

15th NAAC Post-Conference Survey Results

101 responses (164 attendees)

62% response rate



Association for
Temperate Agroforestry

How Satisfied were you with the 15th North Agroforestry Conference?

About three-fourths of those who responded were “very satisfied” with the conference. A fourth were “mostly satisfied,” and next to none felt any less pleased with the conference.

Please share a few examples of things that influenced your response to the previous question

Several attendees mentioned that they were satisfied with networking opportunities the conference presented. A number of attendees expressed that they were impressed with seeing speakers from Mexico. Many enjoyed the tours. Although there were many very positive comments on how the conference overall was organized, there was also some suggestions regarding the organization of the *presentations* (too short, seemed rushed, there wasn’t enough time between them, interesting talks overlapped in different rooms, etc.). Sessions were also considered to be too close and in too great of quantity, making it difficult for an individual to attend all the sessions they would have liked to.

Suggestions:

- Facilitated discussion to make networking for newer farmers a bit less difficult or intimidating (quite a few people seemed to already have connections).
- Improve logistics of sessions and presentations

How much did you learn at the conference?

The vast majority of attendees agreed that they either learned “A lot” or “Quite a bit.” A small portion (around fifteen percent) said they still learned “A decent amount.” Hardly any said they learned “Not that much.”

How was networking at the conference?

Close to two-thirds of attendees agreed that the conference offered “Excellent” networking opportunities. About one-third said pretty good, and a small amount said it was just “Ok.” These numbers are reflected well in the overall comments about the conference.

How was the entertainment and food at the conference?

Nearly two-thirds of all attendees agreed that food and entertainment were “Excellent.” Following up with “Pretty good” was another third of attendees. About ten percent thought it was “Ok” and a couple thought it was “Not that great.”

How likely are you to attend the next NAAC in 2019?

Nearly half of the attendees said it was “Highly likely” that they would return in 2019. Approximately fourth said it was “Likely,” only about twenty percent decided it’s “Somewhat likely,” and a just a small few said it was “Not Likely.”

Any ideas for the next NAAC (topics, locations, schedule, etc.)?

Comments left out were either incoherent or considered to be irrelevant to improving the state of the conference. Quotes have been shortened or edited for clarity:

- Suggestions to improve organization of sessions and presentations
- Regenerative agriculture, biodynamics, no spraying, pollinators, the north west, more time for lectures and less lectures.
- Discussion - or case studies, especially- on using cost-sharing resources for agroforestry. Research on adoption is always interesting.
- Perennial crops for alley cropping. Living fences Equipment for harvesting Using no-till drills.
- More work on the economics of agroforestry especially as it related to adoption... I would also like to see innovative agroforestry systems highlighted.
- Production systems, results from agroforestry operations, farmer-to-farmer exchange. Farm/operation planning.
- Multiple suggestions to move the conference to other locations with different landscapes.
- Nuts. Alternatives to land ownership Indigenous history, present, and future as it relates to agroforestry.
- Colder season for conference.
- More industry representation.
- Making a stronger, more explicit connection between permaculture and agroforestry.
- Focus on some practical aspects rather than detailed research...bring in fringe topics like an urban garden maybe in a forested area.
- Funding options for Agroforestry research/ implementation.
- Session devoted to ecosystem services outside the realm of agriculture.
- Hands-on examples of working silvopasture systems.

Suggestions for Future NAAC Locations

- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- New England
- Oregon State
- University of Illinois
- Northeast in General
- Wisconsin (Driftless region)
- North Carolina
- Canada
- Minnesota
- Semi-arid environment (i.e. Southern U.S.)
- Pacific Coast (or any western region)
- Mexico