

Abstract for poster presentation at the 2008 meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

## **The Sustainable Agriculture Education Association: Facilitating the Teaching and Learning of Sustainable Food and Farming Systems in Higher Education**

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Sustainable agriculture as an academic discipline is an emerging field. In the past five to ten years, numerous U.S. colleges and universities have formed courses and programs dedicated to the application and advancement of sustainable agriculture, organic agriculture, and agroecology education. Yet despite this academic vitality, there is little formalized interdisciplinary or inter-institutional support designed to intentionally advance the discipline. A new professional association, Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA), has been created to promote and support the development, application, research, and exchange of best teaching and learning practices and curricula in sustainable agriculture education. We do this through communication, training, development, and collaborative activities for teachers and learners of sustainable agriculture. Future activities of the SAEA will include providing forums for addressing issues in sustainable agriculture education teaching and learning such as regional workshops, symposia, short courses, and a national annual conference. SAEA will serve as a vibrant and collaborative network for educators, students, institutions and other organizations involved in sustainable agriculture education. To meet our goal of collaboratively developing and exchanging sustainable agriculture education and curricula, we have recently created a digital library of educational materials available to the general public. Additionally, the SAEA has established an official listserv for sharing information about developing sustainable food and farming systems within and across disciplines and communities of practice. The SAEA is a new professional society and this poster presentation will describe the organization mission, goals and how to get involved.