

Jianbang (Jim) Gan

Dr. Jianbang (Jim) Gan is currently a professor of forest economics and management in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University (TAMU). He received his B.S. degree in Forest Engineering from Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (formerly Fujian Forestry College) in China and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Forestry (Economics) from Iowa State University (ISU). Shortly after graduating from ISU, he started working at Tuskegee University (TU) as an assistant professor in 1992 and was promoted to full professor in 1999. Since 2001, he has been on the TAMU faculty. Throughout his career, Jim has played multiple roles in leadership, teaching, research, and outreach.

At TAMU, Jim served as Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Programs (2008-09) and for Graduate Programs (2009-11). He coordinated curriculum revisions for five undergraduate majors and initiated a progressive and focal recruitment plan to improve the overall quality and quantity of undergraduate enrollment for the newly-merged department. He led in streamlining the priorities for the Department's graduate programs and elevating and diversifying its graduate enrollment. During his tenure (two years), the Department's graduate enrollment increased by 42% (from 69 to 98) with more than 20% being minorities. At TU from 1998 to 2001, he served as Coordinator for Forest Resources Program, managing and strengthening the joint degree programs in Forestry and Wildlife Biology with eight universities across the U.S. During his tenure there, the student enrollment was among the highest in the Program's history.

Jim's interests and expertise are in forest economics, management, and policy. He has taught 15 undergraduate- and graduate-level courses, supervised 10 Ph.D. and 18 Master's students, and served on an additional 12 Ph.D. and over 40 Master's committees. He has also served as PI/Co-PI for more than 30 projects with total funding of over \$30 million. He has collaborated with researchers in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania as well as in the U.S. and Canada. Recently, he served as a Lead Author of a global scientific assessment on illegal logging and related timber trade at the invitation of the Global Forest Expert Panels. His research has impacted individuals at the community level and contributed to policy discussion and development at the global level. In addition, he has been actively engaged in outreach activities, interacting extensively with private forestland owners, forest managers and practitioners, industry representatives, and Extension agents. He initiated a technical assistance program to African-American forestland owners, collaborated with Southern Regional Extension Forestry and Texas A&M Forest Service, and provided technical service to Texas Forest Industries Council. His work in teaching, research, and outreach has been widely recognized, including the Partnership Award (team award) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Research, Development and Innovation Award from the Texas Forestry Association, and the Faculty Outstanding Performance Award in Teaching from TU. Moreover, Jim has served on many review panels for various funding agencies/organizations including the National Science Foundation, National Academy of Sciences, USDA, Ford Foundation, and Swedish Research Council.

Jim is married (to Hong) with three children (Steven, Eric, and David).