



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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

ICUC-News #67

3 June 2008

Dear colleagues,

In this issue:

- 1. Funding & Job opportunities**
 - 1.1. AVRDC-RCA: Communications Specialist
 - 1.2. Two Biosafety Fellowships at the ICGEB
 - 1.3. AWARD Fellowship Announcement
 - 1.4. Swiss research partnerships with developing countries
- 2. Workshops & training courses**

- no entry -
- 3. Publications & information**
 - 3.1. Ecoagriculture Partners May 2008 Newsletter
 - 3.2. More root crops sold
- 4. ICUC-related information**
 - 4.1. Overstory publishes article
- 5. ICUC network**

2 entries

With best wishes,
Hannah

+++++

1. Funding & Job opportunities

+++++

1.1 AVRDC-RCA: Communications Specialist

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. The Center conducts research and development programs that contribute to alleviation of poverty and malnutrition in the developing world. The Center is seeking an experienced Communications Expert to support its pan-African program on Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems for Poverty Reduction in Africa.

Key Responsibilities

Under the Supervision of the Program Manager and in close collaboration with senior research and support staff, the Communications Expert will develop and put into operation a communications and reporting strategy, to ensure improved communication between the liaison officer and program management, on one hand, and Regional Breeding Units and spoke countries, on the other hand and, to ensure increased visibility within Africa and beyond. Specific duties of the Communications Expert include:

1. Establish an effective communications system between the Liaison Officers and the management at the Center's Regional Center for Africa and between the National Breeding Units and their partners in the spoke countries;
2. Assist in maintaining an effective reporting system at the management unit in Tanzania and in the hub countries to ensure regular result-based reporting to headquarters, the Board of Directors, the Program Advisory Committee and the Donor;

3. Contribute to the establishment, continuance, and upkeep of the program's web page; prepare articles and publishable materials to be uploaded on the web page;
4. Develop in close collaboration with Communications at headquarters and senior scientists, scientific and popular publications covering issues pertaining to vegetable breeding and seed systems in the continent;
5. Formulate, in collaboration with headquarters, an extension strategy for information dissemination to the program's stakeholders (Public Sector, private sector, Community Based Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations);
6. Ensure regular updates from the library at headquarters on key literature for vBSS scientists;
7. Contribute in the preparation of annual review, publications, fact sheets and other documents based on the outcome from vBSS monitoring;
8. Organize workshops with the Liaison Officers to further disseminate progress reports and lessons to a broader development practitioner community in the region;
9. Provide communication materials and equipment to ensure the smooth running of the program's workshops and training activities; and
10. Provide technical input on aspects of communication, awareness raising and extension into the program's workshops and training activities.

Qualifications and Experience

- Master's degree in Communication, Journalism or Rural Extension with Agriculture background
- At least 5 years experience in developing communications strategies for multi-country programs in Sub Sahara Africa
- Excellent computer literacy, and good knowledge and experience in electronic/desk top publishing
- Strong affiliation with the rural sector and with means of developing awareness campaigns to effectively communicate with the rural sector
- Effective communication skills in spoken and written English, working knowledge of French is an advantage
- Wide networking experience with advanced research organizations in and outside Africa; public sector organizations and private sectors
- Ability to perform effectively and efficiently in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment

Terms of Appointment: The incumbent will be based at the Center's Regional Center for Africa in Arusha, Tanzania. The initial appointment is for two years with possibility of re-appointments. Salary and perquisites are commensurate with qualifications and experience, and are comparable with regional agricultural research centers.

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, HR Manager, AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, Taiwan; e-mail: lilia.tan-habacon@worldveg.org fax: +886-6-583-0009.

Review of Applications: The review of application will begin 30 August 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. Our mission is to alleviate poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through the increased production and consumption of safe vegetables. For more information on AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, see <<http://www.avrdc.org>>.

+++++

1.2 Two Biosafety Fellowships at the ICGEB

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is currently offering two biosafety fellowships in the framework of a new capacity building initiative focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. The ICGEB is an international, intergovernmental organisation conceived as a centre of excellence for research and training in genetic engineering and biotechnology with special regard to the needs of the developing world, and has developed a comprehensive programme on biosafety centred on capacity building and dissemination of scientific information.

The prime objective of this new initiative is to strengthen the ability of developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to fully integrate into the worldwide effort to assure full and balanced consideration of biosafety issues in pursuing the appropriate uses of modern biotechnology in agriculture. This will be

achieved, inter alia, by the establishment and staffing of satellite focal points of biosafety expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa to support local and regional regulatory systems overseeing the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The fellows will be trained, initially in ICGEB's Biosafety Unit, Trieste, Italy to become "Biosafety Specialists" for the focal points envisaged in Southern Africa.

Once re-located to the ICGEB-Cape Town component, they will orchestrate the development of the initiative from within the African region, responding to the identified needs of the governments, local authorities and institutions involved. This will include, inter alia, carrying out face-to-face interviews with key personnel in the region, as well as organising and implementing regionally-based workshops, and accompanying delegations from Sub-Saharan African countries to regional and international biosafety meetings.

The fellowships are for a period of 3 years with an annual remuneration of 24,000 Euro per annum, and travel to and from the fellow's country of origin or South Africa (whichever is most pertinent), as well as medical insurance for the duration of the fellowship, will be provided.

General Candidate Profile:

The ideal candidates will:

- be nationals from a Sub-Saharan African country (not necessarily currently based in Africa),
- hold an advanced degree (preferably a Ph.D. in a biotechnology-related field) and/or have at least two years of experience in the field of biosafety,
- have an acute awareness of regional biosafety-related issues,
- have experience in roles requiring consultative and analytical skills, for example, forming partnerships with individuals and organisations to enhance project goals,
- have exceptional written and oral communication skills, in positions requiring culturally sensitive communication with a broad and diverse audience;
- have demonstrated ability to work with flexibility, efficiency, and diplomacy both individually and as part of a team effort,
- possess highest integrity,
- be able to travel as needs dictate,
- preferably be below the age of 40.

An application consisting of a statement of interest (1-2 pages), a complete curriculum vitae, a list of publications, an English Language Proficiency Certificate (such as TOEFL, Cambridge Certificate or equivalent [non applicable when scholastic education has been conducted in English]), along with 3 letters of recommendation must be submitted, quoting the reference BMG/08/010 and where the announcement was first seen, to the address below on or before 15 August 2008.

Applications from women are particularly encouraged.

For further information contact:

Dr. Wendy Craig, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Padriciano 99, 34012 Trieste, Italy. Tel.: +39-040-3757383, Fax: +39-040-226555, Email: craig@icgeb.org

Send applications (preferably by Email) to:

ICGEB Biosafety Unit

Padriciano, 99

34012 Trieste

Tel. +39-040-3757320; Fax: +39-040-226555; Email: biosafe@icgeb.org

+++++

1.3 AWARD Fellowship Announcement

Available to women agricultural scientists from: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

It is my honor to announce that we are now accepting applications for AWARD Fellowships! The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program warmly invites applications from qualified African agricultural women scientists for this innovative and exciting fellowship program.

The African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) program offers specially tailored 2-year career development fellowships, available at three levels: post-Bachelors, post- Masters and post-PhD.

African women from qualifying countries and conducting research in the following disciplines are strongly encouraged to apply:

Crop sciences (including horticulture), soil sciences, animal and livestock sciences, plant and animal virology, agroforestry, agricultural economics, aquatic resources and fisheries, food sciences and nutrition, natural resource management and ecology, biodiversity conservation, entomology, agricultural extension education, molecular biology (applied to plant/animal breeding), and water and irrigation management.

The deadline for all applications: 18 July 2008.

Details and application forms can be downloaded here:
<http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/resource/award.asp>

Alternatively, you may write to AWARDFellows@cgiar.org to request a copy of the application forms.

For each of the 60 African women scientists selected in this first round (20 at each level), AWARD offers a challenging but rewarding package aimed at increasing her contributions in the service of fighting hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. It includes a series of career development resources designed to:

- strengthen science skills;
- strengthen leadership skills;
- enhance visibility and networking; and
- increase opportunities to share newly acquired skills, helping inspire the next generation of women scientists in Africa.

Please help us spread word of this wonderful opportunity to all the qualifying African women in agricultural research you know. All queries should be sent to: AWARDFellows@cgiar.org

Vicki Wilde, Leader
AWARD and CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program
Hosted by World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
PO Box 30677, Nairobi, Kenya 00100
Tel: +254-20-7224240
Housed by IFAD
via del Serafico 200, 00142 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39-06-5459-2731
Email: v.wilde@cgiar.org
Web site: www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org

+++++

1.4 Swiss research partnerships with developing countries

Research Partnerships enable researchers from Switzerland and developing countries to conduct joint research projects. They are designed to promote the urgently needed development of North/South scientific relationships and thus strengthen scientific competence and achievement of researchers and research institutions in the "South". Research institutes in Switzerland and developing countries are entitled to participate in the scheme.

The research partnerships are integrated into the general research funding of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and are thus open to all scientific disciplines. Applications for funding may only be submitted in response to specific funding calls. The funding scheme is a joint initiative by SNSF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

A new call for Research Partnership is now open. The submittance of the proposal has to be done electronically via mySNF before 11 July 2008. Access mySNF at least 2 weeks before the deadline here: <https://www.mysnf.ch/login.aspx?language=en>

Further information about the programme is available from

+++++

2. Workshops & Training Courses

+++++

- no entry -

+++++

3. Publications & Information

+++++

3.1 Ecoagriculture Partners May 2008 Newsletter

Ecoagriculture Partners Updates

- Launch of Landscape Measures Resource Center
- Linking sustainable agriculture to biological corridors: the Nature Conservancy and Ecoagriculture Partners in Costa Rica and Panama
- Ecoagriculture Partners evaluates biofuel opportunities from a landscape perspective
- Ecoagriculture Partners bids goodbye to Jennifer Nelson, Communications and Outreach Manager
- EP welcomes new colleague to coordinate our work on Payments for Ecosystem Services
- Ecoagriculture Partners participates in planning sessions for New Business Models for Sustainable Trading Relationships Project, UK
- Ecoagriculture Leadership Course for East Africa

In the Scene

- Launch of the Tierras Adjuntas Model Forest, Puerto Rico
- Talamanca learning exchange and leadership course, Talamanca, Costa Rica
- Green Infrastructure Community of Practice event, Washington DC, USA
- UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 16: Focus on Agriculture & Environment
- Ecoagriculture Related Events at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Resources

- Book: Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute releases Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization
- Special Issue of Agriculture, Ecosystems, and Environment: Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes: Investing without Losing Interest
- Rodale Institute offers online course on transition to organic agriculture
- The Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn (ASB) Partnership launches e-newsletter
- Book: Green Infrastructure – Linking Landscapes and Communities
- Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research launches website

Call for Papers, Partners, and Proposals

- Forestry fellowship: call for applications
- Kasipul Afforestation Programme seeks funding assistance

Upcoming Events

- Ecoagriculture Conference: Challenges and opportunities for integrating agricultural production, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction strategies in East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, August 25-28 2008
- 2008 Global Katoomba Meeting: Developing an Infrastructure Fund for the Planet, Washington DC, 9-10 June 2008
- Water for Development conference: Prospects for Integrated Water Resources Management, Zurich, Switzerland, 4 June 2008
- International EcoHealth Forum 2008: 2nd Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology & Health, Merida, Mexico, 1-5 December 2008

The full newsletter is available from:

<http://www.ecoagriculture.org/documents/newsletters/index.php?newsletterID=7>

+++++

3.2 More root crops sold

Here is an interesting excerpt from the Fiji Times, sent by Tevita Kete:
Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Market vendors have noticed a shift in buying habits which they think might be the effect of rising prices of manufactured and processed foods.

Vendors at the Suva and Raiwaqa markets yesterday said they noticed that all ethnic groups were now buying more root crops.

Raiwaqa Market vendor Anaseini Ledua said the demand for root crops like cassava was much higher than that for green vegetables. Ms Ledua buys vegetables off farmers from Tailevu, Naitasiri and Sigatoka.

"I go to the Suva Market early in the morning and buy from the farmers who come and sell to the vendors at the Suva Market," she said.

Ms Ledua buys one or two bags of cassava at \$25-\$30. "Recently root crops are in demand," she said.

Vendor Uday Singh, from Sakoca, in Nausori, also said the demand for root crops surpassed that for vegetables.

He said all ethnic groups now bought root crops.

Mr Singh said the demand for root crops might be the result of the recent increases in the prices of flour and rice.

+++++

4. ICUC-related information

+++++

4.1 Overstory publishes article

The Overstory #206, May 12, 2008 featured an article on "Underutilised crops and invasive species", by Nick Pasiecznik and Hannah Jaenicke.

The article is a bit long to include here, but I can send it on upon request.

Or you can subscribe to the overstory to receive it and future articles:

The Overstory is for private, individual use for educational, noncommercial and informational purposes. Send an email to overstory@agroforestry.net with:

- 1) your name
- 2) email address
- 3) organization (or brief project description, or your interest in agroforestry)
- 4) your location (city, state, country)

To remove your name from our list, simply send an email with your name and email address to overstory@agroforestry.net

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: We will never to reveal your subscriber information to any third party without your prior consent. We hope you will accept this invitation to sign up for this free journal.

The Overstory is distributed by Agroforestry Net, Inc., P.O. Box 428, Holualoa, HI 96725 USA Tel: 808-324-4427; Fax: 808-324-4129 E-mail: <par@agroforester.com> Web site:<<http://www.agroforester.com>>

+++++

5. ICUC network

+++++

In this section we introduce new and old subscribers to ICUC-News to encourage greater interaction and benefit from the great diversity of readers. If you haven't done so, please send a

brief introduction of yourself and your interest in underutilised crops to h.jaenicke@cgiar.org. We will not publish your email or phone contacts and if anyone is interested to establish direct contact, please write an email to me.

- Dr. Annamalai Muthusamy. Assistant Professor Department of Biotechnology Manipal Life Science Centre Manipal University Manipal - 576 104 Karnataka, India. Currently I am concentrating Medicinal plants and I would like to do the same in underutilized crops as well.
- Dr. Premendrasingh Sisodia, working as a SRF under the project title "Under utilized fruits" at Vejalpur, Gujarat. I want more detail and searching for above carrier and Post doc position or any other funding. Basically I am botanist and my PhD Topic is "Plant Inventory and Some Ecological Studies in Gir National Park and Sanctuary" At M.S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat.

+++++

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

Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development