



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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Dear colleagues,

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No new entries this week

With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1 Funding opportunities from the Global Crop Diversity Trust

From Cary Fowler, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust

The Global Crop Diversity Trust wishes to announce the opening of three new windows of funding as part of our mission to ensure the conservation and availability of unique plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in a rational, efficient, effective and sustainable global system.

1. Regeneration of Threatened, Globally-Important Crop Diversity

What we will do: The Trust anticipates providing financial support to regenerate more than 100,000 distinct and threatened samples now held in some 120 collections in developing countries. In identifying specific collections for support, the Trust has relied on the global crop strategies which have been formulated by crop experts over the past couple of years, as well as other consultations. More than 500 experts from over 150 countries were involved in this process and, among other things, identified which collections collectively would provide the best coverage of the genepool of each crop. Funding will support regeneration of threatened samples in relevant collections. At this time, the Trust is focusing its efforts on 22 crops listed in Annex I of the International Treaty (banana, barley, bean, breadfruit, cassava, chickpea, coconut, cowpea, fababean, finger millet, grass pea, maize, major aroids, lentil,

pearl millet, pigeon pea, potato, rice, sorghum, sweet potato, wheat, yam). We expect to invest more than USD 2.5 million in the process over the course of three years.

How we will do it: The Trust will soon be contacting holders of the identified priority collections. We are not in a position to provide support to collections not identified as globally unique by crop experts. Financial support will be provided exclusively to such high priority collections held in developing countries.

2. Regeneration of Crop Diversity through PGRFA Networks

What we will do: As with the first opportunity, the focus will be on rescuing and safeguarding unique samples, globally considered, of PGRFA of the 22 Annex I crops listed above held in developing countries. This window, however, will target generally smaller collections of regional or national importance. The Trust will provide support for the regeneration of such materials, working through the 15 regional networks for PGRFA that cover the whole of the developing world. We expect to invest more than USD 1 million in the process over the course of four years.

How we will do it: The Trust will soon contact the Regional Networks to initiate the process.

3. Award Scheme for Enhancing the Value of Crop Diversity

What we will do: The Trust is initiating a competitive grants scheme to support evaluation of genetic resources of 22 Annex 1 crops. We will provide approximately 20-25 grants annually to enable researchers and other users to screen collections for important characteristics and to make the information generated publicly available. Priority will be given to screening for characters of greatest importance to the poor, and especially those relevant in the context of climate change. We anticipate providing approximately USD 1.5 million in grants for this purpose during the next four years.

How we will do it: The 2008 Call for Proposals will shortly be issued by email, and posted on our website (www.croptrust.org <<http://www.croptrust.org/>>).

In Conclusion

The first two programmes outlined above will, by our calculations, rescue over 90% of the globally unique samples of the crops concerned that are currently deteriorating and in urgent need of regeneration before being lost completely. The third programme will add considerably to our knowledge about these and other collections and thus to their value and use. While the role of the Trust is not to provide funding to national programmes for exclusively national purposes - that is the responsibility of national governments - these initiatives will strengthen and benefit national programmes as they contribute to building an efficient and effective global system to ensure conservation and availability of PGRFA. In all cases, the Trust will be looking towards building partnerships in which all parties bring resources to the table to accomplish a goal that both are interested in achieving. Cost-sharing, therefore, will be our model, not fee-for-service.

Due to funding limitations, staffing constraints, and our own very tight focus on specific goal-oriented initiatives such as those outlined above, we are not in a position at this time to consider unsolicited funding proposals for other PGRFA-related work. We trust you will understand. Our approach aims to produce the maximum amount of real and lasting global benefit, and to do so in a manner that we and our partners can sustain over time.

The Role of the Trust is outlined in more detail in a document with this title that can be found at: <http://www.croptrust.org/main/role.php>. This document contains a "decision-tree" that we use as a general guide for funding decisions. We believe the paper will be of interest to anyone concerned with the complexities of and the strategic options involved in creating a rational global system.

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1.2 The ATSE Crawford Fund Fellowships for 2007 - Call for nominations

The ATSE Crawford Fund Fellowship was established in 2002 with the generous support of Dr Brian Booth AM FTSE.

The aim of the Fellowship is to provide further training of a scientist in agriculture, fisheries or forestry from a selected group of developing countries whose work has shown significant potential. The training will take place at an Australian agricultural institution and will emphasize the application of knowledge to increased agricultural production in the Fellow's home country.

The Fellowship will be offered biennially to an agricultural scientist below the age of 35 years who is a citizen of, or who is working in, one of the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, Tuvalu and Kirabati, Vanuatu, Viet-Nam.

Nominations are now invited for: The ATSE Crawford Fund Fellowship for 2007

Nominations supported by two proposers, one of whom must be an Australian, should be made on the nomination form obtainable from The ATSE Crawford Fund Central Office, 1 Leonard Street, Parkville, 3052 Victoria Australia (email: tlangley@mira.net) or from the Crawford Website <http://www.crawfordfund.org>

Closing date for nominations: Monday 5 November 2007.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 UNDP/GEF/SFA International Workshop on: Mainstreaming wetland biodiversity conservation. Experience and lessons learned in practical applications of mainstreaming
First Announcement / Call for Papers

Sponsored by
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
The Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
Organized by
GEF Wetland Project Office, State Forestry Administration of China (SFA)

Co-organized by
The Forestry Department of Hunan Province
Government of Yueyang Municipality, Hunan Province
Wetlands International – China
WWF – China

Workshop Venue
Yueyang City, Hunan Province, China (East Dongting Lake National Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site),
December 1 - 4, 2007

For the full information, send an email or fax to the organizers: gefpmu@163bj.com or fax: +86 10 64298057

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2.2 6th European Colloquium on Ethnopharmacology & 20. Fachkonferenz Ethnomedizin (AGEM)

"6th European Colloquium on Ethnopharmacology & 20. Fachkonferenz Ethnomedizin (AGEM) - Joint Meeting" (Grassi Museum fuer Voelkerkunde) "New Trends in Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology" Leipzig, Germany 8-10 November 2007

Invitation for poster contributions: new deadline 15 September 2007. Participation with early registration fee till 30 September 2007.

Info www.agem-ethnomedizin.de

For information, posters and registration correspond with Ekkehard Schroeder ee.schroeder@t-online.de

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 Call for papers: Publication on *Food Based Approaches (FBAs) for Combating Micronutrient Deficiencies*

To be published by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in December, 2007.

More than two million people in the world today are deficient in one or more micronutrients. This is a major impediment to socio-economic development contributing to the vicious cycle of malnutrition and underdevelopment. Micronutrient deficiencies have long ranging effects on health, learning ability and productivity leading to high social and public costs, reduced work capacity in populations due to high rates of illness and disability and tragic loss of human potential. Overcoming micronutrient malnutrition is a precondition for ensuring rapid and appropriate development.

Food Based Approaches (FBAs), which include food production, dietary diversification and food fortification, are sustainable strategies for improving the micronutrient status of the population. Increasing access to and consumption of a variety of micronutrient rich foods not only has a positive effect on micronutrient status but also contributes to improved nutrition in general. The multiple social, economic and health benefits associated with successful FBAs that lead to year round availability, access and consumption of nutritionally adequate amounts and varieties of foods are clear. The nutritional well-being and health of individuals is promoted, incomes and livelihoods supported, and community and national wealth created and protected.

The publication "*Food Based Approaches (FBAs) for Combating Micronutrient Deficiencies*" aims at documenting the benefits of Food Based Approaches (FBAs), particularly of dietary improvement and diversification interventions, in controlling and preventing micronutrient deficiencies. Focus of the publication will be on practical actions for overcoming micronutrient deficiencies in a sustainable manner through increased access to and consumption of adequate quantities and variety of safe, good quality food. The publication will gather a variety of relevant advocacy and technical material under one cover to encourage and promote further attention and investment for such activities. Papers will be classified on the base of three main categories:

- Policy papers setting out why FBAs are important
- Case studies from various country level activities on what has worked
- Discussions on methodologies used for assessing cost-effectiveness highlighting the need for improved methodologies for demonstrating the benefits of FBAs and for capturing impact

Papers are welcomed from a wide diversity of relevant disciplines such as nutrition, agriculture, horticulture, education, communications and development. Programme managers and researchers (from universities, research institution, food industries and enterprises at various levels and disciplines, NGO's and international organizations) are encouraged to submit papers on one or more of activities that raise production and improve household food security, reduce poverty, social, economic and political exclusion and marginalisation, improve water and sanitation, education and health service delivery using community action through social mobilisation and participation as a way of empowering the most disadvantaged. The main themes may include a) availability and accessibility of food in adequate quality and quantity; b) changes of food habits and choices towards more nutritious diets; c) food processing at household and community level for increased micronutrient bioavailability and small scale industrial food production and fortification for increased micro-nutrient bio-availability; d) the role of food technologists and nutritionists in capacity building and research.

Preference will be given to papers describing well-designed studies, providing potentially important findings that relate to the above topics.

As a guide papers should be between 5.000-12.000 words, exclusive of tables, figures and references. The paper component should begin on a new page in the following order:

- Title page (with the title of the article, beginning with a key word - if possible; the first name, middle initial and last name of the author/s; the affiliation of the author/s at the time the work was done; the mailing and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers of the author/s; a short description of the background of the author/s)
- Abstract and key words (the abstract must include the following headings: background, objective, design, results and conclusions and should contain no more than 250 words)
- Text (with introduction, subjects and methods, results and discussion) and footnotes. The text should contain tables complete with title and footnotes and figures complete with legends for figures)
- Acknowledgments

- References

For detailed information and instructions for paper preparation please consult the guidelines for authors of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN).

If you would be interested in submitting a paper please contact Brian.Thompson@fao.org. A link on the FAO web-site (<http://www.fao.org/>) will soon be available for the submission of papers.

*****Papers must be received by end October, 2007*****

To receive more information about the publication please contact:

Brian Thompson, Senior Nutrition Officer – Household Food Security and Community Nutrition Group, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division (AGN), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization: Brian.Thompson@fao.org

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Leslie Amoroso, Consultant, Household Food Security and Community Nutrition Group, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division (AGN), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization: Leslie.Amoroso@fao.org

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3.2 Call for papers: Special Issue on Sustainable Development in Africa

The Natural Resources Forum, a quarterly journal issued by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and published by Blackwell, announces a call for papers for a special series over the 2007-2009 period on themes to be considered by the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development in its 16 and 17th sessions:

- Africa
- Agriculture
- Desertification
- Drought
- Land
- Rural Development

The deadline for submission of articles for the May 2008 Issue on Sustainable Development in Africa is October 15, 2007. The Viewpoints section of this issue will address the following question: What are the most constraints to achieving food security in various parts of Africa? Each entry should be 200 words or less addressing the above question. The deadline for submission to the Viewpoints for the May 2008 issue is: December 17, 2007.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 ICUC SAB met on 5 September

The ICUC Scientific Advisory Board met for its third meeting at NRI, Chatham, UK on 5 September. The meeting reviewed ICUC's progress since its last meeting in December 2006 and discussed the implications of the consultant's report on a common future with the GFU. The SAB was joined by Drs. Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon and Toby Hodgkin representing the GFU. The minutes of the meeting will be available on ICUC's website in due course.

4.2 Publications available

We have the following publications available upon request. Please contact Sushilla for more information and an order form (s.rajamanie@cgiar.org) or download it from our website: <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Publications/index.htm>.

- Tamarind monograph (Fruits for the Future 1)
- Ber monograph (Fruits for the Future 2)
- Safou monograph (in French) (Fruits for the Future 3)
- Baobab monograph (Fruits for the Future 4)
- Annona monograph (Fruits for the Future 5)
- Zapote monograph (in Spanish) (Fruits for the Future 6)
- Ndjanssang monograph (Fruits for the Future 7)
- Monkey Orange monograph (Fruits for the Future 8)

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- Mangoosteen monograph (Fruits for the Future 9)
 - Jackfruit monograph (Fruits for the Future 10)
 - Tamarind extension manual
 - Ber extension manual
 - Safou extension manual (French)
 - Baobab extension manual
 - Annona extension manual
 - Zapote extension manual (Spanish)
 - Ndjanssang extension manual
 - Monkey Orange extension manual
 - Mangosteen extension manual
 - Jackfruit extension manual
 - Domestication, production and utilisation of new crops
 - Global research on underutilised crops
 - Position Paper 1: Underutilised plant species: the role of biotechnology
 - Position Paper 2: Underutilised plant species: impacts of promotion on biodiversity
 - Research Report 1: Potential for small-scale processing and marketing of tropical fruits in Sri Lanka
 - Research Report 2: A value-chain analysis for the Sri Lankan rambutan subsector
 - Research Report 3: Analysis of economic characteristics of value chains of three underutilised fruits of India
 - Strategic Framework for Underutilized Plants Research and Development

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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. 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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 Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development