BUEN DIA!

Greetings Purdue Nexus members and welcome to the third Nexus Newsletter!

URGENT ISSUE: Counting Our Days in Peru and Potential Tax Liabilities

I recently had several meetings with Purdue’s legal team about an impending tax problem for the Nexus Institute related to the number of days Purdue employees spend working in Peru. You may recall that when the Nexus began, our legal team warned us about not letting any individual work on the Nexus for more than 183 days in Peru over a rolling 12-month period. To exceed 183 days would trigger a permanent establishment (PE) tax status. We diligently tracked this and no one came close. About a month ago, we hired a legal firm in Peru to give us an opinion on an aspect of canon law. In their opinion, they provided a surprise observation based on a new Peruvian law (as of Jan 1,
2019) that would consider our master agreement with UNSA as a single working entity whereby any day where we
have people working in Arequipa it is considered a working day and added to the cumulative amount for our Institute.
So, if one person goes to Peru for 5 days on Nexus business that is considered 5-working days in country. Likewise,
if 20 people go to Peru on Nexus business for 5 working days it is still considered 5-working days in country. Our
legal team suggested we not try to parse out partial days but consider the first working as one working day (even if
you arrive at 2 in the afternoon in Arequipa) and any day thereafter in country working on the Nexus accountable.

This Tuesday, Rosa completed an accounting of in-country working days since Jan 1, 2019 and the table and
numbers are below. It appears now that we have only 19 days left before we get hit with a tax liability. The exact
implications of the tax liability are unknown, but it could be very expensive. Purdue’s legal team is looking into the
exact figures.

On Tuesday, I met with Ken Sandel, Crystal Seibert, and Steve Schulze (Purdue’s “Legal” folks). They indicated to
keep in-country days below the 183 day trigger until we figure out how to manage this situation. I am hoping this is
possible - I don't know if it is. Further meetings with our new EVPRP (Theresa Mayer) and the GRC are underway to
discuss how registering as a not for profit or some other status in Peru could solve some of this, but it may be mid
2020 before that happens.

So, going forward we have some detailed coordination to do among our projects to make sure our traveling days
overlap as much as possible and we don’t go over 183 days in 2019. This will be a hassle but we have no choice at
the point. We need to do the following:

1. Make sure that all projected travel is logged into the google travel sheet and before you or team buys any tickets
   for travel, you consult with Rosa, Victor, and me so we can work to maximize overlap. Indicate in the travel sheet the
day you arrive to Arequipa to start working. I am hoping that the first day of travel to Lima does not count, but I am
   waiting for guidance on that.
2. If you have already bought tickets for travel go to the google sheet and note that with the text “Tickets
   Purchased” in red color. This will then trigger a process with Rosa whereby to try and organize travel around that
time for other. We have to avoid any travel were it is just 3-4 people going to AQP.
3. Start conversations with other teams about coordinated travel and look at the google sheet to intentionally plan
   travel while other Purdue faculty are there.

At this Friday’s executive committee, we are going to discuss strategies for managing this and the needed
coordination.

Other than this - things are going great!

Tim
REGULAR REMINDERS

Information for New Hires
Please make sure all new hires complete the New Nexus Hire Survey and other required documents. Our support team will grant access to the Community Hub (our main portal to the Nexus resource and data management system) and include them in the membership directory after they complete the survey and other required documents. Please make sure all your Purdue Nexus team members are listed in our web directory page in the Nexus Website as well. Soon there will be a portal on the Nexus webpage to access data resources - currently reached through the Community Hub.

Nexus Website Update
We are striving to update the Nexus website with the most recent information. Please let us know of any changes on your team's composition or other suggestions you have for content. Also, if your photo or the photo of someone in your team is missing on the Nexus webpage, please email a headshot to Renata Ximenes (rximenes@purdue.edu).

Nexus Projects Ongoing Deliverables
We are continuously collecting information regarding significant project achievements (including conference abstracts submitted, apps created, manuscripts published, national meetings attended, invited presentations about the Nexus, etc.) from all Nexus teams. Please complete the Google Spreadsheet: Purdue Nexus Ongoing Deliverables with this information.

Procedural Ethics Document (Update on Policy)
Each member of the Nexus (at Purdue and UNSA) is expected to complete and sign the Procedural Ethics Document that discusses the expected conduct of all Arequipa Nexus participants. This document was developed during the first year of the Nexus by the Procedural Ethics Committee which included both Purdue and UNSA members. The link to the document along with the request to read and sign has been made available to all Nexus members several times. To date, less than half of
the Purdue participants have signed the document. Any participant (including technical staff, postdoctoral scholars, students, and faculty) working in the Nexus must read and sign it. We ask that all PIs discuss the document with their teams and the importance of the principles outlined therein.

Note, if you have not read and signed the document by Oct 1, 2019 you will jeopardize your status as a member in good standing in the Nexus Institute and will not have access to its resources (including funds for travel and salary, etc.).

---

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Nexus Committee Meetings** The Fieldwork, the Safety and Sample Processing, and the Data Committees will all resume fall meetings this month - dates to be scheduled.

The Executive Committee meets every other Friday from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. Please see below the upcoming Executive Committee Meetings:

- Friday, October 4th at KRAN 230 A
- Friday, October 18th at KRAN 230 A
- Friday, November 1st at KRAN 230 A
- Friday, November 15th at KRAN 230 A
- Friday, December 6th at KRAN 230 A

If you are not on one of the Nexus committees but would like to address the group or volunteer to join, please contact the chair of the committee listed below:

- Executive Committee - Tim Filley (filley@purdue.edu)
- Technical Training and Workshop Committee - Tim Filley (filley@purdue.edu)
- Postdoctoral Scholar Committee – (temp. chair) Emad Elwakil (eelwakil@purdue.edu)
- Data Committee – Keith Cherkauer (cherkaue@purdue.edu)
- Safety and Sample Processing Committee – Lori Hoagland (hoaglan@purdue.edu)
- Field Work Committee – Chad Jafvert (afwert@purdue.edu)
- Procedural Ethics Committee – Zhao Ma (zhaoma@purdue.edu)

**Nexus Postdoctoral Scholar Webinar** On August 30th we started the fall Nexus postdoctoral scholar biweekly webinar series; thanks to Dr. Abby Tomasek for offering to coordinate the activities this semester. Our first two webinars, which introduced the research work of our Nexus postdocs, were well attended. The first webinar (August 30th) gathered 12 people and our second webinar (September 13th) brought together ten people in the conference room and twelve people connected online (three from UNSA groups).

If you were not able to attend these webinars, you can go to the following sites and watch them:

1st Webinar: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkpNYelhP2c&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkpNYelhP2c&feature=youtu.be)
2nd Webinar: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEct80lQXqg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEct80lQXqg&feature=youtu.be)

Our next webinar titled "Capacity Strengthening for Postharvest Handling and Storage in Arequipa, Peru" will be presented by Jorge Diaz-Valderrama on **Friday, September 27, from 12 - 1 pm in Haas 101** (and viewed live online using Webex). Postharvest (PH) management and storage of grains is important for improving food security, food safety, and farmers’ income. This project aims to build the capacity of UNSA faculty, growers’ associations, and agro-processors, to address PH handling and storage challenges in Arequipa. During the last 9 months, we conducted several activities including i) field visits to interact with local partners (i.e., UNSA faculty, farmers, and farmers’ associations in several districts of Arequipa), ii) implementation of several training activities for UNSA faculty and students, and iii) a survey to better understand how Arequipa farmers handle and store grain after harvest. This webinar will discuss preliminary results of the survey and potential future interventions to address the identified challenges.
Note that the webinars are being recorded and stored in our Community Hub and SLACK for later viewing. Please endeavor to come see the presentation in person or log in to view it online.

Please see below the upcoming Nexus Postdoctoral Scholars webinars (from 12:00 - 1:00 PM):

- Friday, October 11th at MANN 203
- Friday, October 25th at MANN 203
- Friday, November 8th at HAAS 111
- Friday, November 22nd at HAAS 111

---

**SOCIAL CLIMATE IN AREQUIPA**

Since protests began in Arequipa in mid-July, due to the granting of a license to the Tia Maria mining project, activities in the region have been developing more or less as normal. However, on Monday, September 16, a macro-regional strike convened by the ‘Frente de Lucha del Valle de Tambo’ in opposition to the Tia Maria mining project began. This strike is planned to last until Friday, September 20th.

Arequipa is currently hosting the International Mining Convention “PERUMIN 34”. On Wednesday, September 18th the Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra participated in the PERUMIN convention accompanied by the ministers of Economy, Energy, Agriculture, and Environment, among others. Mr. Vizcarra said that the president of the Council of Ministers, Salvador del Solar, announced on Monday the creation of a high-level technical commission that will be in charge of the regulatory improvement of mining activities. He said that, in the coming days, the Government will issue a supreme resolution in this regard.

In the Tambo Valley, the suspension of schools was lifted on Tuesday, September 17th following the recent blockage of roads by protesters, and confrontations between villagers and the police. We continue to encourage all Nexus-affiliated personnel to exercise caution when traveling in the Arequipa region and to follow the travel recommendations in the ‘Nexus Travel Protocol’ document (outlined in both the Community Hub and SLACK).

Read more about the social climate in Arequipa:

Martín Vizcarra: “Mining yes, but that respects the environment: https://larepublica.pe/economia/2019/09/19/martin-vizcarra-mineria-si-pero-que-respete-el-medio-ambiente-tia-maria-mineria-formal/

Tambo protesters protest in Arequipa: https://diariocorreo.pe/edicion/arequipa/manifestantes-de-tambo-protestan-en-arequipa-911313/

School children returned to classes in the Tambo Valley: https://diariocorreo.pe/edicion/arequipa/escolares-volvieron-clases-en-el-valle-de-tambo-fotos-911332/

---

**NEXUS PHOTO FOR THE NEWSLETTER HEADER**
Calling all Nexus Photographers!

If you have a picture from your team that you would like to be featured on the Nexus newsletter header, please email a picture and a brief caption to Renata (rximenes@purdue.edu).

Please make sure your picture is at least 1,024 pixels (tall or wide). File size should be at least 1 MB. When saving your picture, the best format for the newsletter is JPG or JPEG. Also, please do not send your picture inside a Word document or PDF and include the names of any people in the picture and where and when it was taken (month and year).

---

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Screening of heavy metals in traditional and commercial processed food products and development of nutritious processed foods from Arequipa-area staple crops.

By Yony Roman-Ochoa, Postdoctoral Scholar. Member of the 'Development of low heavy metal, nutritious processed foods from Arequipa-area staple crops with potential novel health attributes'.

In a new stage of sample collection and processing, and experimental design analysis, beginning on September 6th, our group (including UNSA faculty members Grethel Choque, Teresa Tejada, Harry Yucra, Antonio Durand, and their students) began collecting samples of processed and unprocessed basic food products (including quinoa, corn, and rice). Sample collection sites included regions where high contamination by heavy metals is assumed, as well as regions where contamination is not necessarily assumed; sites targeted for sampling were common markets, supermarkets, and districts outside the city of Arequipa. In addition, the UNSA Food Engineering Laboratories prepared the samples for heavy metal analysis. Future results will show the presence or absence of the most representative heavy metals in food in the Arequipa metropolitan area.
UPDATES FROM THE NEXUS TEAMS

2019 Recent Conference Presentations:


Conference Presentation - Abstracts Accepted:


Recent Workshops

Introduction to Image Processing, online course, July 8 – August 21, 2019. This course was provided by the Sustainable Watershed Management team. Participants learned about sources of satellite imagery and how to download, pre-process, and use images to perform environmental analysis using free software. This online course included 5 modules composed of theory and practice videos, discussion forums, and learning assignments. Twenty-one participants, including UNSA students and professors, and staff from governmental agencies, completed the entire course. Participants that completed the on-line workshop were invited to participate in an in-person workshop entitled Image Processing for Environmental Applications.

Image Processing for Environmental Applications, Arequipa, August 30 – September 1, 2019. This workshop was presented by the Sustainable Watershed Management team and discussed the fundamentals of the main sensors and remote sensing platforms and products used for environmental applications, and provided examples on how to integrate data from multiple products and sensors to answer scientific questions. Participants engaged in discussions where ideas for using remote sensing imagery for existing or new research projects were exchanged. Lunch and coffee breaks made for great opportunities to get to know the students, discuss projects, and build stronger partnerships with our colleagues. A total of 21 UNSA participants completed the in-person workshop; the instructors for the workshop were Andre Moraes, Keith Cherkauer, Larry Biehl, and Carlos Zeballos.

THE PURDUE NEXUS OFFICE TEAM

We endeavor to assist in any way we can with the function of the overall Nexus Institute and individual projects. If you have any questions related to travel and travel reimbursement, scheduling, meeting room scheduling, workshop logistics and certificates, communication with counterparts at UNSA, website updates, or new hires and associated paperwork, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you do not know who to contact for a particular issue, please email Renata Ximenes and she can direct you to the right person. Please also note we are in the process of replacing our data manager.

- Tim Filley (tfilley@purdue.edu) - Co-Director
- Victor Maque (vmaque@purdue.edu) - Program Manager
- Renata Ximenes (rximenes@purdue.edu) - Administrative Assistant
- Rosa Cossio (rcossio@purdue.edu) - Travel and Workshop Coordinator

Follow us on:

Arequipa Nexus Institute, Gerald D. and Edna E. Mann Hall
203 S. Martin Jischke Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Email: c4enexus@purdue.edu