



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 Grand Challenges Explorations

The partners for the initial Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, and the Wellcome Trust.

Creative, unorthodox thinking is essential to overcoming the most persistent challenges in global health. The first vaccines were developed over 200 years ago because revolutionary thinkers dared to try an entirely new approach to preventing disease.

The power of innovation is at work in countless other fields, from space travel to the Internet: now is the time to harness that power to save lives and improve the health of millions of people in the developing world.

Grand Challenges Explorations will foster innovation in global health research and expand the pipeline of ideas that merit further exploration. The initiative will use an agile, accelerated grant-making process with short two-page applications and no preliminary data required. Initial grants will be awarded multiple times per year at approximately \$100,000 each. Additional funding of \$1 million or more will be available for projects that show promise.

Applications for the first round of Grand Challenges Explorations will be accepted until May 30, 2008, with pre-registration required by May 15, 2008.

Each round of the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative will award grants against a set of specific topics.

In general, topics are chosen according to three major criteria:

- The topic fits within the goals and disease priorities of the Grand Challenges in Global Health;
- The topic contains a roadblock where radical, new thinking is needed for the discovery of an effective health solution;
- Potential projects within the topic are likely to be well suited for the phased structure of the initiative.

In addition, we consider whether a topic will engage the participation from scientists outside traditional global health disciplines, as well as researchers working in the developing world.

For Round 1, the topics are:

- Explore the Basis of Latency In Tuberculosis
- Create New Ways to Prevent or Cure HIV Infection
- Create New Ways of Protecting Against Infectious Disease
- Create New Drugs and Delivery Systems To Limit the Emergence of Resistance

Following are some tips for grant seekers wishing to submit proposals:

Proposals must represent an innovative approach responsive to the topic. There are other avenues of funding for the equally important research that is within currently accepted paradigms. Such work will not be funded under Grand Challenges Explorations.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. Ideas should be described in clear language without the use of jargon unique to a particular field.

Proof-of-concept for ideas need not be completed in Phase I. However, credible evidence supporting the validity of an idea, sufficient proof to warrant expanded support, and next steps for the project should be provided.

For more information, check: <http://www.gcgh.org/Pages/default.aspx>

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1.2 World Agroforestry Centre - Women's Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The World Agroforestry Centre recognises the value of developing a diverse and strong pool of research scientists, both for strengthening its own institute and for the increasing needs of the developing world. Whilst the overall low numbers of people entering or retaining research as a career provoke concern, what is more worrying is the gender imbalance. In many countries, fewer than 20% of science positions are held by women and interview application ratios are similarly low. To help address this imbalance the World Agroforestry Centre is establishing a Women's Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programme, with guidance from the CGIAR Gender & Diversity Programme. The launch of this new Fellowship Programme coincides with International Women's Day to demonstrate our commitment to recognise and advance gender balance and equity.

In order to provide immediate opportunities to women entering research and to retain women who have initially chosen research as a vocation, the World Agroforestry Centre is in the first instance committing US\$300,000 annually from its modest core budget to launch the scheme. It is anticipated that this amount will allow 4-6 fellows to come on board in year 1 as well as leverage additional future investment and interest.

Scope of the Programme:

Women postgraduates are expected to hold a Doctoral degree in a field related to agriculture, agroforestry, biodiversity, biometrics, capacity building, climate change, ecology, economics, environmental policy, forestry, genetic resources, geography, hydrology, impact assessment, institutional strengthening, land degradation, marketing, natural products, natural resource management, or sociology.

Women Fellows under the programme may propose various arrangements to be engaged with the World Agroforestry Centre including secondment from their current institutes, job- sharing, regular employment contract at our headquarters or being based at one of our five regional centres. The minimum term for employment is two years.

Women Fellows will be assigned a senior scientific supervisor, and be a member of one or more Global Research Project or Regional Teams at ICRAF. Women Fellows will be expected to undertake an approved research study which will include publishing of their results and presentation at international fora. The request from the programme for each Fellow should cover salary, benefits, transport, women's leadership courses, computing needs, office needs, travel and research expenses.

Whilst candidates will not be excluded on the basis of age or nationality, a preference will be given to applicants below the age of forty five years and those from developing and/or investor countries.

Process for application:

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through one of our five regional coordinators or six global project leaders identified in the application form. Their full contacts, general areas of interest and locational opportunities are provided in detail at

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/news/default.asp?NewsID=31292296-061B-4940-8399-9B55D0A0A6E1>

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1.3 Director ILC Secretariat

The International Land Coalition is seeking a forward-looking and results-oriented Director for its global secretariat, hosted in Rome by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development. The position of Director offers a unique opportunity to work with intergovernmental and civil society stakeholders for pro-poor land governance. Responsible for the development and implementation of a multi-year Strategic Framework, the Director has overall responsibility for managing the secretariat operations, programmes and resource mobilisation including major representational roles with senior policy makers at national, regional and international levels.

The full announcement download at

http://www.landcoalition.org/pdf/08_03_Recruitment_ILC_Director.pdf.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their application by not later than May 2, 2008.

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1.4 Ecoagriculture Partners: Communications and Outreach Manager

Ecoagriculture Partners (www.ecoagriculture.org) is a small but rapidly-growing international non-profit organization working to facilitate landscape management approaches that simultaneously enhance food security, support rural livelihoods and conserve the environment. Ecoagriculture Partners (EP) seeks a Communications and Outreach Manager to join our committed team by June 1, 2008, or earliest available. The Communications & Outreach Manager will:

- Develop and implement an outreach strategy for Ecoagriculture Partners
- Support other staff in program-specific outreach and use of knowledge management tools
- Edit and produce EP reports, publications and outreach materials
- Develop and manage content for the EP website, and manage and expand the EP listserv
- Maintain donor database and communications with partners and donors, in collaboration with other staff
- Organize outreach events
- Prepare and distribute press briefings and other media materials
- Raise awareness of ecoagriculture potential and EP activities among diverse audiences (agriculture, conservation, sustainable development and other sectors)
- Supervise program assistant and interns

Required:

- Excellent English writing and editing skills
- At least five years of relevant experience in communications and outreach
- Bachelor's degree with excellent record

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- Relevant experience in outreach through media or public relations
 - Highly organized, with attention to detail
 - Proactive, flexible and creative

Desirable:

- Fluency in reading and speaking Spanish
- Experience in cross-cultural communications
- Experience and competence in working in diverse teams
- Education and experience in international affairs relevant to ecoagriculture (e.g., agriculture, conservation, economics, policy, development); MA/Msc
- Experience with strategic planning processes and implementation
- Experience with software related to publishing, graphic design, databases, electronic communications, Web 2.0

Salary and benefits:

\$45,000-60,000/year, depending upon experience;

Health and retirement benefits, insurance, 20 days vacation, holidays

Please send a cover letter, your CV, two writing samples (max five pages each), and names and contact information for three references in an email with subject line 'Communications and Outreach Manager' by May 11 to Ariela Summit (asummit@ecoagriculture.org).

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1.5 BEF China: Forest Scientist in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning Research

The multidisciplinary Chinese-European DFG Research Unit BEF China (FOR 891): "The role of tree and shrub diversity for production, erosion control, element cycling, and species conservation in Chinese subtropical forest ecosystems" seeks to set up a new forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning (BEF) experiment in subtropical forests in China.

The objective of this experiment is to analyze the influence of tree and shrub species diversity on ecosystem functioning and services in one of the most prominent diversity hotspots in the northern hemisphere. Using a species pool of about 100 native tree and shrub species we will plant experimental forest stands, varying in both tree and shrub species richness, on a total area of about 100 ha. A range of biodiversity and ecosystem variables will be measured to assess community dynamics and its relation to primary productivity, carbon and nitrogen storage, nutrient cycling, and prevention of soil erosion. In addition, the experimental approach will be combined with comparative studies in existing forests.

The project will be carried out in a close collaboration between Chinese and European researchers with complementary interests and skills. The joint research will help to resolve one of the most central issues in ecology and global change biology: how plant diversity may be used to establish forests that stabilize the environment and maintain vital ecosystem services in the face of multiple stresses. For further information see <http://www.botanik.uni-halle.de/bef-china>.

The open position is with the Central project (Z 1), Position for a forest scientist (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden)

Specific tasks of the position

The responsibility of the forest scientist will be to supervise all steps of establishing the experimental forests. These comprise the following tasks:

- organizing and supervising seed collections,
- advising and controlling the process of raising more than 500 000 seedlings a commercial nursery. Establishment of documentation and quality control processes in the nursery for the purpose of raising the plants,
- advising on details of site selection and rental,
- keeping contact to local stakeholders and local authorities,
- supervision of site preparation activities, such as clearing of secondary growth, establishment of access paths and plot boundaries,
- organisation of tree and shrub planting and implementation of the experimental and planting design,
- supervision stand management such as weeding after planting.

This work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Chinese partners. Further aspects of the work will include the coordination of scientific activities on the experimental sites, supervision of Chinese and German technicians, organization of accommodation and transport as well as preparation of workshops. The scientific responsibilities will comprise supervision of undergraduate and graduate students, who will be working on the experimental sites, and the collection of data (e.g. recording of growth, collection of plant and soil data) and participation in the final synthesis of results.

Requirements:

The candidate should hold a degree in forestry and should have profound practical experience in afforestation projects in the tropics or subtropics. A Ph.D. Degree in Forestry or Ecology, Biology, Botany, Biodiversity Studies or a similar discipline is desirable. The successful candidate should further have profound taxonomic knowledge of tree species, solid skills in statistics and experimental design, excellent communication and organizational skills and fluency in English; knowledge of Chinese and German language is desirable but no prerequisite. The person must be very mobile and willing to spend extended periods of time in the field in China.

Place of employment will be the Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden in Halle / Saale. Payment will be according to the German standard tariff for public services (TvöD 13-O). Start date will be the 1st of July, 2008. The position is for three years.

Women are explicitly encouraged to apply to increase their share in science and research.

Application:

Candidates should send their application to Prof. Dr. Helge Bruelheide (Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden, Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg, Am Kirchtor 1, 06108 Halle; Germany; helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de; Tel. ++49-345-55-26222) by May, 8th, 2008.

Applicants should send their CV, a statement on motivation for biodiversity research (short summary of research interests, experiences, key skills, qualifications for the position), copies of certificates, list of publications, name and address (including email) of at least two referees.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses
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2.1 First International Jujube Symposium

September 21-25, 2008, Baoding (China): I International Jujube Symposium.

Info: Prof. Dr. Mengjun Liu, Research Center of Chinese Jujube, Agricultural University of Hebei, Baoding, Hebei, 71001, China.

Phone: (86)312754342, Fax: (86)3127521251,

E-mail: kjliu@hebau.edu.cn

E-mail symposium: ijs2008@hebau.edu.cn

Web: <http://www.ziziphus.net/2008/>

The First International Jujube Symposium (1st IJS) sponsored by ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science) will be held in Agricultural University of Hebei, Baoding on 21-25 September, 2008. The IJS aims at providing a forum for exchanging information among researchers and academicians as well as related businessman and officials. We sincerely invite you to attend the symposium. Let's try together to make it a great and historic gathering on jujube (Ziziphus).

Objective:

This symposium is to provide an international forum for exchanging of information on jujube among researchers and academicians as well as related businessman and officials.

Scientific Program-Main Topics:

- 1.General information (Present status, problem, advances, prospect, economy, market and etc.)
- 2.Germplasm and breeding
- 3.Molecular biology and biotechnology
- 4.Biology and physiology
- 5.Propagation and rootstocks
- 6.Orchard management and harvest
- 7.Plant protection
- 8.Postharvest treatment and processing
- 9.Nutrition and utilization
- 10.Science and technology extension

Discussion

1. Taxonomy and nomenclature of jujube (genus and important species) 2. International cooperation on jujube 3. The next symposium on jujube

General Information:

You are welcome to contribute papers to be presented orally or as posters at the conference. The format of presentation and the section will be assigned based on author's options and content. The manuscripts will be evaluated and revised by two reviewers, and acceptable papers will be published in a volume of the ISHS series Acta Horticulturae after the conference.

Guidelines for abstraction submission and specifications of scientific paper and poster are available on the web <http://www.ziziphus.net/2008>

Conference Date and Venue

21 to 25th September, Agricultural University of Hebei, Baoding, China

Conference Language: English.

Important dates:

Deadline for abstract submission: 30 March 2008 Deadline for submission of full paper: 10 August 2008

Conference secretariat

Research Center of Chinese Jujube

Agricultural University of Hebei

Baoding, Hebei, 071001

China

Dr. Zhihui Zhao

Tel:(86)312-7521342, (86)312-7521553, (86)312-7521456

Fax:(86)0312-7521251

E-mail:ijs2008@hebau.edu.cn or ijs2008@yahoo.com.cn

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2.2 Governing shared resources: connecting local experience to global challenges

The 12th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Commons. Cheltenham, UK, July 14-18, 2008.

The emphasis of the conference is the exchange of knowledge on shared resources or 'commons': between the developing and developed world, between practitioners and researchers, and between old and 'new' commons. The overarching theme of governing shared resources aims to encourage discussion on new ways of using, managing, protecting and creating what many understand as 'commons'. The themes recognise the wide variety of understanding over the term 'commons' and the need to link practical experience at the local level with larger global commons issues.

In many parts of the world shared resources or commons remain under threat as a result of global economic forces, regional and national political developments, and inadequate legal recognition of common property rights. At the same time the global implications of poor resource management are increasingly recognised in terms of loss of biodiversity, destruction of valued resource systems both natural (fisheries, forests) and man-made (irrigation systems), and global warming impacts. Some of the world's environmental systems are becoming recognised as 'global commons' that should be explored from a common-pool resource perspective. It is here that local experience may hold lessons or provide insights into problems of dealing with global issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss. How should we manage shared resources at the local, regional, national and global scales? What forms of governance are required and acceptable? These are the questions that the conference seeks to address.

In Europe some of the old traditional common pool resources are now being recognised for their high ecological value and the role they play in developing social and economic capital for local communities. Local communities, resource managers, and governments are starting to realise the multiple benefits that arise from communal approaches to the management of shared resources. In particular they may offer more effective pathways to achieving what is increasingly being called multi-functionality and there is renewed interest in preserving or continuing traditional management approaches.

The long history of commons management in some parts of Europe may hold lessons for problems occurring in other parts of the world and may inform the institutional and policy development of 'new' commons such as the global commons, knowledge commons and urban commons. On the other hand, the diversity of methods used in the developing world and innovative approaches to solving problems may benefit developed world countries facing new situations arising from changing agricultural policy, climate change, and the move towards sustainability.

We intend the conference to focus on the exchange of ideas between developing and developed world, between practitioners and researchers, and between old and new conceptions of commons. Policy improvements will only result through discussion and testing of new theories, approaches and new knowledge. The conference will provide a range of opportunities for those with the 'hands-on' experience of resource management to engage with researchers trying to understand, synthesize and develop new theories about the collective management of shared resources. We hope to explore these issues through a series of six themes that will link the different elements of the conference together.

Conference themes

1. Understanding the benefits of commons
2. Property rights: recognition, protection and creation
3. Community and governance: exploring new approaches
4. Analysing the multi-functional nature of complex commons
5. Evolution and enclosure of commons
6. Social movements, networks and collective action

For more information, check: <http://iasc2008.glos.ac.uk/2008themes.html>

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2.3 The International Symposium on Aromatic and Medicinal Plants

from 3 to 6 november 2008 at Nouméa

The International Symposium on Aromatic and Medicinal plants (CIPAM) brings together participants from french overseas regions and other communities. It was first staged in Reunion Island in 2000 then took place in Guadeloupe (2001), French Guiana (2004) and French Polynesia in 2006. It will next be hosted by New Caledonia in 2008 (5th CIPAM) before a possible date in Paris in 2010.

Objectives

CIPAM 5 aims to promote the understanding and beneficial use of the aromatic and medicinal plants of New Caledonia and its geographical area, but also of all overseas territories and regions. To include a topic specific to New Caledonia, a theme relating to indigenous (native or endemic) plants offering ornamental and horticultural development potential is included. The goal is to give impetus to research and facilitate cooperation between stakeholders and scientific community specialists, industrial and economic stakeholders, traditional practitioners and members of the Melanesian community in the areas concerned.

After the symposium, the information and papers presented will be published; a list of resource persons will be circulated; possible projects or production agreements could be considered or facilitated; scientific and technological cooperation arrangements will probably emerge. Lastly, the most up-to-date information on regulations and legislation on these plants in the Pacific, France, Europe and the United States will have been offered to all.

Program

The symposium will take place over 3 ½ days, with the opening at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre and 3 days of discussion at the IRD Noumea Centre. Attending will be specialist scientists but also industry professionals and traditional knowledge holders.

Topics

Natural substances of terrestrial origin and their bioactivity
Ethno-pharmacology
Fragrances and cosmetics
Tinctorial substances
Legislation on aromatic and medicinal plants and their economic use.

Research on traditional pharmacopoeias, medicinal plants, ethno-pharmacological approach, laboratory assessments.

It is relevant to state that the Pacific contains a major part of the world's linguistic diversity and that investigation proceeds by cultural regions as defined by language.

Guest of Honour: Dr. Jacques Fleuventin, President of the French Society of Ethnopharmacology. Plants containing essential oils, fragrant substances or terpenoids. The perfume and cosmetic industries are always seeking new fragrances, with research focussing on terpenoids and essential oils.

Guest of Honour: Prof. Chantal Menut, ENSC, Montpellier, Chemistry of Natural Substances. This cross-cutting topic is related to natural substances and their activity. Chemistry and biology are therefore essential tools for identifying the structure-activity relationship of bioactive molecules, especially those of therapeutic value.

Guest of Honour: Prof. Yoshi Asakawa, University of Tokushima Burni, Japan. Tinctorial Natural Substances. Research on tinctorial plants is frequently based on an ethno-botanical approach and the investigation of natural substances, many of which have cyclic structures or conjugated double bonds. This research is at an early stage in the Pacific.

Guest of Honour: Dr. Dominique Cardon, CNRS. Native Ornamental Plants. Plant genetic resources for the development of potential ornamental plants will be the main topic of this session. Relatively recent in New Caledonia, this theme is following the world trend of new ornamentals adapted to each region. It is also a way to fill the global market's demand for innovative products.

Guest of Honour: Dr. Margaret Johnston, Floriculture Programme, University of Queensland. Cultural, Heritage and Legal Aspects. The legal aspects of the ethno-pharmacological approach, the legal protection of traditional knowledge, intellectual property and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in New Caledonia and in the Pacific will be addressed.

Guest of Honour: Dr. Clark Peteru, Samoan lawyer and founder member of the Call of the Earth Programme, Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

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2.4 IV International Symposium on Tropical and Subtropical Fruits – abstract submission deadline

This symposium was introduced in ICUC-News # 60 (8 January 2008). The Deadline of Abstract Submission has been delayed to be May 15, 2008. Further information is available via www.ifs2008.info.

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2.5 International Conference on “Charcoal and Communities in Africa”

June 16-18, 2008, Maputo, Mozambique

Background to the Conference

A conference is planned under an IFAD-funded project, implemented by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), under the framework of the Global Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative under the aegis of GFAR which was launched in December 2005 and which has partners from the governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors as well as international organizations.

By bringing together African policy makers, stakeholders and international experts, this conference will facilitate the understanding of trends in deforestation and forest depletion due to production and use of charcoal in Africa and how this ever growing problem can be addressed to meet the energy needs of the rural and urban poor.

There is a need to explore possibilities for cross-border information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building, based on existing advanced technologies and adaptive capacities in potential recipient countries. Private sector involvement will be an important aspect of such interventions. The conference will provide this opportunity. It will also address the need for development of appropriate,

harmonized policy intervention strategies towards meeting energy requirements without harming the forest cover. This goes to the protection of indigenous forest, as well as the possibility to enhance regeneration and plantation of alternatives for charcoal production, such as bamboo that can be harvested annually without clear cutting, and similar woody biomass resources which also have multipurpose uses and therefore could become attractive alternatives. Importantly, charcoal production from rapidly growing renewable resources without harming standing forest, could provide the needed energy in rural and urban areas of Africa. Unlike fuelwood, charcoal also has the attraction that it can be stored even for long periods without degradation and insect attack. It can thus become an important means of ensuring rural energy security.

Distributed systems of charcoal production in efficient units (by rural communities) backed by the growing of woody biomass resources (by rural communities) and coupled with an efficient means of collection to secure adequate volumes has much potential for meeting larger scale industrial requirements and also for coal liquefaction to derive petroleum derivatives. Several countries are now starting to set up fossil coal based liquefaction plants, given the high prices of crude. While coal is the cause of considerable pollution and also releases fixed carbon into the air, an approach based on renewable woody biomass (and not forest trees) would be a cyclic use of the existing carbon dioxide in the air, and not add to it. If plants like bamboo are used for this purpose, given its perennial growth habit and annual harvesting of matured poles would still leave a substantial incremental carbon sink in place. It should also be possible to derive carbon credit benefits if surplus charcoal is produced in the manner above, and stored in appropriate storage areas, perhaps underground. Either way, the production of charcoal would contribute significantly to rural incomes, and if made into petroleum products, provide an attractive product in a suppliers market. Any move from coal to sustainable charcoal production would lead to a significant increase in rural employment and income whereas coal based systems would be rural-employment and rural-income neutral.

This conference is also important to understand that the production and marketing of traditional biomass fuels cannot only be stabilized, while arresting deforestation and contributing to ecological conservation, but that it can become a highly effective social and economic rural development strategy. The stabilization of the traditional energy sector based on charcoal essentially depends on the implementation of comprehensive changes in the wood fuels' supply system and chains. While demand management are important and need to be pursued-especially dissemination of improved end use technologies and practices – that alone cannot resolve the existing problem. The establishment of environmentally and socially sustainable charcoal supply systems can only be achieved through the introduction of integrated community-based forestry and natural resource management based programs.

Objectives of the conference

The objectives of this international conference are as follows:

- To understand the severity of dependence on wood for energy needs in Africa and globally
- To better understand charcoal flows, specifically
 - o To understand the trends in deforestation due to charcoal production
 - o To identify areas suitable for charcoal production not currently utilized
 - o To find effective and alternative sources of charcoal production, in order to curb deforestation and global warming, including the promotion of bamboo for bio-energy
- To propose possible policy interventions that can be carried out in order to secure the supply of charcoal to the low-income population and to mitigate adverse effects of charcoal production
- To explore the potential and facilitate technology transfer and adaptation
- To establish a network and create a community of practice
- To develop project concept notes
- To raise awareness and create interest among the donor community

Outputs of the conference

- Policy recommendations
- Plan of Action
- Proceedings
- Project concept notes addressing aspects of charcoal production and use related to :
 - o poverty reduction
 - o environmental protection (deforestation vs. sustainable management, carbon emissions)
 - o health (production and use i.e. indoor pollution)
 - o policy
 - o information and technology transfer/adaptation/adoption

-
- Network/Community of Practice

Conference Agenda/Sessions

The International Conference on Charcoal and Communities in Africa initiates a series of events covering fundamentals on policies, experiences and technologies on Charcoal production, sales and consumption. The conference will comprise the following sessions:

Session 1 Overview: current situation on charcoal production and use in selected countries in Africa – outlining the historical overview, present situation and outlook.

Session 2 This session will include presentations of charcoal supply chains from selected countries in Africa, problems, opportunities and possible solutions.

Session 3 Charcoal and livelihoods - outlining past interventions and existing experiences in the charcoal sector as well as its importance for the livelihoods of African communities and poverty alleviation.

Session 4 Charcoal and the environment – will include two sessions; one on Deforestation vs sustainable management that will highlight current situation and potential options to be implemented to make the sector sustainable and, another session on carbon emissions dealing with issues related to the emissions during the production and consumption of charcoal as well as a summary of issues related to the international protocols on climate change and global warming.

Session 5 Charcoal policies – examples from different countries

The main part of the workshop will consist of working group discussions on the above topics to produce project ideas, concept notes, recommendations and action plans.

Organizers:

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in partnership with National Directorate of Lands and Forests (DNTF) and Agrarian Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM) under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Format of Presentations:

The Organizing Committee welcomes submissions of state of art reports, research papers, case studies, Work-in-Progress Reports highlighting experiences during project implementation or Proposals for Future Research covering but not limited to the following topics:

- Charcoal enterprises
- Charcoal and communities livelihoods
- Charcoal production
- Charcoal policies
- Experiences in charcoal technologies
- Production and Resource Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Marketing and value addition
- Environmental awareness

Paper sessions will consist of three to four presentations in a 60 minute session divided equally between the presenters. Submissions for these sessions should include the name, department, affiliation, and email address of each panelist in addition to a description of the presentation and the title page. Sessions will be followed by discussions providing opportunities for all participants to speak and share their experiences on the topics presented by the key speakers. Paper sessions are providing introductions and background to the working groups on the session topics. Working groups will begin probably on day 2 and results will be presented and discussed in a wrap-up session on day 3.

Additionally, a variety of Posters may be displayed along the conference for their appreciation. The following supplies will be provided:

- Easel
- Tri-fold display board (48 x 36 inches)
- Markers
- Push pins
- Tape
- Round table
- Chairs

Important dates:

Submission deadline May 9th, 2008

Acceptance notification May 15th, 2008

Conference Language: the conference will be carried out in English but translations to Portuguese will also be available whenever possible.

Conference location

Mozambique is located in Southeast Africa, along the Indian Ocean between Tanzania to the north and South Africa to the south. The conference will take place in Maputo, the capital city, which is situated in the southernmost part of Mozambique. Often called the Pearl of the Indian Ocean and one of the most important cities in the Southern African region, Maputo, previously known as “Acacia city” due to the abundance of acacia trees used to shade the urban areas in the colonial period, is famous for the seafood freshly harvested from the sea and its friendly people. June is the winter season in the southern hemisphere, minimum temperatures range from 9 to 13 and the maximum between 21 and 26°C, therefore it is advisable to bring along a jacket and a sweater especially for the nights.

Link to the WebPage: http://ntfp.inbar.int/wiki/index.php/Charcoal_conference_agenda

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 UN scientists say industrial agriculture has failed

[from Tevita Kete; from the East African Newspaper]

As Africa prepares for its own version of the “green revolution” being championed by US-based foundations, a new UN report paints a gloomy future for industrial farming.

The report, titled The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, decries the current tendency to emphasise agricultural research into variety improvement, biotechnology and productivity, saying such research ought to be redirected towards addressing social inequities and environmental problems. It is also apparent that the report recognises that indigenous knowledge has something to offer to agricultural progress.

Most importantly for the development of agriculture in East Africa and elsewhere on the continent, the report cautions against exposing developing countries to unregulated international competition as is about to happen once the European Union and the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries adopt the Economic Partnership Agreements.

The report says that such competition is likely to have long-term negative effects on food security, poverty alleviation and the environment. The future of farming lies in making agriculture sensitive to the world’s environment, it says.

Prepared by a panel of scientists, the report was released last week during a UN conference in South Africa. The conference was attended by scientists and government representatives from all over the world to discuss the final UN report.

In his address, Achim Steiner, the executive director of Unep said; “Agriculture is not just about putting things in the ground and then harvesting them.” He argued that growth in agriculture has continued to depend largely on increasing use of social and environmental resources, which will determine its future capacity to provide for billions of people.

The report is the culmination of a three-year assessment carried out by several hundred scientists who have been taking stock of the current state of farming in the world. The report has unflattering things to say about large-scale commercial agriculture, which it claims has failed, and calls for a systematic reassessment of past and ongoing agricultural research, with a view to steering it towards addressing hunger, severe social inequities and contradictions as well as environmental problems.

If adopted, it will largely inform the future of global agriculture and could be the death knell of large-scale commercial agriculture. But though there is optimism that it will be formally adopted by UN member states, there are also fears that powerful Western governments might employ muscle to water down its scientific findings and tailor it to suit their interests.

The report challenges the basic tenets of the green revolution, which are based on the use of increasingly aggressive and expensive chemicals that seem to not only threaten the very soils they are

supposed to protect but also water resources, the air and even the farmers themselves. To the authors of the report, “the ecological footprint of industrial agriculture is already too large to be ignored.”

Owing to such radical thinking, it has come under criticism by the US, the World Bank, the global genetic engineering industry and other supporters of the green revolution who term it “unbalanced and one-sided.”

However, all those criticising the report were involved in the process of selecting the participating scientists and editors of the report.

The latter were selected by a multi-stakeholder bureau comprising industry, governments and international organisations, to guarantee a balanced selection of the scientists. The US is particularly criticised for crying foul allegedly because it was unable to handpick its own spin-doctors.

The import of the report is that it provides an opportunity for the world to debate the need for a fundamental change in the way farming is handled. That the future of agriculture lies in securing biological diversity and in adopting labour-intensive farming that works with nature and the people, not against them.

However, Africa is generally catching up with the rest of the world in embracing chemical-intensive agriculture. The report equates such farming to mining since it extracts as much economic value as possible from each piece of land.

It argues that while such farming may provide short-term gains in production, it is not sustainable and compromises the dwindling agricultural area upon which global future food supply depends. Besides, it fails to offer food security and a healthy, diverse diet to local communities.

The report is also an indictment on what some of the participants at the Johannesburg conference termed the “false promise” of genetic engineering. Without saying so, the report asks all concerned parties to support a real revolution in farming if agriculture is to meet the needs of local communities and the environment, restore the largely degraded land (particularly in Africa) and enable the poor to combat hunger, displacement and depletion of their resources and culture.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 Electronic discussion forum on underutilized plants

Following the International Symposium for Underutilized Plants held in Arusha last month, ICUC, GFU and CTA are now organizing an electronic discussion forum to follow up on the discussions around the four topics: climate change, nutrition, market access and agrobiodiversity. This e-discussion will also allow colleagues who were unable to travel to Arusha to contribute to the very rich discussions had in Arusha.

The forum will run between 21 April and 20 May. You can register to participate at the e-forum through: <http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cta/Underutilisedplants2008/index.cfm> and then register for any of the 4 themes separately. Paul Bordoni of the Global Facilitation Unit will moderate the discussion. Background information is available from the website.

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5. ICUC network

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In this section we introduce new and old subscribers to ICUC-News to encourage greater interaction and benefit from the great diversity of readers. If you haven't done so, please send a brief introduction of yourself and your interest in underutilised crops to h.jaenicke@cgiar.org. We will not publish your email or phone contacts and if anyone is interested to establish direct contact, please write an email to me.

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- **Bernadette Majebelle**, a consultant/trainer in Market Research/ Entrepreneurship Development with a focus in agriculture and poverty reduction. I am the Chairperson of a registered NGO -- Mandate AFRICA Foundation based in Dar es Salaam Tabora and Tanga regions in Tanzania. We are currently promoting wild tamarind in Shinyanga region with a hope of establishing a small processing plant. I got your contacts through your website when I was looking for information on Tamarind.
 - **Gibson Susumu**, I'm an Agriculture Teacher. I wish to be part of this org. in order to be updated with new information on underused nutritious crops.
 - **Thor Lawrence**. Agricultural botanist working as a technical editor at IG level, i.a. for Bioversity International and FAO. Worked a lot for IBPGR in the 1980s.
 - **Teodora Balangcod** a faculty-researcher in one of the universities here in the Philippines. I am most interested in working at the community level and one thing that interests me most is ethnobotany. Future plans include initiating food processing for underused crops especially in urban areas.
 - **Endah SR**. I am an Indonesian researcher who is interested in bambara groundnut. I have done research of bambara groundnut from 2003 to current. Hope I can share my experiences to this forum.
 - **Praveen K.Singh**. I am working as Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Plant Biotechnology Center, Rajasthan Agricultural University, India. My interest in underutilized crops is because most of the plants which suits to arid region are underutilized plants. I am working on orphan melons of India, faba beans, Capris spp., Ziziphus spp, Acasia senegal, Prosopis cineraria, Cordia myxa etc. These are the plants which are the backbone of the arid region for the survival.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development