

Peter Motavalli

Bio Sketch and Vision Statement

Background: Dr. Peter Motavalli is a Professor in Soil Science in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. His undergraduate degree was from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University where he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Sudan. His M.S. degree in soil science was from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and he received his Ph.D. in soil fertility and plant nutrition from Cornell University. His Ph.D. research was conducted in Brazil with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development's TropSoils Soil Management Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP). Dr. Motavalli has had extensive experience working internationally both prior to and during his position as a faculty member at the University of Missouri. He worked for a private consulting firm in Washington, DC, that had an energy management training program in Sudan and headed the firm's London office. He was a postdoctoral scholar at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), which is one of 15 international agricultural research centers in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and is based in India. Prior to coming to the University of Missouri, he was a faculty member at the land-grant University of Guam for four years and conducted numerous projects in the Micronesian region of the Pacific in collaboration with regional partners. During his time as a faculty member at the University of Missouri he has had multiple international research projects, training programs and collaborative proposals involving countries such as Bolivia, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Pakistan, China, Brazil, Kenya, and South Korea. His research and teaching scholarship in soil science are internationally-recognized and has led to the development of multidisciplinary research and multiple workshops and seminars across the world. Most recently, he was a Visiting Professor at the Technical University of Munich in Germany with funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and has been working closely with Hunan Agricultural University in China to develop collaborative research and teaching projects.

Dr. Motavalli has had extensive leadership and administrative experience during his 20-year tenure at the University of Missouri. He was Undergraduate Advisor Chair and Director of Graduate Studies of the Department of Soil, Atmospheric, and Environmental Sciences (SEAS) for over eight years and have served on the MU Campus Writing Board for approximately four years. Currently, he is a member of the Teaching for Learning Center's Advisory Board. He was one the primary organizers of the MU Environmental Science undergraduate program, designed the curriculum for the Environmental Education Undergraduate Emphasis Area in the MU School of Natural Resources, and also developed an innovative integrated B.S./M.S. degree in the SEAS program to attract and retain top undergraduate students. He has also served in several leadership positions in the American Society of Agronomy in an editorial position and as a Division Chair. In addition, Dr. Motavalli was MU Campus Leader for the Center for the Integration of

Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), a multi-institutional network of universities, and Faculty Fellow in the MU Office of Graduate Studies for two years where he developed the MU Student Teaching as Research (STAR) competitive grants program to promote teaching research by graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at the University of Missouri. Dr. Motavalli has received numerous awards for his research and teaching including a Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, the CAFNR Outstanding Teaching Award, the Shutz Award for Distinguished Teaching, the MU Award for Excellence in Teaching with Technology and the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. He holds two patents developed from his research program.

Vision Statement: My vision for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) International Programs (CIP) is guided by the goals and measures for global citizenship and engagement as set forth in the CAFNR Strategic Plan (2019 - 2025). This plan focuses on increasing international engagement learning opportunities for students, doubling CAFNR's global education and training programs, growing the number of collaborative international education and research grant proposals, and increasing extramural funding so the program is self-sustaining. Increasing extramural funding for international-based research, teaching/training and outreach programs will require more extensive utilization of existing opportunities and networks for international collaboration within CAFNR and MU, and further development of additional and innovative opportunities for future international projects. Providing timely information about international opportunities, facilitating the formation of multidisciplinary teams of experts, and offering training and support and possible incentives for faculty to compete for and obtain international projects is essential to increase competitiveness for extramural funding. The identification, development and strengthening of mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborative international programs between CAFNR and private and public institutions and foundations will also provide increased international opportunities for the CAFNR community to tackle some of the world's most challenging social, economic, educational and scientific issues.