



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #47

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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 Poverty and Environment Network Research Fellow

See FULL vacancy details: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Careers/Global/pen_researcher.htm

CIFOR is looking for a Research Fellow to work on the Poverty and Environment Network (PEN). PEN is a tropics-wide collection of socio-economic and environmental data at household and village levels by about 30 PEN partners. The individual PEN-partner data sets will make up a global data base to be used for a comprehensive global analysis of forest-poverty issues. More information about PEN is given at: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/pen/>

The Research Fellow will be attached to the Forests and Livelihoods Programme and will be responsible to the Programme Director and under the immediate supervision of a CIFOR Principal or Senior Scientist. The Research Fellow will also be a member of the DFID-ESRC Project Steering Committee.

Requirements:

1. Technical Competencies:

- At least a Master degree (PhD is preferable) in economics or social science, with a specialization and strong record in statistical/econometric analysis;
- Knowledge of statistical software, preferably Stata;
- Experience in the creation, management and statistical analysis of large data sets;

- Experience in project management;
 - Fluency in English and good writing skills required. Knowledge of Spanish, Portuguese and/or French is an asset.
2. Personal Competencies:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to effectively interact with people in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment;
 - Able to work independently and take initiative as well as an effective team player;
 - Competency in personal organization, priority setting and managing multiple tasks.

Deadline: 15th July 2007. See FULL vacancy details:
http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Careers/Global/pen_researcher.htm

CIFOR is an international research and global knowledge institution committed to conserving forests and improving the livelihoods of people in the tropics. With Headquarters in Bogor, Indonesia and Regional Offices in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Zimbabwe, CIFOR works in over 30 countries worldwide and has links with researchers in 50 international, regional and national organizations. CIFOR is a member of the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research).

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1.2 Georg Forster Research Fellowships

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) enables highly qualified researchers from developing countries (excluding Turkey, India and the PR of China) to carry out academic projects of their own choice in Germany (age limit: 45 years). Applications may be submitted for long-term research stays of between 6 and 12 months; an extension of up to 24 months is possible.

Funding is not available for short-term study visits, participation in conferences, or training courses. The research fellowships are announced internationally, on a competitive basis. Researchers from developing countries are eligible to apply. There are no quotas in respect of country or discipline. The subject of the research proposal must be of relevance to development policy and particularly suited to the transfer of knowledge and methods to developing countries. Approx. 60 research fellowships are available every year.

Decisions are based primarily on the quality and feasibility of academic projects proposed by candidates as well as the applicant's academic record to date. Applicants choose their own research projects and their own German hosts. Details of the research project and the time-schedule must be agreed upon with the prospective host in advance.

Applications to continue a research stay which has already begun may be considered in exceptional cases.

For more information see http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/stip_aus/gf.htm or email info@avh.de

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1.3 Marie Curie Fellowships

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) looks forward to hosting researchers from the EU, the Associated Countries or the Third Countries within the **Marie Curie Individual Fellowships** scheme.
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html

These Fellowships are awarded by the European Commission within the **FP7 PEOPLE programme** for a period between 1 and 2 years. They are addressed to **experienced researchers**, typically with **PhD degree or four years research experience** (full-time equivalent), since obtaining a university degree giving access to doctoral studies. Candidates must be **Non-Italian researchers** and must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference deadline for submission.

Fellowships will focus on the areas of research carried out at FEEM:

- Climate Change Modelling and Policy
- Sustainability Indicators and Environmental Valuation
- Natural Resources Management

- Knowledge Technology and Human Capital
- International Energy Markets
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Management
- Privatisation Regulation Corporate Governance

FEEM will also provide support to potential applicants in the presentation of the proposal. More information on FEEM research activities is available at: <http://www.feem.it/> Expressions of interest can be submitted through FEEM web site at: <http://webfeem.it/cv/> or by contacting Roberta Camera (roberta.camera@feem.it).

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Conference on Artemisinin production and market needs, Bangkok 25-26 June 2007
From Henk van Dam

Dear Colleague,
It gives us great pleasure to invite you to a conference on Artemisinin production and market needs: "Meeting Global Demand", convened jointly by the World Health Organisation and Medicines for Malaria Venture on 25-26 June 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

This meeting is a follow-up to the one held in Arusha, Tanzania, 6–7 June 2005, on the production of artemisinin and artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs). Since then, the ACT market environment has changed dramatically. In view of these new changes, the Bangkok meeting is being convened.

Objectives of the meeting

- Update stakeholders on the progress made since 2005
- Share knowledge and information on production techniques, areas planted, extraction methods and capacities
- Help to solve problems in view of emerging issues, most notably market instability
- Foster networks of actors in the market
- Bring together experts, partners and producers to discuss and share common issues.

Although we will be unable to pay for your travel and accommodation, we will be able to provide logistics support and help you with reservations for the Siam City Hotel in Bangkok, where the conference will be held. Participants are requested to file a visa application with their country's Thailand Embassy and arrange their own travel tickets.

We do hope you will be able to participate in this important conference. It is an exciting opportunity to share news and views on *A. annua* growing, production and extraction, and network with other experts in this field.

Please respond to Ian Bathurst at bathursti@mmv.org. If you have any enquiries regarding your hotel bookings please contact Pranee Nikornwattana at pranee@siamhotels.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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2.2 International Agroforestry Education Conference

"Integrating Conservation in Upland Agriculture in Southeast Asia" 24 - 26 October 2007 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Registration details: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sea/Seanafe>

Deadline for submission papers is 30 June 2007.

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2.3 Symposium: Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Americas

February 25 – 29, 2008

Organized by: Environment Canada Adaptation and Research Impacts Division and Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Center for Conservation Education and Sustainability

Focus: To provide a forum for leading scientists to present the results of research and monitoring activities of climate change and forest biodiversity throughout the Americas. The aim is to establish a co-operative science, research and monitoring network of activities that interlink biodiversity conservation and sustainability, policy responses and adaptation to climate change throughout the Americas.

Climate Change and biodiversity

The changing climate is a significant driver of biodiversity and is already affecting many ecosystems through the Americas. It is necessary to mitigate and prevent these changes to preserve the biodiversity and ecological integrity of these regions.

Increasingly, governments, organizations, industries, and communities need to consider adaptation to impacts of current and future changes in forest biodiversity and sustainability in their planning, infrastructure, and operations.

Training opportunities

Short courses in biodiversity monitoring plots, climate scenarios and other topics will be available for participants the week of March 2 - 5, 2008.

Venue

The symposium will be held at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Center (STRI) in Panama.

Contact Information

Don MacIver, Director
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Web: www.climatechangeandbiodiversity.ca

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2.4 Japan Capacity Building Program for African Agricultural Researchers

The Japan Capacity Building Program for African Agricultural Researchers FY2007 program is sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and will be administered by Nagoya University. The purpose of this program is

a) to strengthen collaboration between Japan and agricultural research organizations whose mission is African development, and

b) to deliver Japanese know-how of agricultural research methods and technologies to Africa.

Training programs for promising young African researchers will be offered in agricultural research organizations, preferably in Africa. All training will be supplied by Japanese researcher(s) currently working for African development and/or technology transfer to Africa.

Two training methods will be offered, either on-the-job training or group-program training lasting 2 to 6 months. Host organizations will be CGIAR Centers, or other international agricultural research institutions, universities, National Agriculture Research Institutes located outside Japan.

Deadline: July 1, 2007.

Contact: icca4africa@agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp.

<http://icca4africa.agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp/events/nousui-e/iccae4africa2007-e.html>

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 Invitation to submit articles to Geneflow

From Ruth Raymond

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to inform you that we are now accepting stories for the 2007 edition of Bioversity's award

winning public awareness magazine, Geneflow. As always, I seek your best and newsiest stories. This year, Geneflow will focus on the relationship between biodiversity and climate change. Your stories and those of your partners on this topic are welcome. But our coverage won't be limited to this subject and stories on other agrobiodiversity topics--including animal and aquatic genetic resources--are also welcome. If you know of interesting and innovative activities being carried out by national programme and CSO partners, we'd love to hear about those too.

We plan to finalize the contents list during the second week of July so please send me your ideas, proposals and/or copy by the 6th of July. Geneflow is highly illustrated so we'll be wanting high resolution digital images from you as well.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Best regards
Ruth (r.raymond@cgiar.org)

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3.2 AJFAND vol 7 (3) - Special issue on African Leafy Vegetables

From Ruth Oniango. Please go to the AJFAND website at www.ajfand.net to read the articles as the links have been removed in this message.

Welcome once again to another issue of AJFAND, this time a special issue devoted to African Leafy Vegetables. We present Vol. I which will soon be followed next month June by Vol. II on the same subject. These are research papers that were presented at a Bioversity (formally International Plant Genetic Resource Institute, IPGRI) conference. The papers are based on research supported by Bioversity and have been peer reviewed in accordance with AJFAND guidelines and standards. Remember, African Leafy Vegetables are good for human health. Remember too, orange, yellow fleshed foods are good for you. For many of our resource-poor consumers, these constitute the main source of Vitamin A in form of beta carotene. What is even more encouraging is that these are mostly a women's crop and so the resource-poor women can affordably provide good nutrition to their families, while they generate some income for themselves. I believe you will enjoy both this issue and the sister one that will follow.

The articles in this issue are as follows:

- African Leafy Vegetables: Their Role in the World Health Organization's Global Fruit and Vegetables Initiative. Smith Ifeyironwa Francisca
- Seed Production and Support Systems for African Leafy Vegetables in Three Communities in Western Kenya. Abukutsa-Onyango Mary.
- The Diversity of Cultivated African Leafy Vegetables in Three Communities in Western Kenya. Abukutsa-Onyango Mary.
- Response of Slenderleaf (*Crotalaria Brevidens* Benth) to Inorganic Nitrogen Application. Abukutsa-Onyango Mary.
- Caractérisation des Accessions de 4 Espèces de Légumes-Feuilles Traditionnels (*Hibiscus Sabdariffa* L., *Vigna Unguiculata* (L.) WALP, *Amaranthus* L. Spp et *Moringa Oleifera* LAM) au Sénégal. Meïssa Diouf, Ndèye Bouba Mbengue and Aminata Kante.
- Sélection Participative de Nouveaux Cultivars de Quatre (4) Espèces de Légumes Feuilles (*Hibiscus Sabdariffa* L., *Amaranthus* L. Spp, *Vigna Unguiculata* (L.) WALP et *Moringa Oleifera* Lam) au Sénégal. Meïssa Diouf, Cheikh Lo, Mathieu Gueye and Ndèye Bouba Mbengue.
- Diversité et Gestion des Légumes de Cueillette au Togo. Komlan Batawila, S. Akpavi, K. Wala, M. Kanda 1 , R. Vodouhe and K. Akpagana.
- Valeur Nutritionnelle du *Moringa Oleifera*, Étude de la Biodisponibilité du fer, Effet de L'enrichissement de Divers Plats Traditionnels Sénégalais Avec la Poudre des Feuilles. Gning Rokhaya Diagne, Moussa Ndong, Salimata Wade, Nicole Dossou, and Amadou T. Guiro.
- Changes in Beta-Carotene, Ascorbic Acid and Sensory Properties in Fermented, Solar-Dried and Stored Cowpea Leaf Vegetables. Muchoki N. Charity, Jasper K. Imungi and Peter O. Lamuka.
- The Value of Leafy Vegetables: An Exploration of African Folklore. Onyango Bethwell Owuor and Ekisa Olaimer-Anyara.

My team and I wish you joyful reading.
With best wishes

Ruth Oniang'o
Editor-in-Chief

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 ICUC at FARA General Assembly

ICUC participated at the recently concluded 4th General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. This meeting, held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 10 – 16 June, brought together over 500 FARA stakeholders and provided the opportunity for exchange and discussion in over 27 side events, the South Africa Day, 3 days of plenary presentations and the FARA Business meeting.

ICUC had numerous visitors to its booth which was also visited briefly by the delegation of Agricultural Ministers from South Africa, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Promising discussions were held with potential new partners amongst Africa's universities, NGOs and the private sector as well as with donors. Especially encouraging was the keen interest by FARA, ASARECA and others in the upcoming symposium on underutilized plant species next year.

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4.2 Underused Crops: the Future of ICUC and GFU. A questionnaire

In ICUC-News #41 I introduced Dr Geoff Hawtin and the review he is carrying out on behalf of the Chairs of ICUC and GFU. Please find below his letter – please contact Dr Hawtin directly (geoffhawtin@hotmail.com) if you haven't been contacted and wish to provide input into the review and the shaping of ICUC's and GFU's future.

Dear Colleagues,

The International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC, hosted by IWMI in Sri Lanka) and the Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species (GFU, hosted by Bioversity in Rome) have decided to explore the possibility of combining forces to create a single new entity to better serve the needs of the research and development community.

As part of this effort, I have been requested to consult widely with key stakeholders such as yourself, and to collate and analyse your views regarding the objectives, major activities and institutional arrangements for the new entity. I have thus prepared the attached questionnaire which I would be extremely grateful if you could complete - to the extent you feel able (or have one of your colleagues complete) - and return to me, ideally within the next couple of weeks. Many thanks.

In addition to the questionnaire, I also plan to phone a number of you to discuss your views and suggestions directly with you. Please could you let me know if you would be willing to do this and if so a period between now and the end of the month when this would be most suitable.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your time and effort in making this input.

With very best wishes,
Geoff

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development