

## New interim county director named at UCCE-Imperial County

By Trish Burich-McNeece, Special to this Newspaper | Posted: Thursday, August 18, 2016 12:10 am

The University of California Cooperative Extension office near Holtville has a new, interim county director. Oli Bachie was named to replace Khaled Bali until a permanent replacement can be found. Bali left after 24 years, to take a statewide position as an irrigation and water management specialist at the Kearney Agricultural and Research Extension Center in Central California.

Bachie, who is an agronomy adviser for Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties, has been with the UCCE-Imperial office since December 2012. His research focuses primarily, but is not limited to, crops such as alfalfa, wheat, sudangrass, Bermuda grass, Kleingrass, cotton, sugar beets and bioenergy crops and their cropping systems.

Originally from Ethiopia, Bachie worked for that country's Ministry of Agriculture as an expert in crop protection, crop production and weed management.

He earned his Ph.D in plant biology at the University of California Riverside and worked as an assistant research specialist in the UCR department of nematology. Bachie also earned a master's degree in forestry from the University of Toronto and in agronomy from the University of the Philippines. His bachelor's degree in plant sciences came from Haromaya University in Ethiopia.

"As one of 64 Cooperative Extension offices we serve as a bridge between local issues and the power of University of California research," he said. "Our county-based staff is part of the community and endeavors to deliver high-quality research and educational programs that contribute to safe, healthy, accessible food, a sustainable environment and an improved local economy."

Bachie provides research-based technical and educational assistance in agronomy and sustainable agriculture to growers, farm operators, agricultural producers, pest control advisors and other agricultural clientele. He develops and encourages adoption of research-based cropping systems to improve crop productivity and yield while giving due consideration to environmental and ecological compatibility.



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Oli Bachie. Courtesy Photo