

Berry Production Training in Kyrgyzstan (18 – 27th, October, 2024)=

Details of Foreign Visit:

IAU Lecturer Valerie Varco traveled to Kyrgyzstan in October to lead a financial management workshop as part of a comprehensive berry cultivation training in the Chui, Issyk-Kul, and Osh oblasts. The workshop was funded by USAID's Farmer to Farmer Program and organized in partnership with the Kyrgyz Berry Grower's Association and ACDI/VOCA.

This training was the first in a series of sessions planned over the next three years as part of the Berry School initiative, which aims to equip local farmers with essential skills in berry production, with a particular emphasis on strawberries and raspberries. The curriculum took a holistic approach, addressing key areas such as crop pathology, entomology, and, importantly, financial planning and forecasting to ensure sustainable farming practices.

Over the course of two weeks, 110 participants gained valuable insights and hands-on training to enhance their berry-growing capabilities.



Osh Oblast Training Group



Chui and Issyk Kol training group

Berry School - October with US specialists



Oleg Daugovish

- 20+ years experience in berry production
- Ph.D, University of Idaho



Mercy Olmstead

- 20+ years experience in berry cultivation
- Ph.D, Michigan State



Miguel Hermes Ahumada

- 40+ years experience in pomology
- MSc, University of California at Davis



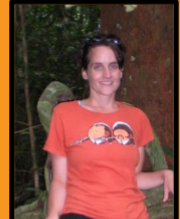
Jenny Broome

- 30+ years experience in plant pathology
- Ph.D, University of California at Davis



Andre Biscaro

- 15+ years experience in irrigation and fertilization management
- MSc, Auburn University



Valerie Varco

- 10+ years experience in strategic planning
- MPA, New York University

Berry School Lecturers