



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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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 Director, International Research Support Services (IRSS)

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the WorldFish Center are international non-profit research and capacity building institutions supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

With its headquarters in Sri Lanka, IWMI conducts research, capacity building and knowledge sharing activities related to water and land management, with the goal of improving food security, livelihoods, and the natural environment in developing countries. IWMI builds strategic alliances with international and national partners while creating innovative approaches to translate water and land management research into actionable recommendations for policy makers, resource managers and poor rural communities.

The WorldFish Center with headquarters based in Penang, Malaysia, works to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in developing countries by improving fisheries and aquaculture. The Center provides the scientific knowledge needed to increase fish production, guide the management of fisheries and other aquatic ecosystems, reverse habitat degradation, and influence policies involving fish and the people who depend on them.

International Research Support Services (IRSS) is a Joint Venture between IWMI and WorldFish to deliver outsourced corporate services (Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology) to

CGIAR Centers, starting from IWMI and WorldFish. The IRSS consolidates these services to a central location, retaining a minimum level of support at research locations to ensure quality service delivery. The services of IRSS utilize technology to ensure service quality through the implementation of several state-of-the-art systems such as SAP and HR4U- a web-based Human Resources Management Information System. IRSS is a shared service organization overseen by a Steering Committee comprising of the Director Generals of IWMI and WorldFish.

IWMI and WorldFish jointly seek an innovative, dynamic and motivated individual with a flair for leading and managing change management interventions, to be the Director of IRSS. The successful candidate will be based in either Colombo, Sri Lanka or in Penang, Malaysia and report to the Steering Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities

The selected candidate will provide overall leadership, direction and support to the IRSS to meet its immediate and long term objectives. Specifically, she/he will:

- Take overall responsibility for building and training IRSS teams in all functions and geographic locations and managing their performance on an ongoing basis.
- Lead and motivate the IRSS team to develop Service Level Agreements that meet customer needs, and achieve the agreed performance standards.
- Pro-actively anticipate customer needs, review/re-engineer existing service offerings, design new service offerings, and thereby ensure customer satisfaction.
- Facilitate and implement process improvements to achieve greater efficiencies.
- Ensure that business processes within and across functional areas are appropriately integrated.
- Build strong partnerships with the other non IRSS members and showcase IRSS offerings to ensure an effective foundation for future growth.
- Lead & assist in the definition and review of the integration requirements between the client "As Is" processes and "To Be" processes around various systems such as HRMS, SAP etc.
- Oversee monitoring of process effectiveness and identify gaps in process functionality.

Skills & Abilities

- A natural flair for leading people with an ability to inculcate good team spirit;
- Result orientation with cost and quality parameters;
- Demonstrated leadership in a multi-cultural, international, multi-disciplinary organization; preferably in the developing world;
- Strong communicator with proven ability to listen, consult and inspire trust.

Qualifications & Experience

- Master's Degree in business management and a minimum of 15 years of management experience out of which three to five years should be in a senior leadership role with a multi national/multi location organization.
- Experience in handling multi process operations.
- Strong service delivery experience in the outsourcing business – working experience in a BPO would be an added advantage.

Salaries & Benefits

This is an Internationally Recruited Staff position with a competitive salary and benefits package, which includes a housing & utilities allowance, vehicle allowance, education assistance, annual home leave, retirement and health insurance package.

Applications

The position will be for a period of two years with the possibility of extension. Please send a letter of application, résumé and the names and addresses of three referees to: The Human Resources Office, IWMI, P.O. Box 2075, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Email: work-at-iwmi@cgiar.org

Applications will be accepted until 24th June 2007 or until the position is filled.

For further information on IWMI – <http://www.iwmi.org>
WorldFish Center – www.worldfishcenter.org

IWMI is an equal opportunity employer and is keen to further diversify its staff in terms of both gender and nationality.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Seminar: 'Rural Development and Poverty Reduction'

The Moroccan Association of Agricultural Economics (AMAECO) will organise a seminar on 'Rural Development and Poverty Reduction' on December 13th and 14th 2007 in Morocco. The Moroccan rural area, as rich with its human and natural resources is also a tremendously a vulnerable area because of the continuing poverty phenomenon.

As a matter of fact, poverty is essentially a rural phenomena in Morocco: more than two third of the poor live in the rural areas.

This fact, as notified in the millennium development challenges, justifies the central position and the priority of poverty reduction considerations through numerous government and other organisations programs.

In Morocco, as in many developing countries, the agricultural sector continues to play an important function in the economic and social development particularly in the rural areas. In fact this sector participates by about 15% in GDP formation and supply jobs to 35% of total active population and to 80% of active rural population. These indicators show how much the agricultural sector is contributing substantially in generating revenues in the rural areas.

Different analysis and studies lead in the last ten years confirm the fundamental place of this sector in alleviating poverty. Therefore, it has to be the midpoint of fighting this phenomenon. With in mind that winning this fight would happen only by improving agricultural and non agricultural revenues in these areas this seminar aims at bringing illuminating some interrogations such as:

- What is the human and geographical characteristics of poverty in Morocco?
- What are the leading factors that generate continuously poverty?
- What are the agricultural and rural policies that are able to improve vulnerable revenues among rural?
- To what extent programs and instruments that have taken place so far have significantly contributed to alleviate poverty?

In order to bring about some thoughts to these questions, the seminar gives an opportunity to gather involved players both at the national and the international level to confer the following subjects.

- Different aspects and different characteristics evaluation approaches of poverty.
- Agricultural and rural development strategies and poverty fighting.
- Fights against poverty experiences assessment.
- International and national organisations strategies against poverty.

Thus, referring to these themes, we welcome you to submitting the title and the summary of your paper to 'AMAECO' at the address mentioned underneath.

Summaries should include objectives, methodologies and results within a half of a page. These should be submitted to the selection committee before July the 30th of 2007 and should mention the authors, co-authors, their address profession, affiliation, telephone, fax and E-mail.

Papers' text might be written in English, French or Arabic without exceeding 20 pages and should reach the selection committee before November 13th, 2007. The selection committee preserves the right to reject summaries or papers not in harmony with the criteria or with the timing recommended.

Note: the submission of papers confers automatically to AMAECO the right to publish its content before, during or after the seminar dates.

Address : AMAECO, DPAE/MADRPM, avenue Hassan II, Km4, Route de Casablanca (Station Debbagh)/Rabat.

email: amaeco@dpaе.madrpm.gov.ma, or elmorabet_saida@yahoo.fr

Tel:(212)37-69-84-07/08m, Fax: (212)37-69-84-01

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2.2 Second International Conference on Vegetables: new dates

It is confirmed that the second International Conference on Vegetables previously announced for September 10 – 13, 2007 is now postponed to Monday, April 14 through Friday, April 18, 2008 in Fortaleza, Brazil.

The Deadlines are as follows;

- Submission of the abstract –October 15, 2007
- Acceptance / Non – acceptance of papers – December 15, 2007
- Registration / Accommodation / Exhibition / Technical Tour – January 31, 2008
- Confirmation of flights – February 15, 2008

We are sorry for the inconvenience caused because of the change in date.

The details of the conference will be made available in the second announcement to be released very shortly, both on the website www.pnasf.org and in hard copies.

For more information, please contact Dr Prem Nath, Convener, VEGINET, Chairman, PNASF. Email: pnasf@vsnl.net, info@pnasf.org, Tel: +91-80-23415188, Website: www.pnasf.org

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2.3 INBAR Training events 2007

INBAR would like to draw your attention to our training events in the second half of the year 2007:

- CURS0 – TALLER: "Disefio y construction con Bambu, Vivienda y Turismo Alternativo en Mexico" De14 a1 15 de junio 2007 / UNCADW No. 2 / Coatepec, Ver.
www.inbar.int/news/CARTEL_BAMBU_OK.pdf
- International Training Workshop on Bamboo-based Sustainable Development - industrialization, stakeholders, supply-chains and policies
August 18-29, Lin'an and Anji counties, Zhejiang province, China
<http://www.inbar.int/news/2007auguatworkshop.htm>
- International Training Workshop on Non-Timber-Forest-Products (NTFPs) Development and Utilization
September 4-17, 2007, Zhejiang, China
<http://www.inbar.int/news/2007ntfp.htm>
- ITTO International conference to promote the development of non-timber forest products and services
19-21 September 2007 / Beijing, China
http://www.inbar.int/itto_ntfp.htm?pagelD=223&id=3206
- International Conference On Modern Bamboo Structures
October 11-13, 2007, Changsha, China
www.inbar.int/news/icbs-07-brochure.pdf

Your attention to these events are highly appreciated. To reply to us, please write to info@inbar.int .

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 11th Regular Session of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) is a permanent forum where governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture. The main objectives of the CGRFA are to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations. The Commission aims to reach international consensus on areas of global interest, through negotiations. It holds Regular Sessions every two years

The 11th Regular Session of the CGRFA will be held in Rome 11-15 June 2007. Documents can be downloaded from here: (<http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11.htm>). ICUC's entry is in CGRFA-11/07/19.3: "Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity: (3) International Non-governmental Organizations".

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3.2 GFU Newsletter posted

(From Paul Bordoni)

The latest GFU News update has been posted at www.underutilized-species.org.

A static version of GFU web site that will allow browsing off line has been established. This should help in creating connections and spreading information about underutilized species amongst the less or non connected stakeholders.

"Greater appreciation of local crops" - On the occasion of the 11th Regular Session of the FAO Commission on GRFA, the GFU will organize a side event to draw the attention of the Commission delegates to underutilized crops and their importance for the livelihoods of the rural and urban poor. The final objective is to eventually contribute to a change in national and international policies in such a way that they stimulate and enable the enhanced use of these important resources.

The GFU shall also be in Johannesburg during the same days at the FARA AGM and will have a booth with information material and displays. Our interest is to raise attention amongst the attending stakeholders and delegations about the importance underutilized species carry.

The database "Underutilized Species" is growing and if anyone would like to take ownership on a particular plant species you are more than welcome, let Paul know about experts, expertise and suggestions of any kind that will help GFU improve their service. (p.bordoni@cgiar.org)

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3.3 May Newsletter of the Institutional Learning and Change (ILAC) Initiative

(from Christina Sette)

http://www.cgiar-ilac.org/downloads/Newsletter/ilac_newsletter_May2007.htm

In this issue you will find the following topics:

- Impact Pathway (article written by Ronald Mackay)
- ILAC project: Impact Assessment and Evaluation of Pro-poor Agricultural Research Partnerships
- Two interesting events attended by ILAC Team related to innovation and partnership for pro-poor policy
- ILAC coming Briefs
- New at ILAC Website
- Upcoming ILAC Events
- Other Upcoming Events

Do not hesitate to contact us for further information on ILAC projects.

Best regards,

ILAC Team

Cristina Sette, C.sette@cgiar.org

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3.4 Summary of Agrofolio-e-conference available

(from Markus Schmidt)

You can now find the summary of the Agrofolio e-conference at:

<http://www.agrofolio.eu/index.php?page=summary-e-conference>.

There is also a pdf version of the summary.

Please let the organisers know if you have any comments (e.conference@agrofolio.eu).

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3.5 Executive Secretary of GlobalHort appointed

The Executive Committee members gathered altogether for the first time in early April, 2007. They decided for the Executive Secretary after interviews of four candidates of high and relevant international value.

The Executive Committee selected the past interim Executive Secretary, Dr. Rémi Kahane as the Executive Secretary of GlobalHort, and recommended the secretariat to move to Arusha, Tanzania in summer 2007. AVRDC-Regional Center for Africa will host the Secretariat of GlobalHort: the Executive Secretary, one project manager, and one webmaster-communication officer. ICUC extends its congratulations to Remi and look forward to continued excellent collaboration between GlobalHort and ICUC.

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3.6 First Electronic Forum on Horticulture for Development

GlobalHort and its partners, ISHS and CTA, have the pleasure to invite you to their first electronic forum on Horticulture for Development. Please read the background information from the website www.globalhort.org/http://www.globalhort.org/ARCH_eforum.html

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4. ICUC-related information

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No entry

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development