“In the future, I would like to combine my expertise in plant physiology and genetics with community development. I want to continue working in areas such as drought-tolerant plants, increased production, genetic breeding, and everything related to food security. I also want to work with small producers, teaching them how to increase production and improve their quality of life.”



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*At the end of 2019



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