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Background:

Albie Miles is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (ESPM) at the University of California, Berkeley. His current research interests are in the fields of agroecology, landscape ecology and conservation biological control. He is a graduate of the Ecological Horticulture Program at UC Santa Cruz and has over fifteen years of experience in organic agriculture and horticulture. From 1999-2006 he held the position of Horticulture Instructor and Curriculum Development Coordinator for the UCSC Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). He has published two volumes of sustainable agriculture curricula addressing the biophysical and socio-economic aspects of agricultural sustainability, which have served as a basis for post-secondary sustainable and organic agriculture education and training programs both nationally and internationally. He has served as a consultant for the Organic Agriculture Program at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy where he researched the role of organic agriculture in biodiversity conservation. He has traveled internationally through US Agency for International Development (US AID) to the former Soviet Union, Uzbekistan, Cuba, Ghana, and the Yunnan Province of China to lead education and training programs in agroecology and organic agriculture. Albie Miles is a founding member of the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association.

Research:

Albie's research is in the field of conservation biological control, and specifically the effects of environmental modifications on the enhancement of multiple ecosystem services in agricultural ecosystems. Albie's dissertation research will test the 'floral resource provisioning hypothesis' in biological control, which posits that the fecundity and activity of natural enemies of arthropod pests (and thus biological control of arthropod pest) are limited, in part, by the availability of nectar and pollen resources in simplified (i.e., mono-culture) agroecosystems.

His USDA-funded research and extension project will assess the enhancement of biological control of multiple insect pests in Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino County vineyards resulting from the introduction of four flowering inter-crop species: annual buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*); lacy Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*); sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritime*); and common wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). In addition to testing the above hypothesis, the research is designed to produce practical information on ecologically based pest management strategies that meet or exceed the USDA national standards for certified organic production.

Publications:

Miles, A. and M. Brown. 2005. Teaching Direct Marketing and Small Farm Viability: Resources for Instructors. Santa Cruz, CA: Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. <http://zzyx.ucsc.edu/casfs/instruction/tdm/index.html>

Scialabba, Nadia El-Hage and D. Williamson. 2004. The Scope of Organic Agriculture, Sustainable Forest Management and Ecoforestry in Protected Area Management. Environment and Natural Resources Working Paper No. 18. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Rome, 2004. (Research assistant and contributing author.) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5558e/y5558e00.HTM>

Miles, A. and M. Brown. 2003. Teaching Organic Farming and Gardening: Resources for Instructors. Santa Cruz, CA: Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. <http://zzyx.ucsc.edu/casfs/instruction/tofg/index.html>
