

Curriculum Vitae

Sean Patrick Kearney

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Education

University of British Columbia – Vancouver, BC (2017 expected)

Ph.D. Soil Science

Faculty of Land and Food Systems

University of California, Davis – Davis, CA (2011)

M.S. International Agricultural Development

Focus: Soil Science

GPA: 3.76

Western Washington University – Bellingham, WA (2008)

B.A. International Business

Minor: Economics

GPA: 3.93

Research Interests and Experience

Research Interests

Broadly speaking, I am interested in agricultural research in developed and developing countries that improves the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable populations while protecting and enhancing soil and water resources both on- and off-farm. More specifically, I am concerned with how soil fertility management practices, especially the management of soil organic matter and biota, impact yields as well as biodiversity, nutrient cycling processes and the general fertility of soils across time and space. I am also very interested in factors affecting farmer adoption of integrated soil fertility management and how the participation of farmers at various levels of the research process can improve the relevancy and dissemination of research results.

Research Experience

Agriculture and Environment Coordinator, El Salvador (October 2012 - Present)
The Earth Institute - Tropical Agriculture & Rural Environment Program, Columbia University

- Coordinate site selection of research and demonstration plots, working with farmers, project partners and EI staff for USAID project in El Salvador
- Assist in training and leading field technicians on landscape soil and vegetation sampling protocols
- Support logistical operations including helping to screen new hires, arrange for equipment purchases
- Database program writing and management (Filemaker software), statistical and geospatial data analysis

Graduate Student Researcher and Local Project Manager (April 2010 – June 2011)

Professor: Kate Scow - Dept. of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis; Davis, CA

- Coordinated demonstrative research trials on integrated soil fertility management looking at the effects of various combinations of organic and inorganic soil amendments on cabbage yields and market value in central Uganda
- Managed implementation of a Farmer Field School for a 1-year USAID-funded Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) project in Uganda
- Collaborated in grant writing for a 1-year project and a second 3-year project through the USAID Horticulture CRSP
- Lead a group of institutionally diverse and multinational stakeholders
- Wrote quarterly reports, managed budget activities and coordinated project evaluation
- Managed two interns from Mukono Christian University, Uganda

Graduate Student Researcher (September 2009 – December 2009)

Professor: Mighua Zhang - Dept. of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

- Conducted a literature review to compile external cost estimates of pesticide use on non-target groups in California
- Developed additional cost estimates for integration into a model to quantify the negative externalities of pesticide use in California

Research Assistant (June 2007 – September 2007)

Supervisors: Katie Fleming, Crina Hoyer, and Robyn Du Pre - RE-Sources for Sustainable Communities, Bellingham, WA

- Adapted national data on CO₂-equivalent emissions from various household-scale activities to develop locally specific calculations for a carbon footprint calculator

Other Recent Professional and Consulting Experience

Co-owner and Operations Manager (August 2011 – Present)

Durango Compost Company Inc., Durango, CO

- Managed all aspects of an independently owned compost company
- Coordinated collections and delivery of raw materials and production and processing of compost and vermicompost
- Developed budgets and forecasts and managed general finances and accounting obligations

Field Operations Manager (March 2011 – Present)

Animas Valley Farms, Durango, CO

- Managed general field operations for a 3.5-acre commercial organic farm
- Developed and carried out a farm plan and planting schedule
- Installed drip and surface irrigation, built two hoop-houses, ran heavy equipment, tractors and implements
- Coordinated interns from Fort Lewis College and Mountain Middle School

International Technical Consultant (February 2012)

Durango Compost Company Inc., Durango, CO in cooperation with the Alterna Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

- Developed and led a 5-day workshop on vermicomposting as a business for potential entrepreneurs in the community of San Juan Pie de la Cuesta, Guatemala
- Consulted for SEMISA, a Guatemalan composting and vermicomposting business, on aspects of a planned expansion their operations and construction of a new facility
- Consulted and edited for Alterna on the development a technical manual for vermicomposting as business

Publications

Kearney S., Fonte S., Salomon A., Six J., Scow K. Forty percent revenue increase by combining organic and mineral nutrient amendments in Ugandan smallholder market vegetable production. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*. 2012;32(4):831-839 DOI: 10.1007/s13593-012-0097-6

Academic Awards, Honors and Affiliations

- Mary and David Macaree Fellowship – UBC (2013/14)
- Liu Scholar – Liu Institute for Global Issues – UBC (2013 – present)
- International Development Research Network (IDRN) steering committee member – UBC (2013)
- Boren Fellowship - National Security Education Program (2010)
- International Agricultural Development Departmental Fellowship – UC Davis (2010)
- Outstanding Graduate Award – Department of Management, Western Washington University (2008)
- Presidents List – Western Washington University (2008)
- CBE Distinguished Scholar Award – Western Washington University (2008)
- AHA International Program Scholarship (2008)
- Beta Gama Sigma Honor Society of Business Member (2006 – 2008)
- International Business Study Abroad Scholarship – Fort Lewis College (2004)
- Presidents Scholarship – Fort Lewis College (2002)

Languages

English – Native language

Spanish – Strong intermediate competency

Swahili – Novice-intermediate (as tested by Language Testing International)

Personal Interests

I enjoy adventuring outdoors and participate in many activities including backcountry skiing, hiking, climbing, backpacking, biking, running and swimming. Additionally, I like to work outside and with my hands in activities such as farming, carpentry and landscaping. Traveling, learning new languages, venturing beyond my comfort zone and interacting with diverse cultural groups are also important to me and I try to incorporate these into my work and leisure as much as possible.