



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

P. O. Box 2075 Colombo, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94-11-2787404, Fax: +94-11-2786854
www.icuc-iwmi.org / icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org

ICUC-News #59

11 December 2007

Dear colleagues,

My apologies for a one-week delay in sending this issue of ICUC-News. Last week I attended the very exciting CGIAR Annual General Meeting in Beijing. The main theme of this year's AGM was change, so it was appropriate that ICUC and the GFU announced their plans for a merger into a new entity called "Crops for the Future". We held an informative side event on Sunday 2 December and had opportunity for a range of meetings with partner and donor organizations who all expressed a lot of interest in our plans.

As this will be the last issue for 2007 I take the opportunity to extend the Season's Greetings of the entire ICUC team to all of you. May 2008 be a productive and peaceful year for all.

In this issue:

- 1. Funding & Job opportunities**
 - 1.1. Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, IUCN
 - 1.2. Director General - CIAT
- 2. Workshops & training courses**
 - 2.1. All Africa Congress on Biotechnology
 - 2.2. Third International Symposium on Improving the Performance of Supply Chains in the Transitional Economies
- 3. Publications & information**
 - 3.1. Teaching good eating habits to reduce malnutrition and diet-related diseases
 - 3.2. DADOBAT project
 - 3.3. Biosciences Research and Communications Initiative
 - 3.4. LI-BIRD win prestigious award
 - 3.5. "Specialty Crops for Pacific Island Agroforestry"
 - 3.6. ISHS Acta Horticulturae 752
 - 3.7. AWARD programme launched
 - 3.8. More newsletters
- 4. ICUC-related information**
 - 4.1. Publications available
 - 4.2. ICUC-GFU merger task force takes up its work
- 5. ICUC network**
 - 3 entries

With best wishes,
Hannah

++++
1. Funding & Job opportunities
++++

1.1 Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, IUCN
Reporting to: Coordinator, Livelihoods and Landscapes (LLS)
Duty station: IUCN Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland
Expected start date: As soon as possible
Function group: P2 in the IUCN classification system

Work percentage: 100%
Duration: 2 years, renewable

BACKGROUND

The IUCN Forest Conservation Programme (FCP) is a global thematic programme of the IUCN Secretariat and supports the forest-related activities of the Union, its members and Commissions. The programme consists of a global Secretariat based at the IUCN Headquarters and an out-posted office in Moscow that coordinates the programme's work on temperate and boreal forests. The programme is also directly linked to and coordinated with a worldwide network of regional forest programmes based in different IUCN Regional Offices, which enables it to remain actively engaged in a wide range of field-based forestry projects ensuring that its global policy work remains wellgrounded

in local realities. The FCP's work thus spans global, regional, national and local levels in all the IUCN operational regions across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America. Within this context knowledge management and communications is a critically important operational result area.

Communication, for the Forest Conservation Programme, forms part of a broader knowledge management and learning process. It is now recognized that generating high quality knowledge by itself is not enough and that more attention needs to be paid to getting information and knowledge out to key audiences, policy makers and practitioners to instil a culture of learning for change, and then monitoring whether it is used by them to effect positive change on the ground. Knowledge also needs to be shared in a more effective manner internally between the Forest Conservation Programme and the various Regional Offices, members, Commissions and thematic programmes to promote greater coherence of outcomes related to forest-related issues within the Union itself. Thus there are both external and internal dimensions that need to be addressed while implementing an effective and efficient knowledge management system and strategy.

Over the past two years, the Forest Conservation Programme has strengthened communications and knowledge sharing and has started to look at how knowledge management can be used to engage with IUCN members and thus truly use the strength of the Union.

Between 2007-2010 a new initiative called the "Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy" (LLS) is being implemented by the Forest Conservation Programme and knowledge management, communications and learning will play a key role in this comprehensive initiative. During 2007 a learning framework that clearly identifies how to move forward for knowledge management and learning for LLS and FCP was prepared, and the main objective of the incumbent is to put the learning framework in place and root it firmly in LLS implementation.

JOB DESCRIPTION

General

Working with the Coordinator of Livelihoods and Landscapes (LLS), the Head of the Forest Conservation Programme (FCP), the FCP Communications Officer, and the LLS Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the Knowledge Management and Communications (KM&C) Officer will:

- i) Direct and facilitate cross-regional learning and communications within LLS and with multiple audiences with the goal of creating a culture of learning.
- ii) Work with LLS geographic components to ensure that they have integrated KM&C outcomes into their work plans and budgets in a way that is consistent with the evolving culture of learning. This will include targeted capacity building of regional staff and partners.
- iii) Assist in the execution of the FCP component programme plan 2009-2012, in particular by sharing LLS experience in learning with other components of FCP.

Specific tasks

1. Review LLS work plans and budgets to ensure that they contain a knowledge management and learning component. Provide feedback and advice to the regions and cross-cutting themes on how to best integrate KM&C and ensure that adequate technical and financial resources have been allocated to knowledge management, learning and communication.
2. Based on the LLS learning framework, facilitate shared learning and exchanges of knowledge across 11 geographic components (25 countries) where LLS is active, and between the geographic components and LLS cross-cutting theme leaders.
3. In collaboration with the appropriate cross cutting theme leader, foster an Action Research approach to LLS implementation, learning and communication.
4. Assist the Senior Forest Policy Advisor in the identification of policy relevant outcomes, and to effectively transfer the learning from the outcomes to policy processes and relevant stakeholders.

5. Identify the opportunities for linkages and synergies between the GPFLR learning landscapes and LLS geographic and cross-cutting thematic components.
6. Work with the LLS Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to harmonize the monitoring and evaluation plan with the knowledge management and learning framework, and viceversa.
7. Identify and facilitate multiple modes of dissemination for multiple LLS stakeholders and audiences, including IUCN's Secretariat and its members.
8. Identify training needs, particularly for sharing and communicating learning experiences.
9. Assist in the cataloguing of LLS documents and images for their better use in learning, dissemination and publicity activities.
10. Keep abreast of latest developments relating to the LLS thematic focal areas of poverty reduction, forest governance, rights and tenure and forest landscape restoration and conservation emerging from academia, international conservation organisations and other sectors, and insure that relevant messages, materials and publications are made available to geographic components, cross cutting theme leaders and LLS stakeholders.
11. Oversee and/or participate in the production of publications (peer-reviewed and otherwise).
12. Support the FCP Communications Officer in
 - i) Making communications between FCP Head Office, the geographic components and the cross-cutting theme leaders more effective
 - ii) Producing dissemination materials (posters, brochures, web-based outputs etc). In consultation with the Head, FCP and LLS Coordinator provide technical assistance to geographic components on specific areas of technical expertise as needed.
13. Undertake regular travel to LLS regions to better understand desired outcomes and associated learning needs.

REQUIREMENTS: KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Interdisciplinary educational background, including a higher level degree, and covering at least two of: forestry or agricultural resource management, conservation or ecological sciences, economic and social sciences.
- Minimum of 6-8 years' experience in natural resource management including significant time in developing countries working in forest/landscape restoration.
- Experience working for at least three of the following sectors: government, non-government, multi- or bilateral aid agencies, academia.
- Experience in developing and/or implementing learning strategies.
- Experience with research methodologies in social sciences and natural resource management, including participatory methods.
- English, plus fluency in one of Spanish or French (the three official languages of IUCN).
- Proven writing skills.
- Willingness to travel frequently (25% of time).

SALARY

The gross annual salary for this position is in the range from CHF 96,160 to CHF 120,200, subject to deductions for social security contributions and second-pillar pension, and before tax.

APPLICATIONS

Candidates who meet the selection requirements are requested to submit at the latest by 28 November 2007 their curriculum vitae, a supporting letter of motivation in English, and the names and contact details of three referees (including one recent employer) to:

Human Resources Officer

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

28 rue Mauverney – 1196 Gland, Switzerland

Email: jobapplications@iucn.org

Applications by email are preferred. They should be sent only to jobapplications@iucn.org.

+++++

1.2 Director General - CIAT

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) seeks a Director General to lead the Center in conducting socially and environmentally progressive research to reduce hunger and poverty and preserve natural resources in Latin America, Africa and Asia. CIAT, headquartered near Cali, Colombia, is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

CIAT researchers focus on technologies and social processes to facilitate the development of ecologically and socially sustainable agricultural and natural resource-based livelihoods, often using interdisciplinary and participatory approaches. Most CIAT research is done in cooperation with partners such as national agricultural research systems and non-governmental organizations. Currently CIAT is partnering with over 160 private sector, public sector, international NGOs, institutions and farmer organizations around the world.

CIAT has programs in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The annual budget is about US\$ 40 million, with 83 internationally recruited scientists and over 600 nationally diverse staff in 4 regional and 19 country offices supporting a portfolio of 6 global outcome lines. Additional information on CIAT can be found at <http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/>.

The Director General is appointed for a 5year term which, by mutual agreement, can be renewed. Salary and perquisites are internationally competitive. The term of office begins 1 August, 2008 or as soon as possible after.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director General (DG) is the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Center. She/he is responsible for the overall management of CIAT, implements the policies as defined by the Board, and oversees all external relations of the Center.

The DG is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

The DG provides leadership for the Center in planning, coordinating and evaluating research, finance and administrative activities and is directly responsible for international cooperation. She/he oversees the allocation of resources, and the process that ensures accountability for the use of these resources.

The DG is expected to stimulate an environment of high-quality science, to encourage professional vitality and effectiveness, and to create a good work climate for women and men scientists and staff. She/he communicates goals, objectives, and ideals of the Center, and encourages an institutional culture of the highest standards. She/he is responsible for supporting recruitment and making local and international staff appointments in accordance with the recruitment policies approved by the Board.

She/he represents the Center externally, guides the communication process with stake and shareholders, and leads the fund raising activities of the Center. Currently over 60 different multilateral, bilateral governments and foundations support the work of the Center.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- PhD or equivalent in biophysical or social sciences related to sustainable agriculture or natural resource management, with a broad understanding of the interdependence of biological, natural resource and social sciences;
- Awareness and understanding of issues and global challenges that affect research in agriculture and natural resource management
- Demonstrated capabilities in understanding and communicating with diverse stakeholders about global and regional issues in agriculture, natural resource management and food security in Latin America, Africa and Asia;
- Experience in broad partnerships and networking, particularly in science and rural development in Latin America, Africa and Asia
- Proven skills in managing a complex organization
- Ability to nurture and facilitate teamwork in a multicultural environment;
- Sensitivity to gender and diversity of the Institute and the local cultures of collaborating countries;
- Fluency in written and spoken English and, as soon as possible, Spanish.
- Direct research experience in Latin America, Africa or Asia and familiarity with the CGIAR system are desirable.
- Demonstrated fund-raising skills.

Nominations and applications will be accepted until 1 February 2008, or until the position is filled, and treated confidentially. Please send curriculum vitae and the names of three referees to:

Patrick Shields
Global Recruitment Specialists
501 Westport Avenue, Suite 285
Norwalk, CT 06851 USA

Telefax USA: 203-899-0499
Email: Shields@Globalrecruitment.net
Web: [Http://www.globalrecruitment.net](http://www.globalrecruitment.net)

+++++

2. Workshops & Training Courses

+++++

2.1 All Africa Congress on Biotechnology

[from Oirere Moragwa]

We are pleased to announce to you the “1st ever All Africa Congress on Biotechnology” that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya between 22nd – 26th September 2008. This premier Conference will bring together scientists, policy makers, farmers and media personalities from all over Africa with a host of invited foreign guest scientists, development partners, Research Organizations, Biotechnology companies and farmers alike.

The event has been organized by the “Agricultural Biotechnology Network in Africa – ABNETA” through its parent organization, the African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum-ABSF Secretariat in Nairobi Kenya.

ABNETA country coordinators in Africa who are eminent scientists, will together with other technical personalities, peer review all submitted scientific papers before they are selected for presentation in the conference.

We shall be making official communication to donors and other developed partners including development foundations and the UN bodies responsible for agriculture to sponsor the event.

As part of the planning strategy, we are making a ‘Call for Papers’ from individuals and institutions relevant to biotechnology development in Africa. Please see detailed announcement in the attached document.

We would wish to encourage you to kindly circulate the communication package to as many organizations, institutions, scientists, farmers, media and policy makers as possible. Also feel free to share the announcement with all relevant websites and networks so that the event can be adequately advertised for maximum impact.

For detailed information about the biotechnology congress, kindly visit our websites at www.abneta.org and www.absfafrica.org or communicate with the ABSF Secretariat.

+++++

2.2 Third International Symposium on Improving the Performance of Supply Chains in the Transitional Economies

[from Peter Batt]

For and on behalf of the University of the Philippines in Mindanao, Curtin University of Technology and the Regoverning Markets Program, I extend an invitation to you to join us in Durian City (Davao), Mindanao, from July 9-12, 2008 for the Third International Symposium on Improving the Performance of Supply Chains in the Transitional Economies: Responding to the dynamic challenge of linking smallholder producers to dynamic markets.

This symposium is being held in Davao as part of the centenary celebration for the University of the Philippines

Keynote speakers include Tom Reardon, Hamish Gow and Andrew Shepherd

Papers will be published in a special edition of Banwa, the official journal of the University of the Philippines.

To facilitate this call for papers, the date for the submission of abstracts has been extended to December 20, 2007.

Those papers which are accepted will be published in a special edition of Banwa, the official journal of the University of the Philippines

For more information, please visit our website at <http://2008davao.googlepages.com/home>

+++++

3. Publications & Information

+++++

3.1 Teaching good eating habits to reduce malnutrition and diet-related diseases

[from Tevita Kete]

FAO publishes planning guide for nutrition education in primary schools
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0333e/a0333e00.htm>

FAO Newsroom: 9 October 2007, Rome - Educating school children in healthy nutrition is one of the most effective strategies for overcoming malnutrition and chronic diet-related diseases but has been neglected far too long, FAO said today. The UN agency announced the publication of a new comprehensive guide for curriculum development addressing nutrition education in primary schools. "What many people don't realize is that it is not only the amount of food, but the quality of a diet that has a critical effect on children's growth, health and learning capacity. Eating is not just a biological process, it depends on learned habits and perceptions, on the cultural and social environment. This is why nutrition education is so important," said Ezzeddine Boutrif, Director, FAO Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division. Good nutrition education can make children aware of how to achieve a nourishing diet with limited means; how to prepare and handle food safely and how to avoid food-related risks. As future parents, they will know about the benefits of breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and be able to educate their children to follow a diet that is well balanced and of good quality. "Teaching nutrition in schools can help reduce the costly impact of nutrition related diseases of future generations. Governments should make nutrition education a priority," Boutrif added. Bad eating habits on the rise Chronic diet-related diseases, such as excess weight and obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases, are not restricted to rich countries. They are increasing around the globe as a result of new lifestyles and eating habits. Globally, 1.6 billion adults are overweight, and at least 400 million are obese. Two out of three overweight and obese people now live in low- and middle-income countries, with the vast majority in emerging markets and transition economies, according to the World Health Organization. "Certainly, hunger and undernourishment remain a major problem for some 820 million people in developing countries that do not have the means to buy or produce sufficient good quality food," said Peter Glasauer, FAO nutrition education expert. "But globalization and economic development have introduced new foods and altered dietary habits and lifestyle patterns in many developing countries as well. Migration from rural communities to urban areas, for example, is on the rise with less and less people producing their own food and the majority depending entirely on commercial food supply. Nutrition education in primary schools is an effective way of promoting good nutrition," he added. The new guide The new FAO guide for curriculum development is aimed at ministry officials, teachers, nutrition experts, health professionals and others involved in the planning of nutrition education programmes for primary schools. Although it also contains a section on the basics of healthy nutrition, the guide is not a teaching aid for nutrition education itself. It is a resource package comprising three elements: a book that explains the key ideas and processes in nutrition, health and education; a set of worksheets taking the user through the entire planning exercise; a classroom curriculum chart, providing learning objectives for nutrition education in primary schools in developing countries. The guide is available in English and French.

+++++

3.2 DADOBAT project

The DADOBAT project aims at developing sustainable production systems of baobab and tamarind in three West-African countries based on characterisation, conservation and use of local genetic resources. This is expected to have a positive impact on food security and income generation in the countries included in the project. Issues of new crop/niche development are addressed through a holistic research approach and multidisciplinary research activities.

Research Objectives

- Evaluation and characterisation of germplasm collected in different ecological zones
- Eco-physiological characterisation
- Domestication of superior germplasm material
- Development of adapted cropping techniques
- Development of adapted plant material for introduction into (traditional and improved) agroforestry systems
- Evaluation of nutritional/medicinal composition of different plant parts
- Ethnobotanical evaluation of baobab and tamarind
- Improvement of processing/transformation of the species' products;
- Development of national and international marketing strategies

Find out more from the website: <http://www.dadobat.soton.ac.uk/>

+++++

3.3 Biosciences Research and Communications Initiative

[from M. Mwangi]

Dear Colleague,

We would like to inform you of the following opportunities in Biosciences Research Communications. These initiatives aim to primarily increase exposure of research activities and the visibility of scientists working on issues of relevance to developing countries.

1. Journal of Applied Biosciences. This new Open Access peer reviewed journal is inviting manuscripts in biosciences research, particularly applied research cutting across Agriculture (Crops and Livestock), Health (Animals and Human), Food processing, Industrial and Environment management biosciences. Please visit the journal homepage <http://www.biosciences.elewa.org/> for more information and submission instructions.

2. e-Conferences on Biosciences Research: We are organising e-Conferences on three key biosciences themes. Each e-Conference will be held on a dedicated URL (internet site) and has minimal participation costs since there is no travel, accomodation, visa costs etc. Interested scientists and contributors will participate from the office, home or any other place with internet connection. It is expected that reduced participation costs will help to increase scientific contributions and visibility of scientists from national institutions of developing countries. Please check for further details at the following sites (available from 25th November 2007):

a. International e-Conference on Agricultural Biosciences (June 2-16, 2008); Visit <http://www.e-conference.fact.elewa.org/agriculture>.

b. International e-Conference on Medical and Health BioSciences (June 17-30, 2008); Visit <http://www.e-conference.fact.elewa.org/biomedical>.

c. International e-Conference on Industrial and Environmental Biosciences (July 1- 15 2008). Visit <http://www.e-conference.fact.elewa.org/industry&envt>

3. e-Books publication initiative: We are inviting contributions of book chapters on several bioscience research themes. These e-Books ((exclusively published online) will provide a platform for researchers and practitioners working in a common Bioscience domain to consolidate their research findings and opinions in the form of chapters to form one book. Once again, this initiative is designed to encourage the participation and raise the visibility of authors/scientists in developing countries. Below you will find a list of books that are currently open for chapter contributions. Regularly updated information on this initiative will be available at the e-Books project homepage <http://www.e-books.fact.elewa.org>.

Book Titles currently open for contributions

1. Organic Farming in Developing Countries: Illusion or Reality?
2. Transgenic Crops: Our Hopes, Our Fears.
3. Commercializing Agriculture: Priority commodities for Sub-Sahara Africa
4. Commercializing Agriculture: Priority commodities for N. Africa & Middle East.
5. Commercializing Agriculture: Priority commodities for Asian countries.
6. Medicinal Plants: Exploitation and Conservation.
7. Zoonotic diseases and Climate change: Assessing the risks.
8. DDT and Malaria control: Why the controversy?
9. Male Circumcision and the HIV AIDS scourge
10. Polythene pollution: The present and the future.
11. EPAs and World Trade: Implications for Developing countries

4. Publication of non-reviewed grey literature: We are providing a separate communications portal for publication of other outputs and sources of information that have no formal dissemination channels. Gray reports will include any documentary material that is not commercially published, e.g. technical reports of ongoing or completed projects, extension guides or manuals, working papers, seminar or conference proceedings, theses and dissertations. Contact us for more details.

You can get information on any of the above initiatives by writing directly to publications@biosciences.elewa.org.

Thank you for your time,

Mwangi M, PhD, Coordinator, Biosciences Research and Communications Initiative

+++++

3.4 LI-BIRD win prestigious award

Please see below a message from Dr Pratap K. Shrestha, Executive Director of the Nepali NGO Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD). Please join me in congratulating Dr Shrestha and his team and partners for this wonderful recognition of their efforts.

Dear all,

It is my great pleasure to share a good new with you that the 26th Academic Assembly of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) held under the chairmanship of Chancellor of the Academy, Prime Minister of Nepal on Friday, 23 November 2007 has declared to award LI-BIRD with the "Science and Technology Promotion Award 2007". This is a national award in the institutional category awarded each year by NAST to organisations for their outstanding contribution to the promotion of science and technology for the benefit of the people in Nepal.

LI-BIRD has received this award for its outstanding research and development work in the field of Community-based Biodiversity Management for on-farm conservation and utilization of agricultural biodiversity, Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB), and contribution in the formulation of associated national policy and strategies. Other works of LI-BIRD, such as development and promotion of conservation technologies for soil and water conservation for enhanced production and income; creating livelihood options for small, landless socially vulnerable farmers; and for empowering and strengthening capacity farmers, farmers' organization and local institutions also played important role in the decision.

The award is very special for us for many reasons. First, for the first time the award has been given to a non-government organization (NGO) for its contribution to science and technology through research and development in the field of agriculture and natural resource management. It has formally recognized LI-BIRD as a research NGO devoted for development-oriented research in agriculture and natural resource management. Second, it has recognized our pioneering and innovative participatory approaches, especially in promoting on-farm management of genetic resources and PPB. Third, it has confirmed our firm belief that working with farmers and stakeholders, building on their knowledge and innovation and creating opportunities for collaboration and joint action always generate synergy for producing outputs for the benefit of the resource poor farmers. Fourth, it is a great recognition of the hard work put up by our professionals and staffs. This will create further trust for LI-BIRD and recognize us as a partner of choice.

May I take this opportunity to thank all current and past staff members of LI-BIRD for their hard work; to Executive Board members, Founder members, General members, Professional members and well-wishers of LIBIRD for their continued support and encouragement; to all partner organizations and donors for their kind support and believing in us; and most importantly to all farmers and farming communities for their active and inspiring engagement with us.

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation.

+++++

3.5 "Specialty Crops for Pacific Island Agroforestry"

[from Tevita Kete]

A new 2-year research project will promote farm diversification with specialty crops. Specialty crops are a rapidly growing economic opportunity for farmers who are interested in diversifying their crops and who are willing to innovate their production methods, post-harvest processing, and marketing. The large global demand for farm and forest food, fiber and healthcare products presents markets that Pacific islanders are uniquely suited to fill. Noni and kava are examples of two important specialty crops that originated in the Pacific; coffee and vanilla are two valuable crops that originated outside the Pacific but have become highly valuable specialty crops in various Pacific regions. To support the vast potential for new Pacific island specialty crops, Farm and Forest Production and Marketing (FFPM) sheets for 32 crops are being developed to support the region's participation in the world marketplace for high quality food, fiber, and healthcare products. The FFPM sheets will detail essential information for crop development: horticulture and botany, the roles for each crop in mixed-crop agroforestry, commercial products, product quality standards, location and size of markets, postharvest processing, opportunities for local value-added processing, and the potential for genetic improvement. The completed FFPM sheets will be available for free, unrestricted download in PDF format from <http://www.agroforestry.net/>. The FFPM sheets will be a valuable resource for Pacific island agricultural extension professionals as well as farmers. The sheets will provide extension-level, detailed information about new crops that are highly compatible with Pacific island agronomic conditions, suitable for agroforestry systems, and appropriate for local and export markets. These crops are "new" in the sense that they are underdeveloped, underutilized, or not well recognized for their commercial potential.

Supporting local Pacific island agricultural extension professionals with current and detailed processing and marketing information for promising new crops for mixed-crop agroforestry systems will stimulate farm enterprise development while promoting sustainable land use.

This project is funded by the USDA Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program . Opportunities for co-sponsors are available. For further project information, please visit or

contact the project director Craig Elevitch, Permanent Agriculture Resources, PO Box 428, Holualoa, Hawaii 96725, Tel: 808-324-4427; E-mail: par@agroforestry.net.

+++++

3.6 ISHS Acta Horticulturae 752

This volume represents the proceedings of the I International Conference on Indigenous Vegetables and Legumes. Prospectus for Fighting Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition
IMPORTANCE OF UNDER-UTILIZED INDIGENOUS LEGUMES IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION by C.L.L. Gowda, H.D. Upadhyaya, M.A. Ghaffar

Abstract: Food legumes constitute a major crop group in the Asia-Pacific region because of their unique features including their role in human and animal nutrition, nitrogen fixation, adaptation to stress conditions, suitability to various cropping systems, and for overall sustainability of agricultural production systems. Most countries in the region have attained self-sufficiency in staple cereal crops production. However, the availability of legumes is low, and many countries are importing legumes costing huge amounts in foreign exchange. Dependence on a few legumes in production and market chain, and high demand has led to increased price for legumes, and thus the poor rural and urban families cannot afford to eat legumes to the desired level (to meet protein needs). Only a handful of legumes are grown on large areas and enter commercial markets. There are many indigenous food legumes whose potential is under exploited and untapped. Many of these indigenous food legumes play a vital role in protein nutrition to poor farm families, especially to women and children, in the region. Looking at the total area cultivated and production, legumes such as soybean, groundnut, chickpea, lentil, common bean, field peas, chickpea, and pigeonpea can be considered as major legume crops. Other legumes that are indigenous and under-exploited are: Adzuki bean, bambara groundnut, blackgram, broadbean (faba bean), horsegram, lablab bean, lathyrus, moth bean, rice bean, and winged bean. Not all of them are indigenous (in the sense of origin), but have been cultivated in the region for more than 200-300 years. Hence, all these are considered indigenous for the purpose of this paper and their potential for expanding the food basket and commercialization in Asia-Pacific region is discussed.

The volume also includes a paper co-authored by Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon and myself: A Strategic Framework for Global Research and Development of Underutilized Plant Species: a Contribution to the Enhancement of Indigenous Vegetables and Legumes. Acta Horticulturae 752:103-110

Acta Horticulturae books and articles can be ordered from via: www.actahort.org/

+++++

3.7 AWARD programme launched

[from Vicki Wilde]

G&D is delighted to announce launch of its new program to fast-track the careers of African Women in Agricultural Research & Development: AWARD. Gates Foundation Funds Unprecedented US\$ 13 Million Effort to Unleash Expertise of African Women in the Agricultural Sciences

This 4-year grant to the CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program will directly benefit 360 women in agricultural R&D along with some 40 institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Another 580 women and men will benefit through AWARD's mentoring activities. Participating countries will include Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

AWARD will nourish the African talent pool with a career development series designed to strengthen both science and leadership skills of women in agricultural research at three critical career junctures – upon completion of their BSc, MSc and PhD degrees. The competitive fellowships will have three capacity building cornerstones: mentoring, science skills and leadership development.

AWARD will operate in close partnership with several of Africa's agricultural research networks and the CGIAR Centers, as well as several of Africa's top universities.

The next several months will focus on preparatory activities, including benchmarking research in 20 to 25 African countries and consultations with partners, for implementation of this exciting and innovative program designed to significantly boost Africa's female talent pool for agricultural R&D.

The first round of AWARD Fellowships is expected to be announced in June 2008.

For more information please see:

AWARD Press Release:

English: <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/resource/AWARDPressRelease.doc>

French: <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/resource/AWARDPressReleaseFrenchI.doc>

AWARD Factsheet: <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/resource/AWARDFactsheet.pdf>

AWARD Job Positions: <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/about/vacancies.asp>

+++++

3.8 More newsletters

The GFAR newsletter is available from:

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/new/newsletters?contentId=17>

The CGIAR newsletter is available from: <http://www.cgiar.org/enews/december2007/>

+++++

4. ICUC-related information

+++++

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

+++++

4.2 ICUC-GFU merger task force takes up its work

Dr Rupert Best and Dr Mauricio Lopes have started working as independent advisors on behalf of the Chairs of the ICUC Scientific Advisory Board and GFU Steering Committee towards the merger of the two entities. Both had opportunity to meet the ICUC and GFU teams as well as a range of partners, potential hosts and donors during the recent CGIAR AGM in Beijing. They will now survey a long list of potential host organizations and hope to trim this down to a short list of 2 or 3 by the end of January. We will maintain to keep our stakeholders updated on the process.

+++++

5. ICUC network

+++++

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.

O P Pareek: I have been a student of Arid Horticulture mainly working on underutilized fruits almost all through my innings in India as Horticulturist at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur; National Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project of ICAR on Arid Zone Fruits; and Director, National Research Center for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner during the time span from 1972 to 2000. Among others, I have authored the books – ‘Underutilized Fruits and Nuts’ (IBPGRI, New Delhi Center) and ‘BER’ (ICUC, Southampton). After retirement from the ICAR in 2000, continued Emeritus research on *Prosopis cineraria*, the leguminous MPT that yields the edible nutritious pods. Right now, along with Dr Suneel Sharma, Professor of Horticulture at Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar, we are ready with an exhaustive and illustrated manuscript of nearly 700 pages on ‘Underutilized Fruits and Nuts’ looking for a publisher. My interest in underutilized crops continues.

The request: I will be grateful to be kept on your mailing list for informations/ publications, e.g. copies of books on underutilized fruits such as tamarind, annona, ber, etc.

+++++

Gena Fleming: I am primarily a practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine and interested in the nutritional, medicinal and ecologic value of underutilized crops. I have previously worked as a school teacher, creating a garden focussing on Native American Crops. Currently, I am experimenting on a very small scale with various species of Moringa. I also have a special interest in *Opuntia* spp. My website is www.plantbyplant.com. I am also U.S. co-representative for the International Organization of Biotechnology and Bioengineering (www.iobborg.net), which focuses on sustainable use of technology.

+++++

Jean Marc Leblanc: IFS Crop Science Scientific Programme Coordinator.

+++++

International Centre for Underutilised Crops, P. O. Box 2075 Colombo, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94-11-2787404, Fax: +94-11-2786854, www.icuc-iwmi.org / icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org

Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development