



The International Centre for Underutilised Crops

ICUC-News #41

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Dear colleagues,

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With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1 World University Service of Canada – 2 employment opportunities African candidates only
Overview

Beginning in May 2007, Developing Countries Farm Radio Network will be planning and implementing the Action Research for Best Practice in African Farm Radio (ARBAR) initiative. The project is being implemented in partnership with WUSC with a grant provided to WUSC by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This 3-year initiative will involve the design and implementation of a participatory, multi-stakeholder action research program aiming to discover, document and disseminate best practices for using radio-based communications to enhance food security in Africa. The project will be developed and implemented in Mali, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania. It will answer the following research questions:

- 1. How effective is radio in enabling smallholder farmers in Africa to address food security challenges that they face?
- 2. What are "best practices" in using radio to advance sustainable development objectives in Africa?
- 3. How can new technologies such as cell phones, satellite radio and MP3 players increase the effectiveness of radio as a sustainable, interactive development communication tool?

Answering these questions will enable DCFRN and other stakeholders to determine how to use radio to have maximum impact in promoting food security in Africa. To complement the research objectives, the Project will also develop and offer capacity-building services for radio broadcasters.

Position 1: Program Manager for the Action Research for Best Practice in Rural Radio Project of the Developing Countries Farm Radio Network

Based in: Accra Ghana

Type of position: Three year contract

Compensation: Generous salary plus 15% for benefits

Local living expenses (housing, etc) provided if relocating from outside Ghana

Supervises (with Research Director): 5 Country Coordinators (in Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Uganda and Tanzania), 2 Support Staff in Ghana

Applications deadline: May 4, 2007

Responsibilities

1. Develop and manage systems and processes for the Action Research project:

- Coordinate recruitment and engagement of specialists and consultants
- Facilitate formation of National Advisory Committees
- Facilitate recruitment and hiring of staff and manage staff
- Develop and monitor agreements with local host organizations, knowledge partners, local broadcasters, and other project partners in the 5 countries
- Establish necessary project agreements with local governments and ensure compliance with these agreements
- Develop financial management system, control expenditures, and oversee production of financial reports
- Oversee procurement, allocation, and management of Project resources, including vehicles, equipment and supplies
- Monitor progress toward project milestones and keep team on track to achieving milestones on schedule

2. Develop and manage broadcaster capacity-building activities

- Oversee assessment of broadcaster capacity-building needs assessment
- Oversee development of "train the trainer" curricula
- Manage the delivery of the "train the trainer" program
- Plan and oversee delivery of training workshops
- Oversee the delivery of distance learning and coaching services
- Manage the provision of equipment and supplies to participating broadcasters

Requirements:

- Regular travel to and communication with Country Coordinators in Malawi, Uganda, Mali and Tanzania
- Occasional travel to Canada

Qualifications

We are seeking an African Program Manager with:

- Degree in management, administration, or related field
- At least 5 years experience in senior management and administration, with direct responsibility for financial and human resource management
- Professional experience with one or more NGOs in several African countries
- Extensive knowledge of and experience working on rural development issues in Africa
- Extensive experience in managing multi-country, multi-stakeholder programs
- Strong familiarity with the sectors of development communication, information and communication technology, agriculture and/or natural resource management
- Excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills
- Ability to speak, read and write English and communicate in French and/or at least one other language with fluency

Position 2: Title: Research Director for the Action Research for Best Practice in Rural Radio Project of the Developing Countries Farm Radio Network

Based in: Accra Ghana

Duration: 3 year contract

Compensation: Generous salary and benefits Plus local living expenses (housing, etc) if relocating from outside Ghana

Reports to: DCFRN Executive Director

Supervises: Program Manager in Ghana, 5 Country Coordinators (in Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Uganda and Tanzania), 2 Support Staff in Ghana
Application Deadline: May 4, 2007

Responsibilities

1. Develop a participatory Action Research Plan:

- Participate in hiring a program manager and lead the hiring of national Coordinators and other staff
- Assess current state of farm radio research and “economics of farm radio”
- Oversee the formation of 5 National Research Advisory Committees and convene annual NAC meetings
- Participate in and support the work of the International Advisory Committee
- Identify and engage national “knowledge partners” and other researchers
- Design and facilitate multi-stakeholder inception workshops
- Design and facilitate research design workshops
- Design and oversee implementation of baseline data study on radio usage, ICT usage, farmer KAPs, and on-farm measures of select farming practices
- Oversee selection and orientation of participating “impact” and “control” communities
- Oversee development and finalization of detailed participatory action research plans

2. Manage implementation of Action Research Plans

- Engage and coordinate input of stakeholders, including local farmers organizations, knowledge partners, radio stations, NGOs and extension organizations.
- Ensure development of radio and ICT strategies, including a variety of educational radio programs
- Ensure broadcast activities in accordance with research plans
- Design, supervise, and review results of data collection activities including focus group discussions, case studies, KAP surveys, and participatory on-farm measurements.
- Produce summative reports, studies, papers, and other resources
- Present learnings at international fora

Requirements:

- Regular travel to and communication with Country Coordinators in Malawi, Uganda, Mali and Tanzania
- Occasional travel to Canada

Qualifications

We are seeking an African Research Director with

- Post graduate degree in agriculture and/or development communication
- Expert knowledge of agriculture and ICT-related action research methodology and processes
- Extensive experience in leading the design and implementation of multi-country, multi-stakeholder action research initiatives.
- Leadership and senior management experience
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
- Ability to speak, read and write English and French with fluency is an asset

WUSC is an equal opportunity employer. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. If you wish to apply for this position, please send your resumé quoting ref #07/09 to dana@wusc.ca or by fax to 1-613-798-0990 to the attention of Dana Labelle.

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1.2 Thor Heyerdahl Professorship

Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), is pleased to announce the establishment of the Thor Heyerdahl Professorship in health, environment and development and invites applications for the position from qualified persons. The 4-year professorship, partly sponsored by the Thor Heyerdahl Institute, honours the legacy of the well-known Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl who contributed in many ways to cross-cultural understanding, international cooperation and interdisciplinarity in research.

Thor Heyerdahl was a gifted communicator and controversial in his research throughout his life. He is one of the most famous Norwegians abroad. He captivated much of the world with his Kon-Tiki Expedition in 1947, his questions as to whether the Polynesians came from the East or the West, and his other expeditions. The Heyerdahl Institute is continuing Heyerdahl's work by promoting and developing the research and development ideals that defined his manner of working. An example of this is to establish a Thor Heyerdahl professorship at a Norwegian university. UMB has been selected for this purpose. At UMB, Noragric has been selected to house the professor, who will report to the Head of Noragric.

The empirical focus of the Professorship is the interface of environment and development processes. Special reference is given to people's command over safe food and water, which is fundamental to health and human development and recognized as an integral component of secure and sustainable livelihoods. The position will be used to strengthen UMB's programmes on health, environment and development. The Thor Heyerdahl Professor is expected to play a leadership role in two ways: First to build an academic platform for health, environment and development programmes by developing interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approaches and forging meaningful scientific collaboration between different departments at UMB and with other concerned national and international institutions. Second, to develop and further refine the methodological and theoretical means of interdisciplinarity for application to the field of holistic research in general. It is expected that The Thor Heyerdahl Professor will publish in both fields.

One important function for the Thor Heyerdahl professor will be to work closely with the UMB's "Health and Development" programme, which was launched in 2006. This program includes projects on post-disaster reconstruction with a focus on water quality and sanitation and hygienic practices in Pakistan, as well as projects on food safety including both policy considerations and residual pesticides. These projects seek to integrate the social, technological and institutional dimensions of problems and alternative solutions from perspectives of development and environmental change. The programme will expand in the future to cover more issues and geographic areas. This will be preceded, however, by a phase of review of the ongoing projects, strengthening of the interdisciplinary academic platform and identification and prioritisation of research problems in partner countries. The Thor Heyerdahl professor will also be expected to teach and develop new courses.

Qualifications

A doctoral degree in fields relevant to health, environment and development is a minimum requirement. Applicants should have proven scientific competence in interdisciplinary approaches to environment-development relations with reference to health, livelihoods and human development. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in leading and managing international interdisciplinary research programmes and working in multicultural environments, and in graduate level teaching and supervision of Master's and PhD students. A high level of proficiency in English is required, as it is the working language of the Department and the medium of instruction in all undergraduate and graduate courses offered by it. Working knowledge of other languages, including Norwegian, is an advantage, but not a requirement. The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) is an equal opportunity employer. Among applicants with similar qualifications, women will be given preference. The applicant should be able and willing to do considerable international travels.

Each applicant will be evaluated for professor level competence and leadership qualities based on his/her scientific publications and the record of performance as a research leader, project manager and team builder.

The Position

The position is offered for four years and the selected candidate will be considered for appointment at an appropriate point on the salary scale for professors, which ranges from NOK 522.500 to 919.800 (Norwegian government salary scale 70-92) depending on qualifications.

Application

Written application in five copies, containing a letter explaining the applicant's motivation for seeking this position and stating his/her special and relevant qualifications, a detailed and up-to-date CV, complete list of publications, and four copies of the applicant's five most important publications should be sent to:

Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric), P.O.Box 5003, N-1432 Ås, Norway, quoting Reference no 07/291. The closing date for applications is May 12th 2007.

For further information about the vacancy please contact: Head of Department Ruth Haug (+47 64 96 53 36) or Head of Research N. Shanmugaratnam (+47 64 96 55 08). For information about UMB and Noragric, please visit: <http://www.umb.no/noragric>.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 9th Annual BIOECON Conference on "Economics and Institutions for Biodiversity Conservation"

Kings College Cambridge- 20-21 September 2007

Deadline for Submission: 30 April 2007

Hosted by the Department of Economics, University of College London and the EU project REFGOV in association with UK-DEFRA, FAO, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC

The University College London (UCL) and REFGOV in association with UK-DEFRA, FAO, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC announce the Ninth International BIOECON conference on Economics and Institutions for Biodiversity Conservation. The conference will be held at Kings College Cambridge on 20-21 September 2007. The conference will be of interest to both researchers and policy makers interested in or working in the management and conservation of biodiversity.

The conference will have sessions examining institutional frameworks, the use of social capital and the management of knowledge for biodiversity conservation, as well as the economic analysis of policies for managing biodiversity in a context of high uncertainty. Papers are specifically invited on the themes of:

- Different institutional frameworks for conservation (property rights, contracts, markets, trust funds, public institutions, etc.)
- Role of informal rules such as social capital, trust and reputation in biodiversity conservation
- Efficient knowledge management for the sustainable use of biodiversity
- Foundations for providing for global public goods
- Development of international institutions for biodiversity conservation
- Institutions for payments for environmental services (and especially for international payments) and applied methodologies for valuation of ecosystem services (marine and terrestrial)

The conference will take place over two days, with sessions consisting of papers on the above themes. In addition, there will be a policy forum chaired by DEFRA, FAO, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC, leading a discussion on the issue of the development of mechanisms for making payments for environmental services.

Papers may be submitted for presentation within the conference and will be considered by the programme committee. Electronic copies (in WORD or PDF format) should be sent to Mare Sarr (m.sarr@ucl.ac.uk) no later than 30th April 2007. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email in May 2007. Registrations for the conference are due by 15th June 2007.

The conference will open with a reception at Kings College Cambridge on the early evening of 19th September. Conference sessions will commence on the morning of the 20th of September and conclude on the afternoon of the 21st of September. Accommodation for all participants will be organised within Kings College, with a conference banquet at the Kings College Great Hall on the evening of the 20th of September. Lunches and refreshments will also be provided.

The hosts will cover all conference costs (except travel) for paper presenters and discussants. There will be a £400 registration fee for all other participants that will include two nights lodging at Kings College, the banquet, lunches and refreshments. There is a £100 registration fee for day-participants (that includes lunches and refreshments but not lodging and the conference banquet).

More information: www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk

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2.2 Potentialities and Limitations in the use of Remote Sensing for detecting and monitoring environmental change in the Horn of Africa.

12 -13 of June 2007, Holiday Inn, Nairobi, Kenya.

The main focus of this workshop will be on the presentation of real case studies and theoretical advancements relating to the potentials and limitations in the use of remote sensing as a tool for assessing environmental change. It is foreseen that a combination of pragmatic and theoretical perspectives on the roles of remote sensing will assist institutions working on environmental issues in the Horn of Africa in raising awareness of the most efficient, effective and cost-effective ways to exploit this powerful tool.

See: <http://www.faoswalim.org/> A call for papers is open until 19 May 2007.

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2.3 The Future Of Forests In Asia And The Pacific: Outlook For 2020

16 – 18 October 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Recent and unprecedented economic and social change in the Asia-Pacific region has significantly altered the way forests are regarded and used. It is in acknowledgement of a new kind of society-forest dynamic in the region that the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, in partnership with member countries and other international organizations, is conducting the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS II). This major international conference is being organized to strengthen the consultative and capacity-building processes of APFSOS II by bringing together diverse stakeholders and expertise to provide broader perspectives on emerging changes, probable scenarios and their implications for forests and forestry in the region. For details, see:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/39701/en/>

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 Agrodox 5: Fruit Growing in the Tropics

3rd completely revised edition, by Ed Verheij

From the Press release:

The tropical fruits may be the last group of crops to be touched by science. They have been described and classified by botanists, but their cultivation is still largely based on the insights gathered by many generations of growers. In this respect they differ from the spices (such as clove and pepper) and the plantation crops (coffee, oil palm, rubber, etc.) that played a key role in the exploration and colonisation of the tropical world. These crops became big commodities in world trade, their husbandry being transformed by the impact of long-term research programmes.

As transport improved banana and pineapple (for canning) were also grown on a plantation scale, guided by the findings of research. Around the same time fruit crop research took off in the subtropics, where many crops are grown that are also important in the tropics, such as citrus, mango, avocado. During the last few decennia science is getting involved with virtually all tropical fruit crops, although many scientists focus on the *FRUIT* rather than the *TREE*. It is often assumed that the grower knows all there is to know about looking after the tree.

This Agrodox is a general introduction into the subject for gardeners, growers, and those who support them, for instance extension workers. Traditional expertise has been matched with insights gained through research work and the focus is firmly on the *TREE*, emphasizing:

- clonal propagation of superior varieties,
- methods to *restrain* shoot growth to ensure better flowering in crops that bear seasonally,
- limiting tree size to facilitate pruning, crop protection, harvesting, etc.

The first three chapters deal with general aspects of fruit growing:

1. Introduction: no flowers, no fruit; importance of trees and fruits; reasons NOT to grow fruit.
2. Cropping systems, from home gardens to corporate plantations; the advantages of small trees.
3. *Form and function* (the longest chapter): grouping fruit crops according to tree form and relating form to function, resulting in different approaches to crop care for each group.

Chapters 4 - 10 treat different aspects of crop care: propagation, pruning, *control over the annual crop cycle*, pollination and fruit set, crop protection, harvesting, orchard lay-out. A crop index lists the page numbers where information on a particular crop can be found.

Agrodok 5 is available in English, French and Portuguese editions from AGROMISA, POBox 41, 6700AA, Wageningen and from CTA, POBox 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands. CTA employs a credit point system, allowing inhabitants of the Third World to order Agrodoks free of charge. At www.agromisa.org you can download the manuscript in .PDF format.

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3.2 Business in Development Challenge 2007 open

In this year's BiD Challenge: more prizes, more investors and up to 7 local BiD Challenges in Developing Countries!

The BiD Challenge 2007 is open to start-up or established entrepreneurs with a business proposal for a new, or the expansion of an existing enterprise in a developing country. For criteria, timeline and other info please visit BiD's renewed website: www.bidnetwork.org

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3.3 Spanish language agricultural information service

The website www.agroinfo.com offers agricultural and horticultural information in Spanish. There is also an electronic newsletter, el Boletín Agropecuario Semanal, available through: <http://www.infoagro.com/varios/newsletter.asp>.

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3.4 Gardens of Oceania: New book about Pacific food plants from ACIAR

(From Luigi Guarino)

Author(s): Annie Walter and Vincent Lebot, English translation by Paul Ferrar

Summary: Gardens of Oceania summarises available knowledge about numerous food plants with commercial potential, in order to assure the development of an agriculture that can produce sufficient to cope with the formidable population growth while at the same time preserving the Vanuatu environment.

Order or download it from the ACIAR website at <http://www.aciar.gov.au/web.nsf/doc/ACIA-6ZVAGX>.

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3.5 New PAPGREN coordinator

Tevita Kete has started work as the new Coordinator of PAPGREN, the Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network, taking over from Luigi Guarino, who now works with Global Crop Diversity Trust in Rome, Italy. Tevita ensures us of continuation of the PGR News from the Pacific, with which ICUC-News has regularly exchanged information in the past. Please send any items of news or information you would like to share with the other 500 or so people on the PGR-News mailing list, to Tevita at tevitak@spc.int.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 Update on ICUC-GFU joint future

Further to the information provided in ICUC-News #38, I am pleased to inform you that the Chairs of the ICUC Scientific Advisory Board and GFU Steering Committee have engaged Dr Geoff Hawtin to provide his independent review of needs and options for the planned new entity. Dr Hawtin, ex-DG of IPGRI (now Bioversity International), is well-versed on the issues of underutilised plants and has had long-standing involvement with the topic. He was instrumental to the broadening of IPGRI's research agenda to include NUS (neglected and underutilised species) and later the creation of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He has in-depth knowledge of the CGIAR as well as the 'scene' outside the CG-system and he

has a profound understanding of the donor landscape. We look forward to Geoff's contribution to the shaping of our future.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development