



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #52

28 August 2007

Dear colleagues,

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Two entries

With best wishes,  
Hannah

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**1. Funding & Job opportunities**  
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**1.1 Vacancy at Tropenbos International, Indonesia: Programme Team Leader**

For its programme in Indonesia, Tropenbos International invites suitable candidates for the position of Programme Team Leader. Please see <http://www.tropenbos.nl/home/VacancyPTLTBIIndonesia.htm> for the vacancy announcement for this function.

For more information on the Tropenbos International programme and the Indonesian programme refer to [www.tropenbos.org](http://www.tropenbos.org).

For more information, contact: Paul Hillegers Acting PTL, TBI Indonesia.  
Phone: +62 812 5438546, Email: [paul.hillegers@planet.nl](mailto:paul.hillegers@planet.nl) or [paul.hillegers@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hillegers@gmail.com)

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**1.2 Senior Program Officer, Rural Poverty and Environment (IDRC)**

The selected candidate will contribute to overall programme development by providing intellectual leadership in adaptation to change in complex systems in rural areas of the developing world, and by leading the development of research projects in the Rural Poverty and Environment (RPE) programme.

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Closing Date: September 9, 2007

For the full announcement go to [http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-114388-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-114388-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

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### **1.3 Call for proposals on Desertification, poverty and food security**

The Hedon Foundation has a call for proposals at <http://www.hedon.info/docs/FEcallproposals07.pdf> concerning "desertification, poverty and food security". More details online at <http://www.hedon.info/goto.php/983/news.htm>

Informations en Français à [http://www.fondationensemble.org/index.php/fr/actualites/appel\\_a\\_projets](http://www.fondationensemble.org/index.php/fr/actualites/appel_a_projets)

Note the deadline of 14th September.

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### **1.4 Senior Executive Vacancies at NARI-PNG**

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) is the leading Institute in Papua New Guinea for conducting applied, adaptive and development oriented research on food crops, livestock, alternative food and cash crops, and resource management issues; and providing technical, analytical and diagnostic services and information to the agriculture sector in PNG.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced PNG and Non-PNG citizens for the following positions, which are available for immediate recruitment.

**Deputy Director-General - Grade 19 to 20 - Based at NARI Head Office, Bubia, Lae**

This position is an Executive Management position and the Deputy Director-General assists the Director-General in carrying out the responsibilities for the development and management of the Institute. The appointee will lead a team of senior scientific, technical and managerial staff in planning, developing and managing the research, information and technical programmes, human resource, finance, statutory and corporate functions, and public relations. He/she will be proactive in developing and managing a creative environment for applied research, knowledge creation, and effective information exchange and transfer.

Applicants will hold a Masters degree, preferably a PhD in agriculture, agriculture business or related discipline. He/she should have had 15 years of research experience, with at least 5 years in a senior managerial and leadership role. Applicants should have a proven record in agricultural research, research management, scientific leadership, policy development and strategic planning, as evidenced by research publications, technical papers and planning or design documents. An appreciation of smallholder semicommercial and subsistence farming systems in PNG and a sound understanding of agricultural development issues in the country are essential.

Desirable qualities and attributes include a well-developed ability to handle complexity and determine priorities; successful experience in mobilizing funds through budgetary support and donor projects; and experience in prudent and efficient management of funds. Basic understanding of government budgeting and financial management processes is an advantage. Applicants should demonstrate a proven record of integrity, accountability and transparency in the management of public finance, resources and statutory functions.

It should be noted that the incumbent in this position would not be automatically appointed to the position of Director-General as and when that position becomes vacant. The Director-General is appointed by the National Executive Council as per the Regulatory Statutory Authorities (Appointment to Certain Offices) Act 2004, and on the basis of open competition.

**Director Research - Grade 17 to 18 - Based at NARI Head Office, Bubia, Lae**

The Director Research is responsible for planning, directing, coordination and oversight of the development and implementation of the research and technical projects and programmes of the Institute, and the adaptation and dissemination of research results and information to stakeholders. This position has a central role in the Institute requiring the organisation and provision of logistical, funding and managerial support to the various research programmes and stations; the development of research priorities, plans, programmes and implementation strategies; development and mobilisation of resources; development and co-ordination of collaborative and donor funded research projects and programmes; and participation in human resource development. Additional responsibilities include

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contributing to the formulation of the research and technology policies and strategies of the Institute and the whole PNG agriculture sector.

Applicants will hold a Masters degree, preferably a PhD, in agriculture or a related discipline. He/she should have had 12 years of research experience, with at least 5 years in a managerial and co-ordination role. Applicants should have a sound record in agricultural research, scientific leadership and strategic planning, as evidenced by research publications and technical papers. Appreciation of the smallholder semi-commercial and subsistence farming systems of PNG and a clear understanding of agricultural development issues in the country are essential.

#### General

Grades within the given ranges and salary levels will depend on qualifications and experience. Salaries and benefits will include base salary, special domestic market allowance or special international market allowance, gratuity, superannuation, leave fares, amenities allowance, education subsidy (as applicable) and housing or housing allowance. For selection criteria and details of salaries and allowances, and more information about NARI, please enquire on the following email address or fax, or go to the NARI website.

Applications should include a detailed CV and names and contact details of three referees, and should be sent to:

The Director General

Attention: Manager- Personnel & Administration

National Agricultural Research Institute

P O Box 4415, Lae, Morobe Province

Papua New Guinea

Telephone (675) 475 1446; Fax (675) 475 1449; Email: [narihq@nari.org.pg](mailto:narihq@nari.org.pg) Web: [www.nari.org.pg](http://www.nari.org.pg).

Envelopes containing applications must be clearly marked "APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF ....."

Applications close on 20th September 2007.

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## 2. Workshops & Training Courses

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### 2.1 "Food Security and Environmental Change Linking Science, Development and Policy for Adaptation"

[from Joyce Kasyoki]

An international conference 2-4 April 2008, University of Oxford, UK. The conference is organized by Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS) [www.gecafs.org](http://www.gecafs.org).

There is growing concern that Global Environmental Change (GEC) will further complicate achieving food security, particularly for more vulnerable sections of society. There is also concern that meeting society's rising demand for food will further degrade the environment which may, in turn, further undermine the food systems on which food security is based.

These issues are the focus of the international, interdisciplinary research project "Global Environmental Change and Food Systems" (GECAFS; [www.gecafs.org](http://www.gecafs.org)), which is aimed at determining strategies to cope with the impacts of GEC on food systems and assessing the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of adaptive responses aimed at improving food security.

This conference will bring together the research and policy communities addressing food security, environmental change and food policy with GECAFS researchers to promote wider international discussion on these issues and to progress the joint development of adaptation options by:

- Presenting and discussing research on GEC, food security and food systems, and decision support dialogues from the broad international community
- Presenting and discussing findings from conceptual and regional research supported by the GECAFS project
- Bringing together scientists and policy makers from diverse backgrounds to forge new partnerships

Join delegates from the research and policy communities addressing food security, environmental change and food policy, interested in developing joint adaptation options to improve food security.

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CALL FOR PAPERS: Abstracts are invited for oral and poster presentation at the conference and should be submitted online at [www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com](http://www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com) by 31 October 2007.

To receive further information about the Conference and to register for email updates about the conference, please sign up online at [www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com](http://www.foodsecurity.elsevier.com) or email [foodsecurity@elsevier.com](mailto:foodsecurity@elsevier.com).

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### 3. Publications & Information

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#### 3.1 ASB Voices of the Future in Spanish

[from Sandra Velarde]

Dear colleagues,

Fruits of the ASB Scenarios project are these 3 new “Voces del Futuro” (Voices of the Future) in Spanish. This is the first time that Voices is written first in a local language. Special thanks and congratulations to the partners in Peru who conducted the Scenarios exercises. Below are the correspondent abstracts and hyperlinks.

Happy reading!

##### ASB Voces 09. Construyendo el Futuro

El distrito de Chalaco, ubicado en la provincia de Morropón, en la región Piura en el norte del Perú fue testigo durante el mes de mayo del año 2005 de dos singulares reuniones. En el local de la Municipalidad Distrital se congregaron más de una veintena de técnicos y estudiantes de nivel técnico superior, y en el Colegio San Fernando se agruparon 25 escolares que cursan entre el 1er y 3er grado de secundaria. Lo interesantes de ambas reuniones fue la realización de talleres para pensar en el futuro de la cuenca. Un breve resumen de su análisis, reflexión y propuestas para un mejor futuro de la región se presenta a continuación

Download: <http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voces-09-Spanish.pdf>

##### ASB Voces 10. Construyendo el Futuro

Más de una veintena de jóvenes estudiantes de la Universidad Nacional de Madre de Dios (UNAMAD), la Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco-Sede Puerto Maldonado y del Instituto Superior Tecnológico Jorge Basadre, se reunieron un par de días en las instalaciones de la UNAMAD para pensar en el futuro de la región. Un breve resumen de su análisis, reflexión y propuestas para un mejor futuro de la región es presentado a continuación.

Download: <http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voces-10-Spanish.pdf>

##### ASB Voces 11. Construyendo el Futuro

Un selecto grupo, que superó la veintena de participantes, entre los que se contaron investigadores, profesores universitarios, representantes de instituciones de desarrollo, dirigentes nativos y expertos en desarrollo ambiental, se reunieron en un intenso día de trabajo para pensar el futuro Ucayali. Un breve resumen de su análisis, reflexión y propuestas para un mejor futuro de la región es presentado a continuación.

Download: <http://www.asb.cgiar.org/pdfwebdocs/Voces-11-Spanish.pdf>

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#### 3.2 Plant and Bird Diversity in Rubber Agroforests

[from Joyce Kasyoki]

The research in this paper was partly sponsored by ASB and took place in the framework of ASB in Indonesia.

##### Abstract

Plant and bird diversity in the Indonesian jungle rubber agroforestry system was compared to that in primary forest and rubber plantations by integrating new and existing data from a lowland rain forest area in Sumatra. Jungle rubber gardens are low-input rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) agroforests that structurally resemble secondary forest and in which wild species are tolerated by the farmer. As primary forests have almost completely disappeared from the lowlands of the Sumatra peneplain, our aim was to assess the contribution of jungle rubber as a land use type to the conservation of plant and bird

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species, especially those that are associated with the forest interior of primary and old secondary forest. Species-accumulation curves were compiled for terrestrial and epiphytic pteridophytes, trees and birds, and for subsets of 'forest species' of terrestrial pteridophytes and birds. Comparing jungle rubber and primary forest, groups differed in relative species richness patterns. Species richness in jungle rubber was slightly higher (terrestrial pteridophytes), similar (birds) or lower (epiphytic pteridophytes, trees, vascular plants as a whole) than in primary forest. For subsets of 'forest species' of terrestrial pteridophytes and birds, species richness in jungle rubber was lower than in primary forest. For all groups, species richness in jungle rubber was generally higher than in rubber plantations. Although species conservation in jungle rubber is limited by management practices and by a slash-and-burn cycle for replanting of about 40 years, this forest-like land use does support species diversity in an impoverished landscape increasingly dominated by monoculture plantations.

**Keywords:** Biodiversity - Conservation - Jungle rubber - Rubber plantation - Species-accumulation curves - Tropical rain forest

Journal article published by Springer Netherlands in *Agroforestry Systems* (2007) 70:217-242.  
For more information, please email [H.Beukema@rug.nl](mailto:H.Beukema@rug.nl)

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### 3.3 Livestock Research in Asia: Challenge Dialogue

Livestock may be a long shot for underutilized species researchers, but many underutilized species provide important animal feed and fodder, especially in marginal conditions. The letter below by Iain Wright mentions an attachment, which I have uploaded onto the GoogleGroup ICUC-News site for your reference.

[from Iain Wright]

Over the next few months, ILRI will be facilitating the development of an 'Action Plan for Pro-Poor Livestock Research for Sustainable Development in South and South East Asia' and we invite you to contribute your views on livestock research in Asia and help shape this Plan.

Approximately 300 million poor people in Asia depend to some extent on livestock for their livelihoods. The livestock sector in Asia is undergoing unprecedented rapid and dynamic change which presents huge opportunities for improvement in livestock-related livelihoods as well as posing a number of challenges to poor livestock keepers. Rapidly growing demand for livestock products is creating new opportunities for poor livestock keepers, but changes in processing and retailing - such as the supermarket revolution - increased concerns about environmental impacts of livestock production, and new and emerging diseases could threaten the access of poor livestock keepers to these opportunities. Coupled with concern that much past livestock research has not contributed to a reduction in poverty in many parts of Asia, now is the time to take a fresh look at how livestock research can contribute to poverty reduction.

As part of this process ILRI is conducting an electronic 'Challenge Dialogue' in which stakeholders from all areas of livestock research and development are being invited to put forward their views. A Challenge Dialogue Paper is attached which puts forward certain assumptions and asks a number of questions. Further information on the objectives, process and expected outcomes is contained in the Challenge Dialogue Paper. I have also attached a Feedback Form and would appreciate if you could use that to compile your response and email it back to me by or before 31 August 2007.

Although ILRI is facilitating this process we hope that it will allow other national and regional organizations to come to agreements on ways forward. We anticipate that this process will benefit all stakeholders in livestock research for development in Asia with researchers and aid specialists using the Plan to refine their development of projects. Your experience and ideas are critical to fulfilling those intentions and will help shape the future of livestock research in Asia, so we would ask you take a short time read and respond to the Challenge Dialogue Paper.

Please feel free to forward this email and the attachments to anyone else you think may be interested in responding. We very much look forward to receiving your ideas and views.

Thank you  
Dr Iain A Wright  
Regional Representative, Asia

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### **3.4 Food composition activities in the Oceania region**

[from Tevita Kete]

Athar, N., J. Cunningham and W. Aalbersberg (2007).

Keywords: Pacific; nutrition; OCEANIAFOODS; Food composition; Nutrient data.

#### **Abstract:**

OCEANIAFOODS was established in 1987. Countries under its umbrella are Australia, New Zealand and the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC, formerly the South Pacific Commission), which represents 22 Pacific Island governments. The convenorship rotates among these three regions. This report highlights major activities undertaken by OCEANIAFOODS from 2002 to 2005. The SPC, based in New Caledonia, includes a Lifestyle Health section (LHS) and a sub-office in Fiji. In Fiji, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) commissioned a project to strengthen food analytical capability in the Pacific region. The project, which ran from April 2002 to August 2004, succeeded in meeting all its goals with some adjustments. In Australia, food composition work is undertaken by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and has focused on three key areas: providing a free web-based nutrition panel calculator for nutrition labelling, preparing for the release of updated Australian nutrient data, and initiating several small analytical projects including the analysis of iodine levels in common foods and folates and folic acid in foods such as breakfast cereals. Activities outside FSANZ include further research on folate analysis at the University of New South Wales. In New Zealand, the focus has been on developing the food composition database. In 2003, Dr. Heather Greenfield reviewed the New Zealand Food Composition Database (NZFCDB), and in July 2004 the Ministry of Health renewed Crop and Food Research's contract until June 2007 to maintain the database. Publications over the last 3 years include the sixth edition of the concise food composition tables and release of an updated FOODFiles2004 electronic data files. In April 2005, the Seventh OCEANIAFOODS Conference, Innovations in Nutrient Information, was held in Wellington, New Zealand. Fifty-nine delegates attended the conference at which keynote addresses were given by Joanne Holden (USA), Bill Aalbersberg (Fiji), and Heather Greenfield (Australia). The conference resulted in 13 recommendations being formulated. The convenor of the next OCEANIAFOODS conference is Professor Bill Aalbersberg, Fiji.

From: Journal of Food Composition and Analysis 20(8): 709-712.

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### **4. ICUC-related information**

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- no entry -

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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.**

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**Dr. Sudhakar Pandey.** Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Uttar Pradesh, India. I am interested in the cucurbitaceous underutilized crops of regional as well as international importance. I am interested to search the genes responsible for resistance for the cucurbits disease.

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**Damaris Achieng Odeny.** Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany. I have worked with an under-utilised crop (pigeonpea) in the past and currently have a lot of interest in popularising this legume in Africa.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development