



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 Assistant Professor ("Juniorprofessor") with tenure track in Rural Sociology

Joint appointment Universities Goettingen and Kassel/Witzenhausen

The successful candidate will be appointed for three years ("Beamtenverhältnis auf Zeit", W1), with an option for a further three years and a subsequent review with the possibility of upgrading the position into a tenured professorship (W2).

The position will be available beginning in the spring of 2008.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise Rural Sociology at the undergraduate and graduate level in German as well as in English, and to develop an ambitious research program. We are seeking a scholar with an outstanding Ph.D. and a proven record in research. She/he should have expertise in the field of Rural Sociology.

Experience in rural development especially in developing countries and newly industrialized countries, or in gender studies related to agriculture is welcome.

The successful candidate will be jointly appointed by the agricultural faculties of the Universities of Goettingen and Kassel/Witzenhausen, and will represent the second such joint appointment by these

Universities. She/he will share her/his teaching commitments equally between the University of Goettingen and the University of Kassel. Her/his office will be Goettingen.

In Goettingen, the successful candidate's duties will include closer cooperation with the Faculties of Economic Sciences, Social Sciences, and Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, as well as teaching within the framework of an interdisciplinary major in Gender Studies. The successful candidate is expected to develop proficiency in the German language.

Preconditions for appointment are laid down in § 30 of the Higher Education Law of Lower Saxony of 26.02.2007. For further details contact Prof. Dr. Achim Spiller (a.spiller@agr.uni-goettingen.de).

We expressly welcome applications from abroad. The Universities of Goettingen and Kassel/Witzenhausen are Equal Opportunity employers. Both Universities are striving to increase their proportions of female faculty members, and both specifically encourage qualified women to apply. Appropriately qualified disabled persons will be favoured.

Applications (including a CV, a list of publications and a description of the candidate's teaching and research record) are requested by November 15, 2007, and should be sent to the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the Georg-August-Universität zu Göttingen, Am Vogelsang 6, D-37075 Göttingen.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Second International Development Organization (IDO) Conference and Exhibition on Global Warming

This is just to invite you that the registration for the 2nd International Development Organization (IDO) Conference is now open.

The 2nd International Development Organization (IDO) Conference will take place in London on December 14-17, 2007.

The world wide concern about global warming and it's impact on the fate of the planet has risen to unprecedented levels in the last few years.

This explosion of information on global warming has made all of us much more aware of what is happening. But, the sheer magnitude of it can also be overwhelming. We often ask ourselves, in spite of all the media, are we really certain about what we need to know and is there anything we as average citizens can do about it?

Please join us on December 14-17,2007, as we learn the answers to those two important questions, What Do We Know? What Can We Do?

- 1) How does Global Warming impact our environment and our community
- 2) What common sense approaches do we need to adopt to effect real change
- 3) What are simple and low cost ways that will help us save energy
- 4) What will it take to build a green community

The conference would be held at:

Hyde Park Hotel
15 Sussex Place
Hyde Park
London W2 2SX
United Kingdom

Date: 14th-17th December, 2007

IDO has set up an Access Fund to support the travel costs and all-round air fare cost for participants who are unable to raise sufficient funds on their own. All participants, however will be expected to fund raise for their hotel bills in the UK, which will not be waived.

Applicants who need assistance can apply to the Access Fund and fax to

+448704799217 or email:registration@idorg.info
Contact Ms. Stella Gray, email: registration@idorg.info for more information on your registration/Call for Papers.

Please pass this on to your interested colleagues and contacts.

We look forward to hearing from you,
Kind regards,

Ms. Stella Gray.
for Dr. John Mukapa
Conference Convener
phone +447031944459
fax +448704799217
email:registration@idorg.info

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2.2 Biodiversity Research – Safeguarding the Future

The governing body of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties, will have its ninth meeting (“COP 9”) in Bonn/Germany in May 19-30, 2008. More than 6000 participants are expected who will discuss reports from SBSTTAs, financial mechanisms, implementation of regulations and many other matters. As in the past, the COP meeting will negotiate predominantly biodiversity-related political issues, and there is increasing complaint about ignoring the importance of biodiversity research in the discussions and the resulting hindrance of basic and applied research into biodiversity by political regulations.

This situation gave rise to the COP8 associated meeting “Biodiversity: the Megascience in focus” held at Curitiba (Brazil) March 15-19, 2006. Its resolutions and recommendations were finally accepted as documents of COP8. Recognizing the importance and success of the Curitiba meeting, the German National Committee of IUBS felt obligated to pursue the idea of a COP associated meeting on biodiversity as a science and therefore will organize a symposium “Biodiversity Research – Safeguarding the Future” as a pre-congress meeting.

This conference will consist of three symposia which shall pick up the themes of the Curitiba meeting in a wider sense.

Themes of the symposia:

Symposium I: Acceleration of Biodiversity Assessment and Inventorying

Symposium II: Biodiversity: Functions and uses

Symposium III: Biodiversity Change – The 2010 Target and Beyond

For more information and registration please visit <http://zfmk.de/preCOP9/index.html>.

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 CAPRI Working Papers on Market Access for Smallholders

These and several forthcoming Working Papers are all studies dealing with Collective Action and Market Access for Smallholders and were first presented at the CAPRI workshop on this theme in October 2005.

CAPRI Working Paper 67: Farmer Organization, Collective Action and Market Access in Meso-America by Jon Hellin, Mark Lundy, and Madelon Meijer. Download the full paper at <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp67.pdf>

CAPRI Working Paper 68: Collective Action for Innovation and Small Farmer Market Access: The Papa Andina Experience by André Devaux, Claudio Velasco, Gastón López, Thomas Bernet, Miguel Ordinola, Hernán Pico, Graham Thiele, and Douglas Horton. Download the full paper at <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp68.pdf>

CAPRI Working Paper 69: Collective Action and Marketing of Underutilized Plant Species: The Case of Minor Millets in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu, India by Guillaume P. Gruère, Latha Nagarajan, and E.D.I. Oliver King. Download the full paper at <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp69.pdf>

CAPRI Working Paper 70: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships and Collective Action in Ensuring Smallholder Participation in High Value Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains by Clare Narrod, Devesh Roy, Julius Okello, Belem Avendaño, Karl Rich. Download the full paper at <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp70.pdf>

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3.2 LEISA Magazine, Vol. 23, No. 3. HEALTHIER FARMERS, BETTER PRODUCTS

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the links between food, food production and health. In this issue we present examples of how such links between health issues and agriculture have been addressed in practical ways. There are articles about the use of traditional crops and food gardens for fighting AIDS in South Africa, the use of medicinal plants and local health traditions for primary health care in India, and how health concerns are driving safer vegetable production in Vietnam.

Read the articles:

[http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-details.tpl&p\[readOnly\]=0&p\[_id\]=191121](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-details.tpl&p[readOnly]=0&p[_id]=191121)

DOCUMENTATION

ILEIA's documentation programme has progressively expanded during the last months. Together with our partners, we have supported several cases, which are starting to show results. We are pleased to present these on our website. At the moment, you can read about VETAID's livestock programmes in Gaza and Inhambane, Mozambique. Similarly, you can see the results of the II Encontro Nacional de Agroecologia, recently organised by Brazil's agroecology network. New cases will be added soon, coming both from China and from Senegal. You are invited to leave your comments on each case, and on every step of each process - these will surely help the organisations in charge improve their work. At the same time, you are invited to check our list of organisations following similar efforts (Networking) and our list of sources, where you can find manuals, methodologies and general information on documentation, most of them available online.

Please visit: <http://documentation.leisa.info>

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Issue 24.1, March 2008

GREEN AND FAIR TRADE

Realising that consumers' buying power can make a difference, various groups have taken initiatives to set up fair trade schemes whereby products are bought directly from farmers. By giving them a better price and a guaranteed market, farmers benefit, and consumers buy products on the basis of a fair trade. We would like to hear examples of the benefits of fair trade as well as the disadvantages, or difficulties encountered. As green and fair trade initiatives take off around the world, it is time to look at local as well as global opportunities, and explore some current debates around this theme. Send us your experiences! Deadline for submission of articles: 1st December, 2007 Send your contributions to Karen Hampson e-mail k.hampson@ileia.nl

Issue 24.2, June 2008

LIVING SOILS

Restoring and maintaining soil life is possible through various means. There could be several technical options such as diverse cropping systems and sequences, augmenting and restoring soils, through generating and recycling farm resources. Such efforts are made towards improving the organic matter content in the soil so as to make it productive and sustainable.

Soil is also a community resource. This issue also highlights traditional practices for restoring soil health, social agreements towards prevention of soil deterioration, and cultural practices which have enabled improving and maintaining soils as a basis of livelihood improvements. Deadline for submission of articles: 1 March 2008.

Issue 24.3, September 2008

SOCIAL INCLUSION

With this theme we would like to look at examples of how the most disadvantaged in society have been included, or have managed to include themselves, in agricultural development – for example the landless, differently abled, geographically dispersed or internally displaced people.

Issue 24.4, December 2008

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Various techniques in sustainable and ecological agriculture (such as use of trees, intercropping or use of local varieties) help to build resilience in a small scale farming system. We are looking for experiences which demonstrate how LEISA farmers are better suited to withstand uncertain and changing conditions, including climate change.

You are invited to contribute to these issues with articles (about 800, 1600 or 2400 words + 2-3 illustrations and references), suggest possible authors, and send us information about publications, training courses, meetings and websites. Editorial support is provided by ILEIA. Authors of published articles are entitled to a standard fee of USD 75,-.

For authors guide see:

[http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=show-blob-html.tpl&p\[o_id\]=8753&p\[a_id\]=237&p\[a_seq\]=0](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=show-blob-html.tpl&p[o_id]=8753&p[a_id]=237&p[a_seq]=0)

For more coming issues see:

[http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-list.tpl&p\[source\]=ILEIA](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-list.tpl&p[source]=ILEIA)

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3.3 Preparation for COP-9

Here is an interesting website which has been developed as the main communication platform of NGO and civil society community in preparing the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 4. Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety held 2008 in Bonn/Germany.

<http://www.biodiv-network.de> and then click on the English or Spanish flag in the upper left corner.

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3.4 Free Online Access to all SAGE Journals

until November 30, 2007

460 + journals in Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Technology, Medicine and Business

Just fill out the form and go. <https://online.sagepub.com/cgi/register?registration=FTNov2007-13>

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3.5 Two new web information portals

From Stephan Dohrn

Oxfam is continually developing a publishing web portal of resources. It currently has 2000 free online resources on development and humanitarian policy, practice and research (peer reviewed journal articles, manuals, short guides, full-length books all available on a wide range of issues). These resources will be free to download for the foreseeable future. The search page can be found at http://publications.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam/search_research.asp

Also, <http://www.developmentinpractice.org> has many free articles and books available on it, many translated and also further resource guides. The links to free resource pages are on the homepage in French, Spanish, Portuguese and English.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 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)
- 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

ALL MONOGRAPHS AND MANUALS ARE NOW ALSO AVAILABLE ON CD

- 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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4.2 In search of the Holy Grail

Review of ICUC Position Paper on Biodiversity in BioSoc: the Biodiversity and Society Bulletin Research highlights on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation, issue 20: October 2007.

IN SEARCH OF THE HOLY GRAIL: COULD PROMOTING UNDERUTILISED PLANTS PROVIDE A WIN-WIN FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION?

It is well documented that a wide range of plant species support the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. These include edible fruits, grains, leaves, nuts, oils, roots and tubers, medicinal plants, spices and so on. Many of these species are, however, only considered important locally and may present difficulties for broader uptake because of their harvesting, storage or processing requirements. As a result, such so-called "underutilised plant species" (UPS) have received little investment to date through formal research and development activities. Nevertheless, with the focus on the international community on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, increasing attention is being paid to better exploiting the potential of these plants to contribute to the nutrition, health and income of poor communities while at the same time delivering on environmental sustainability objectives. A new report by the International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC) highlights the potential benefits - but also the risks - that increased cultivation and commercialization of traditional varieties and wild resources could present for both poor farmers livelihoods and for biodiversity.

Currently only a few dozen crops dominate world agriculture. Intensive promotion of this small handful of high-yielding crops has, in general, led to significant biodiversity loss in farm ecosystems, with displacement of traditional varieties and other species. Promotion of UPS could thus lead to a far more diverse agricultural landscape and help reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. Incorporating diversity into farming systems because of the benefits it can bring to rural communities, rather than as an 'end in itself', is however, behind ICUC's rationale for promoting UPS. Poor farmers can benefit in a number of ways:

- By making these species more accessible than their "wild" counterparts (which may require considerable time and effort to collect or harvest), they can contribute to increased food security and health care.
- For poor farmers who are unable to afford the inputs required to sustain the yields of modern crop varieties, reducing risks by growing older types may be more important than increasing returns, since the results of crop failure are often catastrophic.
- Some species may have commercial potential and may present opportunities for poor producers to move beyond subsistence use and start generating cash income.

Well-meaning efforts to promote UPS must, however, take care not to fall into the same traps as modern agriculture by focusing on a limited range of species at the expense of maintaining a diverse - but stable - resource based. The ICUC recommends a 'spear and shield' approach where certain UPS are championed for intensive domestication, large increases in production and immediate impact ('spears'), while use of a much wider range of taxa (the 'shield') is enhanced through a range of different and more diffuse actions that are needed to provide the poor with the strategic skills they need to respond to changing preferences for different products. As well as helping to develop 'intelligent markets' for varied products, a key challenge is to ensure farmer's access to germplasm. Seed fairs and community knowledge networks can help but policy interventions are also important to allow access to sources that are often not available to communities. Restrictive protected areas and centralised genebanks may need a rethink.

SOURCE

Dawson, I.K., Guarino, L. and Jaenicke, H. (2007) Underutilised Plant Species: Impacts of Promotion on Biodiversity. Position Paper No. 2. International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The report is available to download from: <http://icuc-iwmi.org/files/Publications/ICUC-PP2%20web.pdf> Queries should be directed to Hannah Jaenicke (h.jaenicke@cgiar.org)

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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.

Phillip Miller. I am Country Director for and INGO Concern Worldwide in Lao PDR. We work a lot with rural ethnic minority communities to enhance their livelihood systems. we are particularly interested in supporting their traditional coping mechanisms but these communities and development organisations face real dilemmas in trying to address their chronic poverty in a way that promotes their identity, culture and belief systems (this includes their agricultural and food practices)

Nandkishor Bhikne: Working in the seed industry and pharmaceutical industry on tissue culture of cereals, vegetables, pulses, oilseed crops & medicinal plants and in the field of standardisation & validation of herbal extracts. Would like to work on underutilised plants as dietary supplements.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development