

Healthy Watersheds. Healthy Communities. Healthy Growth

About MRRC

The Mississippi River Research Center (MRRC) in the School of Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Applied

Location



The MRRC is located at Alcorn State University, MS which is 80 miles southwest of the state capital, Jackson.

Sciences (AREAS) at Alcorn State University was created in the mid-1990s to combine and integrate research, teaching, and outreach in agriculture, applied sciences, environmental studies, advanced technologies, and human sciences. The MRRC mission is to advance knowledge in preservation, conservation, and improvement of water quality while balancing economic and environmental impact. The MRRC provides capabilities in sustainable watershed management, soil & water quality laboratory analysis, and watershed assessment & modeling.

Facilities

- The 21,000 sq. ft. Center includes:
- 3,000 sq. ft. of physical lab space
- 1,500 sq. ft. soil & water quality lab
- 40 seat class room with 20 computers
- 4,000 sq. ft. conservatory
- Graduate student space
- 8 seat conference room.



Short Term Vision

- Develop science-based information, analytical tools, and decision support systems to enhance conservation of agricultural ecosystems and the environment along the Mississippi River corridor
- Lead and enhance the Environmental Science program offered through the Department of Agriculture at ASU-AREAS
- Identify and evaluate nutrient management strategies best suited for small scale, low income agricultural production
- Select and develop demonstration sites for nutrient management strategies at on and off campus sites
- Develop collaborative relationships with other organizations such as Toyota, MDEQ, USDA
- Establish a network of affiliates focused on large river research
- Identify state and federal funding opportunities
- Develop outreach for students and general public in the field of environmental science and large rivers
- Provide academic and research opportunities for minority groups in agriculture, science, and technology.

Contact Information

Dr. Jairo Diaz
Director/Assistant Professor
1000 ASU Drive #209
Alcorn State, MS 39096-7500
Phone: (601) 877-3368
Email: jdiaz@alcorn.edu
Website: www.alcorn.edu/mrrc/



Long Term Vision

- The MRRC becomes a nationally and internationally recognized research center using innovative science to better understand and manage sustainable watershed systems
- Develop international partnerships (China, India, Africa, Latin America) supported by USAID, UNESCO, World Bank
- Increase the visibility and importance of the MRRC through effective technology transfer initiatives
- Develop innovative nutrient management strategies for small farms and limited resources farmers
- Educate students, in particular underrepresented groups, in sustainable development
- Develop a Master's degree in Watershed Science (water quality, sub-tropical watershed modeling)