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## Knowledge, understanding needed for cultivating tropics

By Melanie Heldt  
Reporter

Attempts by the Western world to cultivate land in the tropical regions often have failed because of a lack of knowledge about tropical ecosystems and a misunderstanding of the different cultures represented in the tropics, Dr. Anthony Juo, professor of agronomy at Texas A&M, said.

At a slide presentation and question and answer session hosted by the International Development Forum, Juo shared some of his experiences and insights gained through his work with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

CGIAR is an organization whose objective is to increase the quantity and improve the quality of food production in developing countries. Juo worked with the group in Nigeria for 14 years.

Juo cited many different reasons for low crop yields in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Poor land resources, soil erosion, insufficient rainfall, lack of irrigation and overpopulation are among the different problems that inhabitants in tropical regions face. To solve these problems, Juo felt researchers and scientists should consider three things.

"You must know the physical and biological environment you are dealing with," he said. "Secondly, you must respect and utilize other people's cultures. Thirdly, technology, science and education are the only solutions to other people's problems."

As an example of how much damage can be done when scientists and farmers do not understand different ecosystems, Juo told a story about a group that went into the Amazon

and cleared a large tract to make room for a farm. The failed because the group take into account the ecosystem of that region.

Problems can also arise if the ecosystem is understood, but the nature of the people is not.

"We must respect other cultures," Juo said. "When you go into a place, stay three years and then leave — it makes a difference — not them."

Juo said he feels the key to solving agricultural problems in the future will be a "integrated global effort."

"We have to think more in ecological terms," he said. "We do not set a limit on what we will be putting more and more on the environment. Resources are limited, and we could upset the balance."

## Storm aftermath leaves damages in \$35 million range

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Gilbert caused more than \$35 million damage in this South Texas city, which remained in a state of emergency Monday while residents cleaned up the mess.

Two people were killed in the 41 tornadoes that leap-frogged through the state. Heavy rain swelled rivers in some areas, but no injuries were reported.

Gov. Bill Clements was scheduled to tour the tornado-ravaged areas of San Antonio Monday afternoon after viewing damage in Brownsville on the southern tip of Texas.

"I don't think we are expecting much more in the way of trouble from Hurricane Gilbert," Lauren Chernow, spokesman for the state's Emergency Management Council in Austin, said Monday.

The storm system was moving through the midwest to Illinois, leaving heavy rainfall in its wake.

As Texans dug out from the tornadoes, San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, who toured tornado-ravaged areas on Sunday, said he wanted to extend his state of emergency declaration through Friday.

The declaration will enable the city to try to seek assistance from the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies.

"I don't want to deny anyone potential help," Cisneros said.

Twisters that raged through a residential area in the border town of Del Rio caused an estimated \$1 million damage, but no injuries late Saturday, officials said.

In Corpus Christi, two beaches in county parks were closed after they sustained about \$100,000 damage, Nueces County Commissioner J.P. Luby said.

"The foredunes were extensively damaged," he said. "The tide went in and melted them away like butter."

"I don't think we are expecting much more in the way of trouble from Hurricane Gilbert."

— Lauren Chernow,  
spokesman for the state's  
Emergency Management  
Council in Austin

Foredunes along the beach protect larger dunes on the island's interior from erosion.

Luby, who said he would seek federal assistance in the park cleanup effort, said county jail inmates will be helping to clean up timber and other debris and repair damage to the foredunes and parking lots.

But San Antonio, which opened up shelters for Gulf Coast residents fleeing the pending storm, seemed to have suffered the worst damage.

One man was killed Friday when a utility pole struck his house and 59-year-old Emily Dickens was thrown from her mobile home after a twister struck her bedroom.

The storm system then spawned a tornado that cut a path through Kelly Air Force Base, causing \$3 million damage to 12 buildings and another \$25 million to aircraft parts.

Another tornado then destroyed the air-conditioning system at the Veterans Administration Hospital, causing \$2 million damage and prompting Cisneros to issue the emergency decree so equipment could be flown in and to avoid moving some 700 patients.

Another tornado struck The Lodge apartments, destroying about 120 units, damaging 264 others and leaving 300 homeless.

## Clements highlights storm damage

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Bill Clements on Monday declared the county he declared a disaster area from Hurricane Gilbert, and said the southern part of the state was fortunate to have missed the brunt of the storm.

"I think that all of us have a sense of relief that we are in Texas and more particularly in Cameron County that have experienced," Clements said after flying over South Padre Island and the Brownsville Channel.

Clements met Monday with local officials in Brownsville to discuss the disaster declaration. Cameron County and an apartment complex were damaged by Gilbert's winds down Friday.

The governor then left San Antonio, where two people reported killed by tornadoes in the area Friday and Saturday.

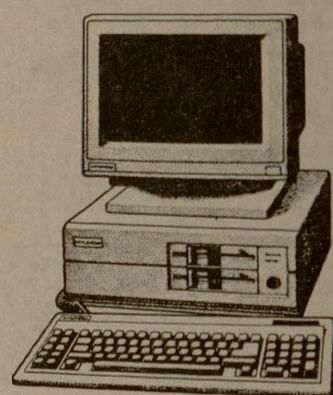
At least 41 tornadoes were reported in Texas resulting from the hurricane, which ashore Friday in northern Mexico 120 miles west of Brownsville.

The governor's disaster declaration on Saturday cleared the way for a formal request for the county through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It may be the end of the road before federal officials seek emergency assistance from the county, Edd Hargett, regional director of FEMA, said.

Clements said the most extensive damage he observed was to Park Road in South Padre Island.

"The only other county I think will probably fall in the situation of declaring a disaster, and that is just a possibility, would be Bexar County (San Antonio)," Clements said.



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