

Internship or thesis in Nicaragua?

Background

Wastewaters from coffee farms are polluting the rivers in the water shed of the mountain city Matagalpa (160.000 inhabitants) in Nicaragua. The wastewater is very acidic and contains high concentrations of organic material and nutrients. The pollution forms a serious problem for the city, that draws about 40% of its drinking water from the rivers.

Lettinga Associates Foundation (LeAF) Aqua for All, Waterschap De Dommel, and Hoogheemraadschap Hollands Noorderkwartier are cooperating with partners in the region to improve the situation.

The stage or thesis

The stage or thesis of 3-5 months will be conducted within a program focusing on improving and extending wastewater treatment facilities at the coffee farms. For the coming project, the main subjects will be:

- Optimisation of three existing UASBs at coffee farms: we aim for a reduction in the use of pH neutralisers, optimization of the use of produced biogas, and the design of new, smaller systems for smaller coffee farms.
- Practical experiments with systems based on constructed wetlands that produce biomass that have economic value (e.g. bamboo, reed, water plants, fish, etc). It will include an economic and market analysis of interesting products.

Your profile

- Background knowledge on wastewater treatment
- Ability to speak or learn to speak Spanish will be necessary
- Interest to work in Latin America

When

beginning of November 2005 for a minimal stay of 3 months

We offer

return ticket, housing, good supervision, contacts with water boards

More information

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