

## **U.N.'s delegates visiting the valley**

Two-day tour highlights farming techniques for four global representatives

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A United Nations delegation swept through the Northern San Joaquin Valley on Monday, touring agricultural sites to learn about modern and sustainable farming techniques.

The representatives from Bangladesh, Portugal, the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Korea will continue the tour today, as part of a two-day visit to region.

Traveling by bus, the delegates started Monday morning at the Blue Diamond almond processing plant in Sacramento. Working their way down the valley, the group stopped at Castelanelli Dairy in Lodi, the Tracy water pumping plant, Britton Konynenburg farm in Westley and the E.&J. Gallo Winery in Modesto.

The tour is hosted by the the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Its goal is to demonstrate farming methods that the delegates can use in their home countries to produce more food with the least impact on the land, said organizer Kristen Hughes, a project manager for Sustainable Conservation.

The delegates received a brief introduction to Stanislaus County during a lunch break presentation at the Great Valley Center in Modesto.

Richard Cummings, the director of communications for the center, described the rapid population growth of the county in recent years. He addressed some of the problems that plague the area, including low income levels, poor air quality and the lack of a collegeeducated work force.

Ambassadors Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury of Bangladesh, João Manuel Guerra Salgueiro of Portugal, Pascal Gayama of the Republic of Congo and Hyun Cho of the Republic of Korea will continue the tour today at the UC Davis campus.

They will attend a series of presentations on biotechnology, sustainable energy, water resources and pesticide regulation.

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