

## **Symposium and Workshop: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes**

University of California at Davis

Sponsored by DIVERSITAS, US National Science Foundation BEST-net Research Coordinating Network, University of California Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute

**April 7-11, 2008**

A symposium and workshop to be held at UC Davis in April, 2008, on integrative approaches for studying biodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes. The symposium would be for a half-day and open to the campus community. A three and a half-day workshop of the DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY network would follow to design a set of interdisciplinary research proposals and a produce review paper. There will also be a one-day field trip.

Integrative approaches and tools for quantifying biodiversity, ecosystem services, and social contexts for adoption is the main theme. The goal is to combine „top-down“ and „bottom up“ approaches, so that research on landscape processes is combined with mechanistic understanding of localized ecosystem functions. Conceptual models on productivity/biodiversity/livelihoods relationships will be developed within a set of international sites where scientists have joined local stakeholders in innovation toward biodiversity-friendly sustainable agriculture, based on concerns about current trends toward agricultural intensification and degradation of environmental quality. This involves an ecosystem approach (CBD, 2004) in which biophysical (e.g., ecology, soil science) and social sciences (e.g., economics, anthropology) together provide understanding of the spectrum of patterns and processes that define certain kinds of systems, including their ecological and economic functions and services. A set of guidelines, indicators, and simple models will be developed for determining how research can show the value of the use and conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, in a way that takes an integrated perspective across the landscape mosaic.