



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #61

22 January 2008

Dear colleagues,

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With best wishes,  
Hannah

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**1. Funding & Job opportunities**

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## 1.1 Agricultural Economist (Horticulture)

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. AVRDC conducts vegetable research and development programs that contribute to improved incomes and diets in the developing world.

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is a non-profit international agricultural research center in a worldwide consortium of 15 centers, supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Its mission is to improve the welfare of poor people and alleviate poverty through research and training in dry areas of the developing world by increasing the production, productivity and nutritional quality of foods while preserving and enhancing the natural resources base.

AVRDC and ICARDA are seeking an agricultural economist for a joint appointment to enhance horticultural research and development in the Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region.

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Key Responsibilities: The successful incumbent will be responsible for the coordination, management and conduct of research and development activities on marketing and agricultural economics aspects of horticultural systems in the CWANA region. Specifically, the incumbent will:

- Develop competitive and efficient horticultural product supply chain models for linking farmers in CWANA to markets through local, national, regional and global food chains, supported by quality assurance standard and certification systems;
- Design and conduct pilot studies, and develop/adapt appropriate upscaling approaches for successes emerging from the pilot studies;
- Link into existing training and capacity building initiatives for enhancing farmers ability to be reliable commodity-chain partners, and specially for enhancing the capacity of women in value-added processing and water use efficiency; and
- Develop and maintain databases and disseminate information in local languages on marketing potential and post harvest handling/processing of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, herbs and spices, medicinal plants that can be grown competitively in the CWANA region.

Qualifications and Experience: The applicant must possess a Ph.D. in agricultural economics or related discipline with post graduate research experience in marketing, preferably in the area of high- value horticultural crops. She/he must have excellent communication skills in spoken and written English and good track record of research, development, publication, and obtaining funding for research and development activities. Working experience in CWANA region and fluency in Arabic, and/or French are desirable.

Terms of Appointment: The initial appointment will be for two years with possibility of re- appointment. Salary and perquisites will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, and will be comparable with a regional position for agricultural scientists. The successful applicant will be based at ICARDA's headquarters in Syria.

Application: Submit a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, with names and contact addresses (phone number and e-mail) of three referees. Send to: Ms. Lilia Tan-Habacon, Human Resources Manager, AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, Taiwan; e-mail: [lilia.tanhabacon@netra.avrdc.org.tw](mailto:lilia.tanhabacon@netra.avrdc.org.tw); fax: +886-6-583-0009.

Review of Applications: The review of applications will begin 15 January 2008 and continue until the position is filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center is the principal international research center dedicated to vegetable research and development. Its mission is to improve nutrition and reduce poverty in the developing world through improved production, quality, processing, marketing and consumption of safe vegetables. For more information on AVRDC -The World Vegetable Center, please go to our website: <http://www.avrdc.org>.

ICARDA addresses two key areas of agricultural research: germplasm improvement (cereals and legumes) and natural resource management. The Center has a global mandate for barley, lentil and faba bean improvement, and a regional mandate for the improvement of wheat, chickpea and forage and pasture legumes. For more information on ICARDA, please visit <http://www.icarda.org>.

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### **1.2 Business Development Specialist**

The National Cooperative Business Association (<http://www.ncba.coop>) is requesting resumes and cover letters for the position of: Component Leader/Business Development Specialist for Non Traditional Agriculture/Non-Timber Forest Products.

The Position will be based in Tambacounda with frequent travel throughout Senegal. For more information click on above link or contact Vinh Do from Global Recruitment Specialists at [vinhdo@globalrecruitment.net](mailto:vinhdo@globalrecruitment.net).

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### **1.3 Senior Officer, CGIAR Science Council**

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CGIAR Science Council seeks a Senior Officer (Agricultural Research, P5) to provide technical support to Science Council and its Standing Panel(s), working groups, and task forces. In particular the Senior Officer will:

- monitor global, regional and national agricultural research trends, agricultural scientific challenges and agricultural science and technology policy issues;
- interact with global, regional and national agricultural research bodies, including advanced research institutions and private sector to support the mobilization of science related to CGIAR goals; and to identify opportunities for enhancing the collaboration and stimulating global research towards CGIAR goals;
- provide a critical review of the CGIAR project portfolio, reviewing the quality, relevance and impact of science and medium term plans of Centres and Challenge Programmes and highlight programmatic and technical issues for SC's consideration;
- organize external reviews of CGIAR Centers and Programmes, participate in resulting missions as resource person;
- prepare, analyze and review technical documentation (SC publications, reports);
- participate in the planning and organization of meetings of the SC;
- represent the Secretariat at meetings concerned with international agricultural research;
- perform other related duties as required.

Deadline For Application: 15 February 2008. For more information, consult <http://www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org/Vacancy%20Announcement.pdf>

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## 2. Workshops & Training Courses

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### 2.1 Training opportunity for emerging environmental leaders

[from Vanessa Meadu]

EarthCorps is now accepting international applications for training positions. Please consider forwarding this announcement to any junior staff or volunteers in your region seeking advanced education and training in the environmental field.

EarthCorps offers a 6-month training course in Seattle, Washington, USA that brings together emerging environmental leaders to learn the fundamentals of:

- Environmental Service
- Community Building
- Leadership

EarthCorps seeks emerging environmental leaders from around the world to take part in a six-month training program. This training program is ideal for the volunteers or staff of organizations that work with youth and the environment. Qualified partner organizations work on the following issues:

- Environmental restoration (ie. erosion control, reforestation, construction of hiking trails, stream-work, etc)
- Environmental education and youth leadership
- Eco-tourism and environmental business development
- Land protection and preservation

Earthcorps charges no tuition or fees for its services and in fact supplies insurance, individual homestay families, food, gear and a monthly stipend to all international participants.

EarthCorps provides additional support in acquiring US J-1 Trainee visas.

Minimum criteria to be considered for earthcorps:

- 4 year college degree and 1 year of work experience in the environmental field -OR- 5 years of work experience in the environmental field
- Conversational English
- Documented commitment to one's career field
- No Criminal Record

Deadlines and start dates:

- Applicant Application Dead Line: January 31, 2008

- Participant selection: February 2008
- Visa processing: March - May 2008
- Travel confirmation: May 2008
- EarthCorps Program starting date: June 3, 200 8
- EarthCorps Program graduation: December 12, 2008

To apply:

Candidates should be referred to EarthCorps by an environmental organization (i.e. NGO, community group or student club). Materials are available online at:

[http://www.earthcorps.org/join\\_international.php](http://www.earthcorps.org/join_international.php).

Please feel free to contact Mr Mark Howard ([mark@earthcorps.org](mailto:mark@earthcorps.org)) if you have any questions or concerns.

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## **2.2 Symposium on Environment and Natural Resources**

The 3rd Regional Symposium on Environment and Natural Resources will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 5 to 6 August 2008.

The organisers cordially invite scientific and policy papers addressing the symposium topics for either oral or poster presentation. Abstracts of less than 400 words (hardcopy & electronic form) in English should be submitted to the symposium secretariat by 1st March 2008. Full papers for oral and poster presentation should be submitted by 30th April 2008. For more information please consult the home page <http://www.ukm.my/rsenr3>

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## **3. Publications & Information**

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### **3.1 December 2007 update from the GFU**

A reminder that the GFU updates are available from their website [www.underutilized-species.org](http://www.underutilized-species.org).

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### **3.2. Outcome of Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas**

[From Tevita Kete]

Source: Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum  
Conference Success in Alotau!

The 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, took place from 22–26 October 2007, in Alotau, Papua New Guinea. The Conference was a key regional meeting of government agencies, NGOs, community based organizations, and donor bodies to discuss and develop a joint vision for conservation in the Pacific islands. The conference drew in nearly 400 participants as the residents of Milne Bay Province rolled out the red carpet for this important and historic conference event. Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare officially closed the meeting with words of encouragement and a challenge to appreciate the real value of oceans. The Republic of Marshall Islands will be hosting the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2012. This years conference proceedings are scheduled to be released in February 2008.

#### **Action Strategy for Nature**

Conservation 2008-2012 The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands (2003–2007) is the Pacific's overarching framework for biodiversity conservation. The Action Strategy provides a broad framework for conservation in the Pacific involving partnerships between conservationists and governments, the private sector, and civil society. During the five days of deliberations at the Nature Conservation Conference in Alotau, the Action Strategy was significantly revised for the next 5 year term. While the previous mission, vision and goals will remain the same, the 18 objectives and 77 targets have been replaced by 4 comprehensive objectives. A subtitle has also been added "Empowering local people, communities and Pacific institutions" to emphasize the overarching foundation of the Action Strategy. Implementation of the strategy is the responsibility of Pacific island

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countries and territories with the first phase of implementation targets needing to be set by governments, NGOs and others implementing the Strategy. The Action Strategy will be presented to the SPREP annual governing council meeting in 2008.

#### International Year of the Reef 2008

The ICRI International Year of the Reef 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them. All individuals, corporations, schools, governments, and organizations are welcome and actively encouraged to participate in IYOR 2008. The Pacific has embraced the 2008 International Year of the Reef and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program is coordinating the Pacific Year of the Reef 2008 campaign as their successful 2007 Year of the Sea Turtle campaign draws to a close. The Pacific Ocean is home to over 75 percent of the World's reefs that are now under threat. From 1968 to 2004, approximately 600 square miles of coral reef has disappeared each year. Since 1995, the rate of this disappearance has doubled. For more information go to <http://www.sprep.org/>.

Taxonomic Expertise Database With technical support from PBIF, PACINET now offers a Taxonomic Human Resource Database. This database provides a list of people with taxonomic and identification experience in the Pacific, their speciality areas and contact information. PACINET, the Pacific regional LOOP of BioNET International, is working to encourage Pacific Island regional experts and those with parataxonomic or vernacular taxonomy and identification expertise and skills to register. PACINET and PBIF hope that this database will strengthen collaborative regional taxonomic human resource use and capacity building.

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### 3.3 Ecoagriculture partners update

Table of Contents (for the full newsletter got to [www.ecoagriculture.org](http://www.ecoagriculture.org))

Testing Landscape Measures tools in East Africa

Launch of the Community Knowledge Service in Sri Lanka, 14 December 2007

Ecoagriculture Leadership Course for Mesoamerica convened in Costa Rica

Ecoagriculture Partners Staff participate in Knowledge Management Workshop

#### IN THE SCENE:

Ecoagriculture at the Science Forum of the CGIAR, Beijing, China

Global Natural Resource Forum, Oaxaca City, Mexico

Katoomba Group launches new website

BBC-PRI's "The World" addresses carbon and environmental services in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

Conference on Population, Health, and Environment: Integrated Development for East Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

5th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Alternatives to Slash and Burn Partnership participates in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 13, Bali, Indonesia

#### RESOURCES:

BIO-City magazine publishes article about ecoagriculture

Book: No-Till Farming Systems

Online tools for practitioners: Population, Health, and Environment

Report from IFPRI: World Food Situation 2007

Working papers: collective action for small scale producers and marketing

Book: Environmental Benefits of Conservation on Cropland - The Status of Our Knowledge

Technical review: Fish and Wildlife Response to US Farm Bill Conservation Practices

Report: Agriculture's Role in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Study: Opportunities for Avoided Deforestation with Sustainable Benefits

Report: IPCC Assessment of Climate Change 2007

FAO focuses on Payments for Ecosystem Services

#### CALL FOR PAPERS, PARTNERS, AND PROPOSALS:

Call for proposals on biodiversity: BIODIVERSA (Eragnet)

Call for papers: Applying Ecological Economics for Social and Environmental Responsibility

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Call for applications: Fellowships in Sustainability Science, Center for International Development,  
Harvard University  
Launch of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Second international Conference on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB), Galway, Ireland, 25-29 February 2008

Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program, University of California, Berkeley, United States, 27 June-19 July 2008

Conference: Applying Ecological Economics for Social and Environmental Sustainability, Nairobi, Kenya, 7-11 August 2008

International conference: Using Evaluation to Enhance the Rural Development Value of Agri-environmental Measures, Pärnu, Estonia, 17-19 June 2008

Events announced in previous newsletters can be found on our website at  
<http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/events/other.htm>

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**3.4 LEISA Magazine, Vol. 23, No.4: Ecological pest management**

As our magazine has regularly shown, there have been many positive pest management experiences during the last 20 years. As a result of a comprehensive IPM approach, farmers have been able to increase their yields and incomes. Many examples have shown a reduced reliance on pesticides, effectively diminishing their use. EPM has had many successes, but the magnitude of the problem which farmers currently face forces us to look once again at pests and diseases and at their management. This issue has articles describing traditional practices in India, how the push-pull strategy has been successful in Kenya, and how Farmer Field Schools for pest management have developed and changed recently. Read the articles:

[http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-details.tpl&p\[readOnly\]=1&p\[id\]=200554](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=magazine-details.tpl&p[readOnly]=1&p[id]=200554)

**CALENDAR 2008**

Would you like some LEISA 2008 Calendars? Subscribers received it with the 23.4 issue. If you would like extra copies, or do not receive the printed magazine, but would like a calendar for your wall to help spread the LEISA message and encourage colleagues to subscribe, write to us with a postal address at: [k.hampson@ileia.nl](mailto:k.hampson@ileia.nl)

**CALL FOR ARTICLES**

Issue 24.2, June 2008 **LIVING SOILS** Decreasing soil fertility is one of the world's major agricultural problems. All over the globe, farmers are complaining that their soils are "tired" or "worn out", and that their yields are falling. Reversing this trend, however, cannot be achieved by just adding fertilizers: healthy plant growth is dependent on the state of the soil that supports it (and therefore the importance of "feeding the soil, not the crops"). Please send us your stories! Deadline for submissions: 1 March 2008. Send your contributions to Mundie Salm e-mail [m.salm@ileia.nl](mailto:m.salm@ileia.nl)

**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.

**Issue 25 1, March 2009**

**ANIMAL BREEDING**

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,

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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\[fo\\_id\]=8753&p\[fa\\_id\]=237&p\[fa\\_seq\]=0](http://www.leisa.info/index.php?url=show-blob-html.tpl&p[fo_id]=8753&p[fa_id]=237&p[fa_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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### **3.5 AJFAND Vol. 7 No. 6 2007**

[from Ruth Oniang'o]

Dear Readers,

I am happy to announce the publication of the last issue of AJFAND this year: Issue 17 Vol. 7 No. 6

We continue to receive many articles, and of extremely good quality. We wish to extend our gratitude to the authors many of whom now send in articles of fairly good quality, and which adhere to our "Instructions to Authors".

The editorial for this issue has been prepared by one of our most faithful reviewers, Emmanuel Afoakwa of the University of Ghana at Legon and studying for his PhD at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK.

We have managed to reach our target of releasing 4 AJFAND issues in a year and would like to truly thank our friends from every sphere for their trust in us and for their tireless efforts. I know AJFAND is now moving from its infancy to greater heights. We expect greater news of achievement in the years ahead.

The articles in this issue are as follows:

- Fruits and vegetables moderate blood pressure, fibrinogen concentration and plasma viscosity in Nigerian hypertensives. Adebawo et al.
- Impact of school lunch programmes on nutritional status of children in Vihiga District, Western Kenya. Betty Musamali
- Changes in physicochemical and sensory characteristics of smoke-dried fish species stored at ambient temperature. John Daramola et al.
- Amaranthus cruentus leaf meal as a protein supplement in broiler finisher diets Part 1: Performance and nitrogen utilization. Ayodeji Fasuyi
- Amaranthus cruentus leaf meal as a protein supplement in broiler finisher diets Part 2: Haematological responses, carcass characteristics and relative organ weights. Ayodeji Fasuyi
- Determinants of food choices of adolescents in South-Western Nigeria. Funke Olumakaiye and O.A. Ajayi
- Awareness and use of nutrition information on food packages among consumers in Maseru (Lesotho). Salah Mahgoub et al.
- Proximate and nutrient composition of three types of indigenous edible wild mushrooms grown in Tanzania and their utilization prospects. Anthony Mshandete and Joyce Cuff
- Price transmission between supply and demand markets for cassava-based products: A cointegration analysis for gari in Enugu State, Nigeria. Ifeanyi Ojiako and Chuma Ezedinma

Let me, on behalf of AJFAND team, take this opportunity to wish you all a most Merry Christmas and a blessed year 2008.

With thanks and warm regards.

Ruth Oniang'o  
Editor-in-Chief

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### **3.6 New report critical of biofuel development - EU rethinks biofuels guidelines**

[from Vanessa Meadu]

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The Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science, released a report entitled Sustainable biofuels: prospects and challenges. The report concludes that biofuel development must be accompanied by appropriate policies and economic instruments to mitigate potential harmful environmental and social impacts.

The work points to the problems associated with tropical deforestation for feedstock cultivation, citing the Wetlands International/Delft Hydraulics work on peatland degradation in Southeast Asia. The report also notes that agroforestry practices for biofuel production could create environmental and economic co-benefits.

The report is critical of the UK's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), which comes into force in April 2008, which may not encourage truly sustainable biofuels. The full report is available at <http://royalsociety.org/document.asp?latest=1&id=7366> with a press release at <http://royalsociety.org/news.asp?id=7367>

Also, the EU announced that it would rethink its existing biofuels guidelines, and introduce a biofuels certification scheme with criteria for environmental and social sustainability. They also promised to limit biodiesel from palm oil citing deforestation in Indonesia as a major concern. "We have seen that the environmental problems caused by biofuels and also the social problems are bigger than we thought they were. So we have to move very carefully," said Stavros Dimas, EU Environment Commissioner. See below for the full article from the BBC.

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### **3.7 New labels balance nutrition pros and cons, give each food a score**

[from Tevita Kete]

Source: [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Anyone who's ever spent 15 minutes in the bread aisle of a supermarket trying to find the healthiest loaf of whole wheat knows all too well the curse of the nutrition label. The federally mandated labels, chock-full of useful information, are notoriously difficult to understand. Even professional nutritionists admit to having a hard time using the information to make smart food purchases. And even when shoppers do understand the labels, who has time to compare five or six or more loaves of bread - all before moving to the cereal aisle? A group of researchers may have a solution. Sometime next year, the scientists will introduce a new labeling system that they say will help consumers easily identify the healthiest foods in a grocery store - every product will be rated on a scale of 1 to 100, with 100 going to the most nutritious products.

The labels - called the Overall Nutritional Quality Index, or ONQI, score - will show up on about 40,000 products in Raley's stores in the Bay Area over the summer. "I've been counseling patients for 20 years, and I've seen the problems they face with real-life nutrition decisions. You need a Ph.D. in chemistry to find something healthy at the grocery store," said David Katz, director of the Yale Griffin Prevention Research Center and developer of the rating system.

Katz was part of a group of nutrition experts who met in 2003 under the direction of the U.S. secretary of health and human services to discuss ways to help consumers make better food choices. The panel never reached any formal conclusions, but Katz was inspired and left to form his own research group. With money from Yale's Griffin Hospital, he developed a new labeling system. In February, Topco Associates, a grocery distribution cooperative owned by independent grocers, joined Katz and offered to introduce the ONQI labels in stores belonging to its members. Topco grocers own about 13,000 stores nationwide, including Raley's. Katz's group isn't the only one developing a new labeling system, although it will be the first to launch one nationwide. Maine-based Hannaford Supermarkets, a chain of grocery stores, will begin licensing its labeling system, called Guiding Stars, to other chains sometime next year. The Nutrient Rich Foods Coalition, a group made up of food producers and manufacturers, is also developing labeling guidelines. At the same time, diet and nutrition experts are pressuring the federal government to create a single labeling system that would be used on every product at every store. Some nutritionists worry that multiple labeling systems will just befuddle consumers even more than they already are. Even now, between the federal nutrition labels, product marketing and brand names that promise health benefits, it's no wonder shoppers are frustrated and making poor choices, some nutrition experts say. "It's just going to be more confusing for the general public," said Jane Tien, a registered dietitian with California Pacific Medical Center. "I'm not saying that in the long run we shouldn't have one system. But I think the federal government needs to step up." Tien also noted that

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it's nearly impossible to develop a simple labeling system that would apply to every consumer. A person with heart disease would have very different nutritional needs than a family with small children or an older person with kidney problems. The concerns are not lost on Katz, who acknowledges that there are limitations to the ONQI system. Over time, he said, he'd like to create labels specifically for people with certain health conditions, such as heart disease or diabetes. The goal of the ONQI system is to distill the nutrition information already available to consumers into a score that is simple and easy for shoppers to understand. As it stands, shoppers are swamped with packaging and advertisements that scream "low-fat," "fortified," "sugar-free" and dozens of other healthy promises. There are times when regular mayonnaise may actually be healthier than the low-calorie option, or the full-fat organic peanut butter is a better choice than the "light" name-brand product, Katz said, but figuring that out takes knowledge and time. The foods most in need of simple labeling, nutritionists say, are the "middle aisle" products - snacks, treats, and popular items like cereal and bread that supermarkets display in the busiest sections of stores.

Shoppers can't really go wrong choosing between an apple and an orange (although, technically, oranges get the higher ONQI score). But the decisions are a lot less clear when Mom is trying to decide between Cheerios and Wheaties. (Cheerios win by a hair.) "If you're buying breakfast cereal you think is healthy for your kids, you have a right to know the truth," Katz said. "Even if you aren't eating healthy, you can choose to eat all the cheese doodles you want, but you deserve to know what it is nutritionally." Katz and his colleagues have assigned raw scores to about 20,000 foods. Those scores must now be assigned ratings, on the 1-100 scale, that will be useful to consumers. The ONQI rating system involves a complex algorithm that analyzes the nutritional makeup of a food item and then assigns a score that essentially divides the healthy elements - vitamins and minerals, for example - by the unhealthy ones, like fats and sugars.

Fruit and vegetables have the highest scores because they have almost no unhealthy bits, while sugared cereals and candy bars that have very few nutritional benefits get particularly low scores. The score takes into consideration more than 30 nutrients, including several vitamins and minerals, fiber, omega-3 fatty acids and bioflavonoids. Extra points are awarded or taken away for nutrients that have been proven especially healthy or unhealthy.

For example, trans fats can lower the overall score of a product more than the presence of cholesterol, because fats have been more closely tied to heart disease. Foods that have been fortified with extra vitamins and minerals can get some credit, but not a lot - that way a fortified sugared cereal won't end up scoring as well as a banana. How well the new labels catch on with consumers, and with food manufacturers and distributors, remains to be seen. The labels almost definitely will appeal to manufacturers as another useful marketing tool - which could benefit consumers if it puts more truly healthy products on the market. "Every manufacturer we've spoken to is doing something to address the need for healthy products out there," said Jeff Posner, executive vice president of Topco Associates. "Those that are already in good shape view ONQI very positively, and those in the process of developing products see it as a great opportunity. And then there are those that are making health claims and not telling the whole story, and they have concerns."

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#### 4. ICUC-related information

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##### 4.1 Publications available

ICUC publications are available upon request. Please check our website <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Publications/index.htm> for more information.

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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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Amin Kirit: I am a tree grower located at Vadodara in India. I do currently grow jackfruit.

Ms Lankika Nilmini Mallawaarachchi. I am engaging in Research on Under Utilized Fruits in Sri Lanka. Regional Agriculture Research and Development Center, Bandarawela.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development