



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #66

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Dear colleagues,

The past couple of weeks brought exciting news to ICUC: a project proposal that we developed together with BAIF Development Research Foundation, India; the Center for Agrarian Systems Research and Development, Vietnam; Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute, Vietnam; and Winrock International India, was approved in principle, pending revisions which we are now working on. This is a 3-year partnerships project, aiming to upscale learnings from our earlier fruit processing resource centers. More information will be on our website shortly.

Whilst our Task Force is visiting the shortlisted candidate host organizations for "Crops for the Future", we have now a draft Strategic Plan available. This can be accessed through our website http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Our_Future.htm

In this issue we are also advertising for a short-term attachment as Assistant Project Coordinator to help us get the above-mentioned project underway, whilst we are preparing in earnest now for the transition into Crops for the Future.

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With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1 Communications Director, IWMI

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a non-profit scientific organization engaged in research and capacity building activities for developing countries. IWMI's mandate is to improve the management of water and land resources, for food security, livelihoods, and the natural environment. Working with diverse partners and supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), IWMI seeks to translate its research findings into actionable recommendations for policymakers, resource managers and poor rural communities.

IWMI requires a dynamic director to lead its communication, information and knowledge division. IWMI is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka and has 12 offices in other Asian countries and Africa. Our work is of high importance to helping solve the world's water and food crises.

Duties and Responsibilities

The appointee will be responsible for a team of approximately 25 staff providing IWMI's external and internal communications, library services, publishing and data and knowledge management functions. These groups have recently been combined to streamline IWMI's ability to get its messages, research products and data services to as many users as possible. Whilst leadership of these functions will be a key responsibility, we are also looking for an individual who will be able to promote IWMI's research outputs to the wider international community using a range of available media. Managing internal communications will also be an aspect of the job. To fill the role, we are seeking an outstanding individual with media experience as well as an ability to contribute to corporate policy and strategy. The successful applicant will be based at IWMI headquarters in Colombo and report to the Director General.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Leading our external communication processes to ensure that IWMI's results and output are widely disseminated and potentially adopted.
- Ensuring all IWMI staff and partners are well informed of corporate policies, plans and actions via the oversight of an effective internal communication process.
- Applying knowledge management techniques across the organization, to provide rapid access to useful information for researchers across all offices and for external partners;
- Leading the development of corporate culture, processes, infrastructure and information resources to facilitate the creation and utilization of institutional knowledge;
- Promoting the knowledge agenda within and beyond the organization, i.e., knowledge sharing among researchers as well as among IWMI's partners, users, donors and other stakeholders;
- Oversight of IWMI's monitoring, adopting and information sharing and Electronic Media Technologies (e.g., content management systems, meta-data systems, data-warehousing, collaborative software, intranet/website platforms) within the organization and between CG centers;
- Building and leading an effective information and knowledge management team across IWMI. Via creating synergies between the Communications, ICT, Publishing/Library and Data Management Units.

Skills & Abilities:

- Strategic and conceptual thinking—Developing a strategic information and knowledge management plan for IWMI that complements its research agenda.
- Advocacy—Articulating IWMI's knowledge agenda and actively promote it across and beyond the organization;
- Project and people management—Overseeing a range of activities, and motivating people to carry out these tasks;
- Communications—Communicating IWMI's knowledge agenda, possess good listening skills and be sensitive to organizational opportunities and obstacles;
- Information Technology—Must be knowledgeable in Information and Communication Technologies and trends.

Qualifications and Experience:

A degree or higher degree in communications (or related area) complemented by significant management experience at national or international level including people management relevant to the job description. Experience in a research organization including scientific publishing and information management is highly desirable.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Demonstrated practical experience in corporate communications activities across the spectrum of print and electronic media.
2. Demonstrated practical experience in leadership and management of communications/public relations/information management groups.
3. Demonstrated ability and capacity to build and develop networks through which information can be released and publicized.

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4. Demonstrated capacity to assist in the development of corporate communications strategy.
 5. Ability to work as a member of a team.
 6. Highly developed oral and written communication skills.

Desirable

7. Demonstrated understanding of the mandate of the CGIAR and IWMI in the context of international agricultural development.
8. Experience of living in developing countries
9. An understanding of the science involved in water management and agriculture
10. An understanding of information technology platforms used to manage, store and retrieve data and information
11. Demonstrated understanding of the ethos and principles of the role of research and development in assisting the livelihoods of the poor.

Salary and Benefits:

This is an Internationally Recruited Staff position with a competitive salary and benefits package, which includes a housing allowance, transport, education, shipping assistance, annual home leave, retirement, and health insurance package.

Applications

The position will be for a period of two years with the possibility of extension. Please send applications addressing the selection criteria and including your résumé together with the names and addresses of 3 referees to: The Human Resources Office, IWMI, P.O. Box 2075, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Email: work-at-iwmi@cgiar.org or Fax (94-11) 2786854

Application deadline: 16th June, 2008

For further information visit IWMI - <http://www.iwmi.org>

IWMI is an equal opportunity employer and is keen to further diversify its staff in terms of both gender and nationality

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 International Symposium on Medicinal Plants, Their Cultivation and Aspects of Uses

We extend a warm invitation to you to participate in the 1st International Symposium on Medicinal Plants, Their Cultivation and Aspects of Uses, being held at the Petra Marriott Hotel in Petra, Jordan, 15 – 16 October 2008.

General Program

The Symposium will focus on new developments in all aspects related to medicinal plants. The program will include a Plenary Session with invited papers and Sessions with submitted papers related to the following subjects:

1. Cultivation of medicinal plants
2. Control of pests(insects, weeds, diseases) that attack medicinal plants
3. Therapeutic actions of medicinal plants and their extracts
4. Using extracts of medicinal plants as part of Integrated Pest Management Programs,
5. Uses of medicinal plants as food additives
6. Impact of medicinal plants on poultry and livestock

The full program will be available in July 2008

Note: The deadline for abstract submission is May 30, 2008.

For more details, please visit the website of the symposium at <http://ismp.bau.edu.jo>

Best regards,

Dr. Mazen Ateyyat, Organizer of the symposium
Associate professor of IPM
Al-Shoubak University College,

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JORDAN

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Fax : 00-962-3- 2164035

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2.2 International Symposium on Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Development in Mountain Forest areas

1. Background

Attention to forest ecosystems has increased recently, in part due to the pressing twin concerns of climate change and environmental pollution and work to improve them is increasing, particularly multi-stakeholder approaches to integrated forest protection and development. Forests in hill and mountainous regions are usually more fragile and subject to threat, but are often havens of biodiversity. In many nations, especially in those that are developing rapidly like China, hill and mountain people are some of the poorest and this impacts ecological system development in hill and mountain areas. We need to increase the capacity of hill and mountain peoples to promote economic and ecological development.

Systematic development of ecosystems in China and many countries of the world have generated many successes and have produced many new models that lead to win-win situations. In these countries and regions, forest ecosystems have been protected and developed, and the economics of mountain and hill communities have improved.

In order to share success stories, and learn from experiences, the "International Symposium on Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Development in Mountain Forest areas" will be held in Lin'an city, Zhejiang province, China from September 15 to 18, 2008.

2. Discussion topics

The workshop will discuss:

- Utilization, industrialization and commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products;
- Sustainable ecotourism;
- Appropriate use and development of water resources, particularly micro-hydropower; and
- Policies and other legislative measures in support of the above.
- And will evaluate their impacts on mountain forest ecosystem and livelihood development.

3. Participants:

Experienced experts, government officials, non-government organizations and related entrepreneurs who are interested in the development of mountainous areas are welcome to participate in the symposium.

4. Sponsors and Organizers:

The symposium is sponsored by Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST), the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the Department of Science and Technology of Zhejiang Province, and co-sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), Science and Technology Bureau of Hangzhou and the People's Government of Lin'an, Zhejiang Province. It is organized by China Association for International Science and Technology Cooperation (CAISTC), International Farm Forestry Training Centre (INFOTRCE) of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), and Lin'an Modern Forestry Science and Technology Service Centre, and co-organized by Chinese Society of Forest Ecology, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Network of Small Hydropower (INSHP), The Natural Conservancy (TNC), and Zhejiang Forestry University.

5. Time:

Participants who want to participate in the Symposium should register on September 14, 2008 in Lin'an city, Zhejiang Province of China. The indoor discussion session will be from the 15th to the morning of the 17th, while the field visits will be from the afternoon of the 17th to the 19th. Departure will be on the 21st of September.

Deadline for applications and abstracts of papers of the Symposium is August 5, 2008. please send the abstract of the papers to the organization committee. The invitation letters will be sent out to the foreign

participants by the organization committee on August 15, 2008. The formal announcement will be sent to the domestic participants.

6. Venue:

The symposium will be held in Hangzhou Qingshan Lake Holiday Hotel (Tel: 86-571-63735888; E-mail: qsh@qshotel.com) in the Lin'an City, which is 40 km away from Hangzhou. Participants who travel by air will be picked up at the international airport of Hangzhou by staff members of the Symposium. It is around 80 km from the airport to Lin'an. Participants who travel by train are suggested to take a bus from the West Bus Station of Hangzhou to Lin'an, the interval is 10-20 minutes, and the buses take the highway from Hangzhou to Lin'an.

The Lin'an City is near to Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou and some other big cities. It is the hometown of bamboo and hickory nuts of China, it is also an ecologically-civilized city, and the National Model Urban Forest City, a beautiful tourism city.

7. Fees:

The registration fee is 200 US dollars. Participants' accommodation, meal and local transportation are covered by MOST. Travel expenses to and from the Symposium shall be covered by the participants themselves.

8. Climate:

The local temperature during the Symposium will be from 15C to 25C, with plenteous sunshine. It is suggested that an umbrella should be taken during the Workshop.

9. Language using:

The working language of the Symposium is English. Papers and presentations should be submitted in English.

10. About the proceedings and presentations of the symposium:

Proceedings of the Symposium will be edited by the organizing committee, the participants should send their whole papers and presentations to the organizing committee before August 15, 2008.

11. Application:

Please download the application form here: www.inbar.int/Upfiles/20085511201408.doc

Please send applications to:

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

Coordinator: Zhu Zhaohua, Jin Wei, Dao Xia

Tel: 86-10-64706161 ext. 301/209/219

Fax: 86-10-64703166

Email:

zhzhu@inbar.int

Wjin@inbar.int

xdao@inbar.int

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3. Publications & Information

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no entry

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 Electronic discussion forum on underutilized plants

The e-discussion forum is in full swing. 227 people are subscribed and are discussing issues such as developing a scoring system to prioritize and screen species for generic studies on various subjects; the study of suitable market systems for niche products, and hot topics such as the need to compare

underutilized with staple crops when looking at the value of maintained agrobiodiversity. Join the discussion and sign in at <http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cta/Underutilisedplants2008/index.cfm>.

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4.2 Assistant Project Coordinator

The International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC), based at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), is currently in the process of creating an exciting new venture, "Crops for the Future", by merging with the Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species (GFU – www.underutilizedspecies.org).

Building on the existing experience, the mandate of Crops for the Future is the collection, synthesis and provision of information and knowledge about neglected and underutilized species with regard to their role in people's livelihoods and the environment, for the ultimate benefit for the poor and the environment.

We are currently finalizing the search for an appropriate host organization and plan to start operating at our new locations as soon as October 2008.

A new 3-year collaborative project in India and Vietnam, the Coalition to Diversify Income from Underutilized Crops (CoDI), has been approved in principle and is expected to start in July 2008 coordinated by ICUC.

An Assistant Project Coordinator is sought who will be appointed on a fixed-term consultancy contract initially until 30 September 2008, with the option, depending on the circumstances, to extend this contract through Crops for the Future.

The key responsibilities of the Assistant Project Coordinator will be to:

- Provide administrative assistance to the new "Coalition to Diversify income from Underutilized Crops" (CoDI) in Vietnam and India, which will entail in particular:
 - timely communication with all partners;
 - assistance in revising the project document, especially logframe and budget;
 - organizing and documenting a project inception workshop in Vietnam in late July/early August 2008;
 - developing a project website;
- Carry out background research for the preparation of Crops for the Future funding proposals, as well as drafting the proposal documents in close collaboration with the director;
- Assist in the development of a corporate image of Crops for the Future, i.e. creation of a new logo, preparation/design/printing of key documents; development of staff profiles;
- Collate information for and produce and send out a bi-weekly newsletter.

Key requirements:

- BSc or equivalent in communications with special attention to agriculture or horticulture, or related field
- At least 3 years of relevant professional post-graduate experience
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Proven experience in preparing technical as well as general-audience publications
- Excellent organising skills
- Ability to work and cooperate in an international environment is a necessity

Additional advantageous requirements:

- Spoken and written proficiency in French
- Experience in South and/or Southeast Asia
- Experience in international research for development settings

Remuneration:

Competitive remuneration will be offered. For overseas consultants, low-cost accommodation at the IWMI guest house can be arranged.

The office base until September 2008 will be at IWMI in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Some international travel will be required.

Application deadline: 31 May 2008 or until position is filled. Please send your application containing a resume and a cover letter, including your remuneration expectations and the names and contacts of two referees, by email only to h.jaenicke@cgiar.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

For further information, please contact Dr Hannah Jaenicke, Director, ICUC. Email: h.jaenicke@cgiar.org; phone +94-11-288-0193.

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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.

- Praveen K Singh. I am working as Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Plant Biotechnology Center, Rajasthan Agricultural University, Beechwal, Bikaner-334006 (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 sps., Ziziphus sps, Acacia senegal, Prosopis cineraria, Cordia myxa etc. These are the plants which are the backbone of the arid region for the survival.
- Ram Prasad Panigrahy. ICUC is an excellent source of information on horticulture. I am keeping interest in technologies that are applied in the field of Horticulture. By profession I am a Project Manager (Software Development). But as my passion or interest I have taken few lands for horticulture. The subscription to this ICUC Information would help me.
- Tameru Alemu (Ph.D). Professor and researcher at Hawassa University, working on diseases and pest of underutilized crops such as Enset, Cassava, Taro etc.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development