



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #78

6 November 2008

Dear colleagues,

This issue includes the announcement of the launch of “Crops for the Future”, from the merger of ICUC and GFU, the new organisation to champion underutilised crops. This is a momentous time for those involved, and the culmination of much work by many people, though the job is still far from over, as we strive to make the new entity best fit the needs of those who demand more knowledge on underutilised crops. Also allow me to wish belated Diwali greetings to all subscribers who celebrate the Hindu New Year Festival of Lights. I was fortunate to have been raised in Leicester, UK, which has for decades hosted the largest gathering of Hindus in the western hemisphere during this time. During the same period, on 1 November, many Christians also celebrate All Saints Day, which is thought to have been timed to replace the celebration of the traditional Celtic (pagan) New Year which also fell at this time. In Latin America this is more commonly known as the Day of the Dead, where graves are adorned with candles in respect of ancestors, and which may, similarly, be based on a pre-Colombian celebration. The preceding evening, Halloween or All Hallows’ Eve, more clearly exhibits its pagan origins, and the very marketable ghosts and magic associated with it, is one reason why it is becoming increasingly ‘celebrated’ around the world, though most are unaware of its true origins. So, as a new year begins for some, and approaches for others, let us all look forward to a brighter future.

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With best wishes,  
Nick

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**1. Funding & Job opportunities**

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**1.1. Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships – last call for applications**

Bioversity International established this Fellowship Fund in 1989 to commemorate the unique contributions to plant science of Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov and Otto Frankel. To date, 31 scientists from 21 developing countries have received awards to carry out innovative research related to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources, outside of their home countries for a period of three months to one year. Two Fellowship opportunities, for up to US\$20,000 each, will be available for 2009 thanks to support from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., United States and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Australia. The first fellowship may be carried out in any country outside of the applicant's home country. The second fellowship must be carried out in Australia. This call covers a wide range of biophysical, economic and social issues related to the conservation and use of genetic resources in developing countries. Multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral research is particularly encouraged. We outline specific areas in which Bioversity believes it is important to carry out more research or gather more evidence. Proposals for the Fellowship supported by GRDC should in addition be carried out at an Australian research institute and meet at least one of the following four additional criteria:

1. Target a species that is a priority for both Australia and the home country
2. Target an alternative, neglected or underutilized species with either environmental or economic potential for Australia
3. Work on any of the following specific crops: wheat, barley, oats, sorghum, cereal rye, triticale, maize, canary seed, millets/panicum, canola, linseed, safflower, soybeans, sunflowers, chickpeas, cowpeas, fababeans, field peas, lentils, lupins, mung beans, navy beans, peanuts, pigeon peas and vetch
4. Use biotechnology in support of efficient use of plant genetic resources

Applicants eligible for this call should be nationals of developing countries (The list of eligible countries is available on the World Bank web site <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS>), be no more than 35 years old, and hold at least a Masters degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area.

Application forms and Guidelines for preparation of research proposals (in English, French and Spanish) can be downloaded from the Bioversity International web site: [http://www.bioversityinternational.org/About\\_Us/Fellowships/Vavilov-Frankel\\_Fellowship/index.asp#2008\\_Call\\_for\\_Application](http://www.bioversityinternational.org/About_Us/Fellowships/Vavilov-Frankel_Fellowship/index.asp#2008_Call_for_Application), or by sending a request to [e.rossetti@cgiar.org](mailto:e.rossetti@cgiar.org). Applications may be submitted in English, French or Spanish and must include a covering letter, completed application form, full curriculum vitae (with a list of publications), research proposal (should follow the Guidelines provided), letter of acceptance from the proposed host institute (should follow the Guidelines), and a letter of support from an institute in a developing country (preferably the home institute) which should specify why the research is important to the institute and/or country and should also identify the support that will be provided to the applicant upon return.

Applications should be sent by mail, fax or email to Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships, Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/A, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy, fax: +(39) 0661979661, email [e.rossetti@cgiar.org](mailto:e.rossetti@cgiar.org) by 9 November 2008. The selection will be finalized by 31 March 2009. The successful applicants will be informed by 30 April 2009 and are required to take up their Fellowships before 31 December 2009. The maximum award per Fellow will be US\$20,000 which is intended to cover travel, stipend for living expenses, bench fees, equipment, conference participation, publications and so on. Awards can be held concurrently with other sources of support.

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**1.2. Agricultural Research and Extension Manager, Cambodia**

Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (CAVAC), Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) forms part of Australia's official development assistance program. ACIAR's main role is the identification of agricultural and natural resource policy and management problems of developing countries, commissioning collaborative projects between Australian and developing country research institutions and publishing and communicating the results of the research. It is expected that ACIAR will manage the Research and Extension component of the new 5 year, \$ 42 million Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program, which is anticipated to commence in

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early 2009. CAVAC's goal is to accelerate growth in the value of agricultural production and smallholder incomes in selected provinces (Kampong Thom, Takeo and Kampot) through improved productivity of rice-based farming systems. CAVAC's Research and Extension component, co-funded by AusAID and ACIAR, will

- Fund and manage programs of priority research that address constraints in selected value chains;
- Implement a farmer extension program among participating water user and agribusiness groups,
- Enhance capacity of extension providers to transfer improved technologies and information to farmers;
- Develop and implement a partnership program linking researchers, extensionists, farmers and agribusiness;
- Assist in sustaining the operational capacity of the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

We are seeking to fill a senior, international contract position as Research and Extension Manager based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The appointee would have responsibility for managing a team of staff involved in implementation management, monitoring and reporting functions and would collaborate with ACIAR's Research Program Managers based in Canberra. This requires strong interpersonal skills, the ability to lead planning and implementation of the Component and the ability to manage relationships with Cambodian and international research and extension agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The manager would also need skills in administrative and financial management of donor projects in SE Asia, preferably with in-country project leader experience. Applicants should have an agriculture-related degree, preferably with postgraduate qualifications and experience in management of agricultural research and extension programs. An understanding of South East Asian agriculture, research and extension systems and of adult learning processes is required.

The appointee would initially be contracted for 3 years, subject to annual renewal and with an initial 6 month probation period. Subject to performance and confirmation of the second phase of the program a further contract would be offered. An attractive senior remuneration package will be negotiated commensurate with experience and qualifications. Selection documentation is available on [www.aciar.gov.au](http://www.aciar.gov.au) or can be obtained by phoning. To discuss the position further, contact Dr John Skerritt on or or email [skerritt@aciarc.gov.au](mailto:skerritt@aciarc.gov.au). Applications specifically addressing the selection criteria, outlining relevant experience, and including names of three referees and contact details should be forwarded by 9 November 2008 to: The Recruitment Officer, ACIAR, GPO Box 1571, CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA, email: [recruitment@aciarc.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@aciarc.gov.au)

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### **1.3. Applied Agricultural Economist, Syria**

Established in 1977 as an autonomous, non-profit, international research centre, ICARDA is one of the 15 international research centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is co-sponsored by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Development Programme. ICARDA's mission is to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor in dry areas by enhancing food security and alleviating poverty through research and partnerships to achieve sustainable increases in agricultural productivity and income, while ensuring the efficient and more equitable use and conservation of natural resources. With its main research station and headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, and a staff of over 500 scientists and support personnel, ICARDA works through a network of partnerships with national agricultural research systems (NARS), regional and international institutions, universities, advanced research institutes, and non-governmental organizations. In addition to its headquarters programs, ICARDA operates throughout the non-tropical dry areas through regional programs and country offices.

ICARDA has an immediate vacancy for the position of Agricultural Economist under its Social, Economic and Policy Research (SEPR) Program. The position is based at ICARDA's headquarters in Aleppo, Syria. The post holder will report directly to the Program Director while focusing his/her work on assessing the adoption and impact of ICARDA's research outputs mainly in the area of crop improvement research. He/she will initiate and implement research projects and studies using advanced methodologies for assessing agricultural risks and households' vulnerability throughout ICARDA's mandate regions. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Design and implement the monitoring of the uptake of crop improvement technologies and evaluation for their impacts on households' livelihoods in the dry areas.
- Conduct research studies on the risks faced by agricultural households and assess their vulnerability to food insecurity, poverty, social institution and other indicators

- Identify needs and constraints in production systems, and contribute to research priority setting.
- Contribute to institutional capacity building of national partners through training activities, and supervise and provide technical backstopping in the completion of impact assessment studies.
- Provide economic inputs into projects managed by other research and outreach programs
- Produce refereed papers and general audience publications on adoption and impact assessment and related research topics.
- Develop research concept notes, project proposals, and contribute to overall resource mobilization efforts of all research programs
- Assist the SEPR Program Director in coordinating impact assessment related research budgets, and reporting to relevant donors.
- Maintain effective integration, collaboration and partnerships with biophysical and social scientists at ICARDA and national programs in developing and implementing impact assessment and risk management research.

The successful candidate must have:

- A PhD degree in agricultural economics with at least 5 years of post-doctoral experience in international agricultural research.
- Proven experience in quantitative and qualitative analyses and economic modelling relating to risk analysis and impact assessment.
- Familiarity with community-based and participatory approaches to research, rural enterprise development, and experience of working with rural communities, NARS, NGOs, the private sector, advanced research institutions, and international organizations.
- A proven record of high quality scientific publications in the areas mentioned above.
- Experience in working with multi-institutional and multidisciplinary teams and a demonstrated ability to communicate effectively at all levels and in multicultural settings.

In addition, fluency in spoken and written English is required, and a working knowledge of Arabic or French will be an advantage

The appointee will be expected to travel extensively to work with partners throughout the dry areas. The appointment will be for an initial period of two years, renewable thereafter annually. The salary is paid in US dollars and starting salary will depend on relevant qualifications and experience. Benefits include housing allowance, paid home leave travel, a pension scheme, life and health insurance package, vehicle for business and personal use, and free enrolment for dependent children in the ICARDA-administered international school (KG to Grade 12).

Qualified applicants are invited to send a cover letter, Curriculum vitae and details of three professional referees to: Personnel Services, ICARDA, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria, [icarda-jobs@cgiar.org](mailto:icarda-jobs@cgiar.org), by 30 November 2008.

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**2. Workshops & Training Courses**  
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**2.1. Australasian Postharvest Conference and Managing Quality in Chains 2009**

Advanced notice is hereby provided of an important conference due to take place in a year's time, November 15-19, 2009, in Napier, New Zealand. The MQuIC Symposium is held every 4 years under the auspices of the ISHS. From 15-19 November 2009 it will be linked with the very successful biannual Australasian Postharvest Conference with the venue being Napier in the heart of the rich fertile, fruit, vegetable and wine producing Hawke Bay, New Zealand. The conference will cover all aspects of postharvest science, and will include a strong focus on supply chain systems and practices, including modelling of product quality and value in supply chains, in line with previous MQuIC conferences. Other topics may include carbon footprints in postharvest (food miles), genomic studies to enhance supply chain efficiencies and consumer satisfaction, and modelling as a tool to optimise quality. There will be a single Acta Horticulturae Proceedings produced from those papers that are submitted and accepted following a peer review process. The Conference will include at least one technical tour and workshop. There will be a workshop on Market Access (due to popular demand at the last APHC), and we are open to suggestions on other topics/areas.

Please see the website for all details [www.postharvestpacific.org.nz](http://www.postharvestpacific.org.nz), including key dates and links to travel information and accommodation. Enquiries to Christine Lamont [clamont@hortresearch.co.nz](mailto:clamont@hortresearch.co.nz)  
 For more information, contact:  
 Prof. Dr. Errol W. Hewett

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## **2.2. How to Ensure Food Security Today and Tomorrow? Conference on the world food situation**

Organised by the North-South Centre of the ETH Zurich and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, "How to Ensure Food Security Today and Tomorrow? Agriculture in the face of new and urgent global needs" is a one-day conference, which will take place on Friday, December 12, 2008 at the Auditorium Maximum, ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Admission is free entrance, and no registration is required.

Exploding food prices in the last few months have led to political unrest in several cities of the developing world, and have raised unprecedented public awareness and media attention. Policy-makers and development agencies have reacted by increased investment in short-term food aid. In the long-term, the agricultural sector is the starting point for finding sustainable solutions to overcome the current crisis. This relates to agricultural productivity as well as to policy frameworks for combating hunger and poverty. Special attention needs to be given to research in food and agriculture and related fields which have been underfunded in the past decades. The conference will identify innovative approaches in agriculture in developing countries, including new research priorities in response to changing needs.

For more information including the programme and the list of notable speakers, visit  
<http://www.foodsecurityconference.ch/>

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## **3. Publications & Information**

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### **3.1. Three new underutilised crop titles from Satish Serial Publishing House, India**

Attention was drawn to a new title on Seabuckthorn, adding to the increasing body of knowledge on this underutilised Himalayan plant. No further information from the publisher has been forthcoming, although two other relevant titles for ICUC News subscribers were listed, see below, along with a number of other books, especially on Himalayan plants, but also underutilised Indian root crops, etc. Please contact the publisher directly for more information.

Seabuckthorn. Hippophae spp.: The Golden Bush, by Dwivedi SK, Parimelazhagan T, Singh SB, Ahmed Z, eds. 2008. ISBN: 8189304607

Fruits For The Future : Well Versed Arid & Semi Arid Fruits (Volume # 1), by Nath V, Kumar D, Pandey V., eds. 2008. ISBN: 8189304437

Underutilized Vegetable Crops, by A. K. Pandey, ed. 2008. ISBN: 8189304534

For more information on these and related titles, please contact:  
Satish Serial Publishing House, 115 Express Tower, Commercial Complex, Azadpur, New Delhi – 110033, India  
Tel: +91-11- 27672852, 27672046: Fax : +91-11- 27672046  
E-Mail : [info@satishserial.com](mailto:info@satishserial.com), [www.satishserial.com](http://www.satishserial.com)

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### **3.2. Farm-level Adaptation to Climate Change in Ethiopia and South Africa**

New Materials from IFPRI. <http://www.ifpri.org/themes/climatechange/climatechange.asp>

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has released several 2-page briefs and full-length papers on farmer adaptation strategies to climate change in Ethiopia and South Africa, and their implications for policies at the national, regional, and local levels. The nine briefs concisely lay out

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results and policy implications based on farmer vulnerability, water management, and the best ways to integrate climate change adaptation into overall development policy. The new papers go into depth on measuring farmers' vulnerability to climate change in Ethiopia, farmer adaptation to drought in South Africa's Limpopo River basin, and analyzing farmers' adaptation methods in Ethiopia's Nile River basin, and have been developed with partners at CEEPA, South Africa; EDRI, Ethiopia; and EEA/EEPRI, Ethiopia, among others. The research is part of the German government-funded project Food and Water Security under Global Change, and is associated with the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food. The project will conclude in late 2008 with two final workshops in Ethiopia and South Africa. These and other materials related to climate change can be found on IFPRI's Climate Change website, which is part of its overall work on Global Change and Natural Resources.

For more information, please contact:  
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<http://www.ifpri.org/divs/eptd.htm>

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### **3.3. Plants and Climate Change: which Future?**

Hawkins B, Sharrock S, Havens K. 2008. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), Richmond, UK. 96pp.

For an extended summary, visit <http://www.bgci.org/conservation/2093/>

For information on the project and associated activities and outputs, visit <http://www.bgci.org/worldwide/climatechange/>

For the full report (4 MB), visit [http://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/climate_change.pdf)

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### **3.4. Governing Agrobiodiversity: Plant Genetics and Developing Countries**

A new book by Senior Research Fellow Regine Andersen of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway makes the first comprehensive analysis of how international agreements have affected the management of crop genetic resources in developing countries, revealing that the interaction of the most relevant agreements (TRIPS, UPOV, CBD, IU and ITPGRFA) has produced largely negative impacts, despite good intentions. The book highlights entry points to shape a better governance of agrobiodiversity.

Andersen R, 2008. Governing Agrobiodiversity: Plant Genetics and Developing Countries. Aldershot, Ashgate, 420 p. ISBN 978-0-7546-4741-6.

For further information, visit: [www.fni.no/news/080909.html](http://www.fni.no/news/080909.html) or [www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754647416](http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754647416)

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### **3.5. New Farmers' Rights website**

This website is about Farmers' Rights as they are addressed in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Farmers' Rights are basically about enabling farmers to continue their work as stewards and innovators of agricultural biodiversity, and about recognizing and rewarding them for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources. Thus, Farmers' Rights are critical to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and consequently for food security – today and in the future. Farmers' Rights are also a central means in the fight against rural poverty in developing countries.

<http://www.farmersrights.org/>

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### **3.6. New research paper on properties of starches from cocoyam (*Colocasia esculenta*)**

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Researchers have studied cocoyam and ten types of cassava grown in Malawi to see if the starch is suitable for processed food, textiles, pharmaceuticals, dry cells and adhesives. Malawian factories import starch based on maize, potato and wheat, with negative effects on foreign currency reserves and employment levels. The physicochemical and functional properties of cocoyam and cassava starch were studied, and which were found to vary significantly with crop and among varieties, with cocoyam starch having lower values of amylose values content and paste clarity but higher phosphorus content as compared to cassava. The full paper is freely available and can be downloaded from, <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJFS/PDF/Pdf2008/Sep/Mweta%20et%20al.pdf>

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### **3.7. Guatemalan women build a unique partnership with a leading US distributor**

Ensuring that ingredients are sourced in an eco-friendly and socially responsible manner is important to Guayaki Yerba Mate, an award-winning North American maker of invigorating organic drinks. Founded in 1997, Guayakí is the leading provider of organic, fairly-traded, rainforest-grown yerba mate in North America with products sold at thousands of natural foods stores, cafes and supermarkets. When Guayaki learned about the non-profit Equilibrium Fund and its mission to support women in the impoverished Central American region where Maya Nut is sourced for the Java Mate beverages, Guayaki worked with the Fund on a project to purchase Maya Nut directly from a pioneering women's business in Ixlu Peten, Guatemala.

The Equilibrium Fund works to alleviate poverty, malnutrition and deforestation by teaching rural and indigenous women about nutritional uses and processing of Maya Nut. In Guatemala, where 49% of children under 5 years old are chronically malnourished, Maya Nut can serve as an excellent dietary source of protein, calcium, potassium, magnesium, zinc, iron, folates, fibre and antioxidant-rich vitamins A, B, C and E. Also known as Breadnut or Ramon Nut, Maya Nut was the staple food for ancient civilizations in MesoAmerica. This tropical rainforest tree in the fig family, once abundant in Central America and Mexico, is endangered by logging and forest conversion for agriculture and biofuels. "By teaching women to harvest Maya Nut from the natural rainforest for food and income, we motivate them to conserve the rainforest and plant more trees for future harvests," says Fund executive director Erika Vohman. Since 2001, communities trained by the Equilibrium Fund have planted more than 800,000 Maya Nut trees. "Sustainable Maya Nut harvesting within the rainforest is a robust, long-term economic alternative to the destructive land use practices which threaten the region, such as vast mono-crop plantations, clear cut logging and cattle grazing," says Vohman.

Alimentos Nutri Nutrales, the business owned by the Ixlu women, recognizes that Maya Nut could be one of the world's most profitable non-timber forest products. The business employs more than 650 people (80% women) from the community. "By producing and selling Maya Nut, women earn a fair wage, often for the first time in their lives," says Vohman. "When Alimentos Nutri Nutrales approached companies that buy Maya Nut and requested that they explore importing it directly from them rather than the traditional system which depends on intermediaries who make major profits, Guayaki Yerba Mate was the only company to step up and accept the challenge to buy direct from rural women and they offered a very fair and competitive price," says Vohman.

In preparing a large shipment for export to Guayaki's California warehouse, the women of Alimentos Nutri Nutrales broke through many deeply rooted social barriers. "This is the first time that a women's group in Central America has conducted this type of direct export business, so it is a historic event that is sure to inspire more women in this region and beyond," says Vohman. When Maya Nut is dried and roasted, it tastes like chocolate and coffee and can be used to make cereal, cookies and cakes. Guayaki features Maya Nut in its unique Java Mate beverages because it is nutritious and imparts a rich, robust coffee-like flavour. Java Mate is a naturally caffeinated coffee alternative that brews in any standard coffee maker, French press or espresso machine.

<http://hopebuilding.pbwiki.com/Guatemalan-women-build-unique-partnership-with-leading-US-yerba-mate-distributor>

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### **3.8. African leafy vegetable researcher wins international award**

Ms Maryam Imbumi, an ethnobotanist from the Kenya Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (KENRIK) at the National Museums of Kenya, has received the Japan International Award 2008 for Young Agricultural Researchers. The award, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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(MAFF) in Japan, is worth US\$5000 and is administered by the Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). The award is intended to recognize and reward the contributions of young agricultural researchers to technological developments that improve food security and the environment in developing countries. Ms Imbumi has been working with Bioversity International on African leafy vegetables since 2004. Her work focused initially on providing evidence about the value of African leafy vegetables and in particular the seed systems: how to obtain seeds from wild samples, bulk them up, cultivate them and supply seeds to farmers. In addition, Ms Imbumi developed protocols for the cultivation and use of African leafy vegetables in a series of 14 booklets and took part in training sessions to help farmers to make use of that information.

Maryam says that her great passion for her work stems from her early childhood experiences. "I grew up and went to school in a rural village in Western Kenya, a region where the tradition of vegetable consumption is deeply rooted in the local culture," she said. Her family used plants from the wild and also grew many local vegetable crops on their farm. "As a girl, I learned from my mother and grandparents how to identify, pick and prepare dozens of these vegetables for the family." Due to the lack of clinics in the village and the family's inability to afford health care, their grandmother was the main source of information about plants for nutrition and health care. "Whenever my mother had a baby, my grandmother would tell me to prepare spider plant (*Cleome gynandra*), and she explained that this vegetable would help my mother to produce milk for the new baby."

Maryam was keen to understand the scientific reasons why the traditional foods she grew up eating contributed to the health of her family, particularly as sources of micronutrients for mother and child. She plans to use the award to pursue further research work on nutrients of the African leafy vegetables in Kenya and has enrolled for a Master's degree in Nutrition at North West University, Potchefstroom campus, South Africa.

For more information please contact Elizabeth Obel-Lawson at Bioversity's Nairobi office, [e.obel-lawson@cgiar.org](mailto:e.obel-lawson@cgiar.org), or Maryam Imbumi directly, [maryam\\_imbumi@yahoo.com](mailto:maryam_imbumi@yahoo.com)

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**4. ICUC-related information**

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**4.1. "Crops for the Future" to be launched this month**

"Crops for the Future", the new entity arising from the merger of ICUC and GFU, will be launched in a few weeks time during the CGIAR Annual General Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique. Under the theme "Paths out of Poverty", the official launch will take place on Sunday 30 November, during a seminar chaired by Dr George Rothschild, with the speakers Dr Festus Akinnifesi (World Agroforestry Centre), Dr Kwesi Atta-Krah (Bioversity International), Dr Festo Massawe (University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus) and Dr Hannah Jaenicke (ICUC). Crops for the Future will also have an exhibition stand (No. 44), so come and visit us in Maputo.

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**5. ICUC network**

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**In this section we introduce new and old subscribers to ICUC-News to encourage greater interaction and benefit from the great diversity of readers. If you haven't done so, please send a brief introduction of yourself and your interest in underutilised crops to [h.jaenicke@cgiar.org](mailto:h.jaenicke@cgiar.org). We will not publish your email or phone contacts and if anyone is interested to establish direct contact, please write an email to me.**

- Dr.V.S.Ramachandran, Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. Special interests in documentation of underutilized plants and nutritional evaluation.
- Dr. Sreelatha, Associate professor, Kerala Agricultural University, India. Special interests in underutilised flower crops and medicinal plants.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development