



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #40

17 April 2007

Dear colleagues,

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With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1 Post-doctoral Associate position in the economics and ecology of ecosystem services

The position is at the School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, to support the recently-formed ecoSERVICES group directed by Charles Perrings and Ann Kinzig, and the DIVERSITAS ecoSERVICES core project office. See <http://www.public.asu.edu/~cperring> and <http://www.public.asu.edu/~akinzig> for information on current research programs, and the NSF funded project that part funds the post. See also <http://www.diversitas-international.org> for information on DIVERSITAS.

Requirements:

- Candidates must have earned a Ph.D. in Economics, Ecology or a related field at the time of appointment.
- Experience of interdisciplinary research in these areas is desirable.
- The starting time for the post is negotiable, and its duration is two years renewable by mutual agreement.

Application: Applicants should send a cover letter summarizing their qualifications, experience and interests, a curriculum vitae, and up to three representative reprints. They should also have two letters of recommendation sent to Dr. Charles Perrings, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874501, Tempe, AZ 85287-4501 or to Charles.Perrings@asu.edu.

The deadline for applications is May 15; and if not filled biweekly thereafter until the search is closed.

Arizona State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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1.2 Wetlands Alliance Coordinator

The Wetlands Alliance Programme is a joint initiative of the Asian Institute of Technology, The Coastal Resources Institute of the Prince of Songkla University, the WorldFish Center and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) with a goal of "strengthening the capacity of local change agents to support sustainable wetlands management for the benefit of the poor". The Alliance is seeking a Coordinator to lead its joint Secretariat based in Bangkok.

Candidate requirements

This is a senior position requiring a talented individual with experience managing a large, multi-partner programme, understanding of regional rural development, capacity building and natural resources management issues and the ability to facilitate joint action across the diverse working cultures of government agencies, universities, local and international NGOs, and international research organizations.

Contact details

Interested applicants submit an application letter and resume to: Human Resources Office, Asian Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumtani, Thailand. Tel: 66-2 5245019. Fax: (66-2) 5245056. Email: hro@ait.ac.th.

Please quote the reference number: 021/07. For more information, visit this website:

http://www.ait.ac.th/interimpage/ait_visitor/hro/staff.asp.

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1.3 Call for concept notes: Value chains and the rural poor in disadvantaged regions (IDRC/ODI)

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has a Call for Concept Notes on action research on "Value chains and the rural poor in disadvantaged regions". The research must be located in a disadvantaged region in one of the following four Rural Poor & Environment (RPE) priority regions: the Sahel Belt of West Africa; the Nile Basin; South Asia; the Mekong Delta; or the Philippines.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has been working with the RPE initiative within IDRC to develop a research agenda that supports poor, rural households to engage more successfully with global economic processes. On behalf of IDRC, ODI is now managing the implementation of this research agenda. Concept Note Forms shall be presented to ODI either electronically or by post by 16:00hrs (U.K. time) on June 29, 2007.

For more information visit the following link: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-81757-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Tropentag 2007 – Reminder of deadline for abstract submissions

Tropentag 2007 – jointly organised by the Universities of Kassel-Witzenhausen and Göttingen October 9 - 11, 2007 in Witzenhausen with the theme: 'Utilisation of diversity in land use systems: Sustainable and organic approaches to meet human needs'

Please be informed that the deadline for submission of abstracts for the Tropentag conference is Monday 30th April 2007.

There will be no extension of this deadline, so please be sure that your contribution for this year's Tropentag will be submitted in time via: <http://www.tropentag.de/submission/index.php>

If you would like to register as participant of the conference, you may use the following link:

<http://www.tropentag.de/submission/participation.php?code=XrULtqtT>

For more information contact the organisers: Dr. Eric Tielkes, Centre for International Rural Development University of Kassel Steinstrasse 19, info@tropentag.de

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2.2 International Training workshop on Non-Timber Forest Products

It is our great pleasure to announce the above international training workshop on Non-Timber-Forest-Products which was sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, and will be organized by the International Farm Forestry Training Center (INFORTRACE) of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and INBAR. This workshop will be held in September (4-17) this year right before the ITTO NTFP's international conference (19-21). With the sponsorship of MOST, the workshop may offer to cover the local costs of 15 participants (from developing countries only), it is INBAR's wish that the prioritize be provided to members of this Global NTFP partnership. Therefore, you are welcome to nominate participants to this training workshop. The formal participants may enjoy the advantage of attending two global NTFP events at a time, the workshop will act as a field trip or study tour, the conference will be a chance for exchanging information and discuss about development in the future.

Please kindly find information for the workshop from INBAR website at: <http://www.inbar.int/news/2007ntfp.htm>, or the NTFP GPP webpage at: <http://ntfp.inbar.int/wiki/index.php/Events>.

For more information, please contact Jin Wei, Public Awareness Coordinator, INBAR, wjin@inbar.int

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 ASB Policy Briefs and Voices available in English and French

(from Joyce Kasyoki)

These translations of ASB Policybriefs and Voices are now available online. <http://www.asb.cgiar.org/publications/asbvoices/> (for the English versions)

http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_08French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_07French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_06French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_05French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_04French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_03French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voices_01French.pdf

<http://www.asb.cgiar.org/publications/policybriefs/> (for the English versions)

http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_01French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_02French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_03French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_04French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_05French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_06French.pdf
http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/PolicyBriefs_07French.pdf

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3.2 Research and local knowledge

(from Luigi Guarino)

A new book about the way scientific research is conducted in the Pacific says local communities want more control over the process. "Pacific Genes and Life Patents" outlines several acrimonious encounters between researchers and communities over local human, plant and animal genes. The book says a lack of regulation and knowledge of genetic technology and intellectual patent law has made the Pacific a major target for researchers looking for medical and pharmaceutical resources.

You can download the book, edited by Aroha Mead (Llamado de la Tierra) and Dr Steven Ratuva (University of the South Pacific, Fiji), from the Llamado de la Tierra website (<http://www.earthcall.org/en/publications/index.html>), but it is big!

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3.3 Forestry Funding News - Alert # 19: March 2007

(from John Palmer)

Welcome to the March 2007 issue of our forestry funding news alert. This electronic newsletter is compiled by the FAO Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) team. It is a compilation of news related to forestry funding for fund seekers worldwide.

All back issues of the newsletter may be found on CPF Sourcebook's Web site: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/33747/en>. Some links may no longer be available on the internet after a period of time.

Please note that the articles in this newsletter do not reflect the views of FAO. FAO does neither accept any funding applications nor plays a role in decisions made by the funding organizations that are listed in this newsletter. We only distribute the announcements and provide more information, if necessary.

If you wish to contribute to our next issue, please send on to this e-mail address: CPF-Sourcebook@fao.org.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 ICUC's new Africa activities start

Last year, a series of collaborative projects were planned to move ICUC back into Africa and to contribute to ICUC's two main research pillars: the assessment of the value of underutilised crops to the local population, and the development of functioning market chains. Now, Ismael Barry has moved to Ghana where he has kick-started the ICUC-IWMI project "Assessment of the state of production and consumption patterns of underutilized crops in Ghana" through a series of interviews with key stakeholders. He will move on to Tanzania in early May to start the ICUC-AVRDC collaborative project entitled: "Strengthening local markets for indigenous vegetables in Tanzania".

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development