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Garrity Earns Distinguished Alumni Award



Dean Bob Moser (left) congratulates OSU agronomy alum Dr. Dennis Garrity on earning the 2006 CFAES Distinguished Alumni Award.

An international champion of agroforestry, **Dennis Garrity** (BS 1974, Agronomy) is part of a global effort to develop sustainable farming systems, alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable food security in developing countries. Recognizing his efforts, the Ohio State University College of Food Agriculture and Environmental Sciences has honored Dennis Garrity with the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Garrity was recognized at the Award Banquet Program held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 on the OSU Campus at the Fawcett Center.

Dr. Garrity's service to the agricultural industry has been primarily in other countries. As the current Director General of the [International Centre for Research in Agroforestry](#) (ICRAF) located in Nairobi, Kenya, Dennis works directly with individuals in 23 countries throughout the tropics and subtropics. ICRAF, a global research and development center, is focused on alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable food security in developing countries through a massive increase in the use of working trees on working landscapes by smallholder rural households. An agroforestry transformation involves a future in which millions of poor farming households have access to portfolios of adapted and productive tree enterprises that improve their livelihoods in a holistic way.



Dennis Garrity celebrates his Distinguished Alumni Award with wife Vilma and son John.

From 1992 to 2002, Dr. Garrity masterminded and developed the Southeast Asia Regional Program of the Center. Dr. Garrity led the center's natural resource management systems research to develop and evaluate agroforestry alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture. He also worked extensively on the development of conservation-oriented agroforestry systems for sloping upland ecosystems. He has been active in the development of institutional innovations related to farmer-led organizations in sustainable agriculture and natural

resources management.

The higher education part of Dr. Garrity's career started at OSU where he received a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He later pursued a master's and doctorate degree from the University of the Philippines at Los Banos and the University of Nebraska respectively.

Dr. Garrity views his most significant contribution to the industry at large to be building powerful and effective teams that work to crack big problems. This has occurred by gradually learning that there is much more to be accomplished through nurturing and supporting colleagues in tackling challenges in an integrated way together.

He and his wife, Vilma, currently reside in Nairobi, Kenya. They have two sons Abraham and John, both OSU alumni.

Story and photos courtesy CFAES Alumni Society. Web editing by [Victor van Buchem](#).

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