

Agriculturist Honoured With University of Florida International Award

Basil Bactawar, a County Extension Director exemplifies University of Florida's efforts to help solve global issues has earned an International Award from the University of Florida. According to Vice



President Jack Payne from the University of Florida, "this is a great distinction and honor that reflects the global stature of his career accomplishments, and the high esteem in which he is held not only here at University, but also worldwide.

Bactawar spent over a decade working with farmers and agricultural enterprises as a volunteer in 9 countries while carrying the duties of his full-time job in Canada and later in the USA. During 2013 to 2011 he collaborated with stakeholders to develop feeding programs for the

cattle, swine and poultry industries in Mali, Liberia, Ghana and Uganda. In 2010 he collaborated with Kenyan Bureau of Standards and Kenyan Feed Manufacturing Association to develop standards for the production of quality poultry feeds that brought about much needed improvement in this sector. This initiative has reduced complaints by poultry farmers who were dissatisfied by the poor quality of feeds that they were being sold. In 2007 to 2009 he found himself working with dairy farmers in Belize, Bolivia and Egypt to reduce the cost of production of milk by feeding cheaper agro-industrial by-products to dairy cattle. The outbreak of avian influenza crippled the poultry industry in Azerbaijan at the start 2006. This volunteer was invited to Azerbaijan to formulated concentrate feeds for beef cattle in March of 2006 so that the milers could stay in business. The feed millers requested his service again in November of the same year to formulate feed concentrate for dairy cattle. One of these mills is now the leading producer of livestock feeds in country.

Bactawar is no stranger to exceptional achievement. In 2010 he received a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of 16 years of dedicated and valued service to the Ministry of Agriculture & Food in British Columbia, Canada. His career began in 1976 when he worked with the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture as a Field Assistant. He complete studies at University of the West Indies and returned to Guyana where he worked as a Livestock Officer for 6 years. Later he attended the University of Manitoba an complete his Masters in Animal Sciences and studies in International Development at University of British Columbia.