



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #70

15 July 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 Second RIU Call for Proposals - Innovation Challenge Fund: Phase 2 Africa

Closing date for submission of Concept Notes: Monday, 1st September, 12 noon (GMT+1)

The purpose of the African Innovation Challenge Fund (African ICF) is to provide financial support to teams so they can take promising research, funded by DFID, to the next stage of use. The selected initiatives will contribute to RIU's purpose by delivering significant use of RNRRS and other natural resources research outputs for the benefit (direct or indirect) of poor men and women in different contexts.

The first RIU call issued in 2007 focused on target countries in S and S.E. Asia (India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam) and the response demonstrated that there were many entry points for scaling up RNRRS research knowledge. However the subsequent lesson learning study on the Asian challenge fund process indicated that, the scope of the call may have been too broad, creating wide expectations which the challenge fund was unable to fulfill. The RIU management team have therefore decided to focus the Africa call on two key elements which we feel are critical in getting research into use and from which lessons can be drawn for decision makers. These two elements are 1) novel

communication methods and 2) public-private partnerships which can stimulate the use of natural resource technologies and processes produced by DFID research activities for the benefit of large numbers of people.

More information on these focal areas and the context of the African ICF can be found in the guidance notes (available in English and in French).

The RIU Innovation Challenge Fund Africa will focus on the following countries in sub Saharan Africa: Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, S.Africa, Senegal, Mali and Niger (Total 10 countries).

Other countries in Africa e.g. Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Nigeria are involved in RIU country programmes under another RIU component –component 1.2- Enhancing Demand. To avoid duplication of effort these six countries are not the primary focus of the African ICF. They may be considered for funding where regional initiatives exist but we stress that in this call we wish to focus on the ten countries which have been highlighted above.

The guidance notes and application forms are available in English and French, although we kindly request that applications are submitted in English to assist selection procedures.

Any questions or queries should be directed to the RIU Grants and Policy co-ordinator Lucy Nickoll
L.nickoll@nrint.co.uk

Closing date for submission of Concept Notes: Monday, 1st September, 12 noon (GMT+1)

If you are interested in this call, please visit:

<http://www.researchintouse.com/index.php?section=5&subsection=15>

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1.2 Director of Diversification and Sustainable Intensification of Production Systems Program Aleppo, Syria

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) Aleppo, Syria
Re-Advertisement

The Organization

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). The CGIAR is co-sponsored by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With a staff of over 400 scientists and support personnel, representing more than 45 nationalities, 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. A major emphasis is placed on the conservation and management of land and water, and improved productivity of small ruminants in integrated farming systems in dry areas. The Center's research and training programs are implemented in partnership with national programs and, in most cases, with other CGIAR centers as well as advanced research institutes in both developing and industrialized countries.

The Position

The Director leads the ICARDA program which focuses on enhancing income generating options for the rural poor from crops and livestock, especially small ruminants, by improving and diversifying current agricultural production systems, sustaining the resource production base (e.g. conservation agriculture), increasing and diversifying outputs, improving the safety, quality and marketability of produce, and adding value through agri-processing of primary products. It aims to contribute to the development in rural areas of productive and sustainable systems that enhance nutrition and livelihoods, generate opportunities for rural agri-business development and increased employment, and conserve the resource base.

The position combines research with administration and reports to the Deputy Director General (Research). The position is based at ICARDA's headquarters and main research station located 30 km from Aleppo, Syria.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop Program strategy and research plans, and ensure the implementation of approved work plans
- Supervise the quality of research of the Program and ensure its dissemination in the international literature
- Prepare proposals for funding, and reports as requested by senior management
- Coordinate with other staff for capacity building in the Program
- Establish linkages and coordinate collaboration with relevant institutions in developing and developed countries.

Qualifications and Experience

Earned PhD in a relevant subject; a minimum of 10 years experience in agricultural research; proven record of experience in a relevant scientific domain; at least three years of international experience in a leadership position; ability to lead a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural team, innovativeness and experience in the developing world, a track record in donor relations, fund raising and project development, excellent communications skills in English. Knowledge of Arabic and/or French would be an advantage.

Terms of Appointment

The appointment will be for an initial period of three years, renewable thereafter on an annual basis. The salary is paid in US dollars. Benefits include housing allowance, paid home leave travel, a pension scheme, life and health insurance package, vehicle for business and personal use, and free enrollment for dependent children in the ICARDA-administered International School (KG to Grade 12).

Living in Syria

ICARDA's headquarters are situated 30 km south of Aleppo, Syria's second largest city. In addition to the internationally-accredited School, ICARDA runs a Sports and Social Club for the staff. Syria has many historical and archaeological sites, some a short drive from Aleppo. There are four distinct seasons and the terrain varies from desert to mountains to fertile fruit orchards. Major international airlines fly into Damascus and Aleppo

Application

Qualified applicants are invited to send:

- 1) Cover letter of interest (no more than 2 pages) highlighting the candidate's experience against the criteria listed under Qualifications and Competencies, including salary expectations and noting where the candidate saw the advertisement.
- 2) Curriculum vitae, with a recent photo
- 3) Names, addresses, fax numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional referees (they will not be contacted without the candidate's permission),

to: Personnel Services

ICARDA, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria

Telephone: (963-21) 2213477, 2225112, or 2225012

Fax: (963-21) 2213490, 2225105, or 5744622

E-mail: ICARDA-JOBS@CGIAR.ORG

Website: <http://www.icarda.cgiar.org>

(If sending by e-mail, please do not include graphics or other large file attachments.)

REFERENCE: quote RE-INT-P/0416/08 on the application (or in the subject line if applying by e-mail).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications must be received by 09 August 2008

ICARDA is an equal opportunity employer, and encourages applications from women.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 Second GL-TTP Workshop: Integrating Legume Science and Crop Breeding

27 and 28 November 2008, Master Congress Centre, Novi Sad, Serbia

[submitted by Colin Hanbury]

1. WELCOME

We are pleased to invite you to the Second GL-TTP Workshop which will be held on 27 and 28 November 2008 in the Master Congress Centre, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Grain Legumes Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP, <http://www.glttp.com>) is a not-for-profit organisation that bridges the gap between research and industry to increase the production and quality of grain legumes worldwide. GLTTP was initiated in 2005 by the EU FP6 Grain Legumes Integrated Project (GLIP, <http://www.eugrainlegumes.org>) to ensure the exploitation of the project outputs by the grain legume industry. Having a foot in both the research and industry worlds, GL-TTP is in an ideal position to identify the specific needs and constraints of grain legume breeders and channel the latest research results and technologies through an accelerated pipeline to the grain legume industry. Although both organisations have their own peculiar fields of interest, it is GL-TTP and the European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP, <http://www.grainlegumes.org>) that represent two great driving forces that work together on the same major task: mobilising the global grain legume community to the benefit of each of their members.

The Second GL-TTP Workshop is organised as a satellite meeting of the International Conference Conventional and Molecular Breeding of Field and Vegetable Crops (BREEDING 08), organised and hosted by the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops from Novi Sad, Serbia, and held from 24 to 27 November 2008 in Novi Sad, Serbia, with details available at its web site, <http://www.ifvcns.co.yu/breeding08>.

The Second GL-TTP Workshop is a continuation of the series open by the First GL-TTP Workshop Targeting Science to Real Needs which was held from 23 to 25 April 2007 in Paris, France, with details available at its web pages, http://www.gl-ttp.com/news_events/first_gl_ttp_workshop.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Second GL-TTP Workshop is to meet the needs of grain legume breeders, with focus on the further exploitation of existing genetic resources and specific use and integration of currently available genomic resources and molecular technologies into breeding practice. The outputs of the recently ended EU FP6 Grain Legumes Integrated Project (GLIP) will provide the major basis for the discussions. Among the organisers' intentions is to make fruitful links of grain legumes with soyabean and forage legume research and breeding communities, as well as to make an attempt to integrate a deep theoretic knowledge on broad spectrum of legume species with practical application in the breeding process and with a final output in the form of the development of novel varieties that would meet diverse needs by farmers and other end-users.

3. AUDIENCE

The anticipated audience of the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be composed primarily of the GL-TTP members, both fundamental researchers and legume breeders, with the first ones interested in interacting with industry and setting up partnership for future Research and Development and with the latter ones eager to embrace new technologies and set up international networks to optimise the exploitation of available genetic resources. The Second GL-TTP Workshop will be open to non-GL-TTP members too, keen on learning more about GL-TTP activities and legume science in general or simply interested in listening to and discussing with some of our renowned guest contributors.

4. COMMITTEES

Initial Programme Committee

Anne-Marie Bochar, Limagrain, Riom, France

Noel Ellis, John Innes Centre, Norwich, United Kingdom

Aleksandar Mikić, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Petr Smýkal, Agritec Plant Research Ltd., Šumperk, Czech Republic

Tom Warkentin, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

Local Organising Committee

Branko Čupina, Faculty of Agriculture, Novi Sad, Serbia

Borislav Kobiljski, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Vojislav Mihailović, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Aleksandar Mikić, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Dragana Miladinović, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Jegor Miladinović, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Nevena Nagl, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Mirjana Vasić, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia
Sanja Vasiljević, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

5. PROGRAMME

The Second GL-TTP Workshop will be the occasion to present the latest progress on grain and other legumes breeding and breeding-related research. As defined by the outputs of the First GL-TTP Workshop, among the main topics of the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be:

- Plant breeders' needs and interests;
- Progress in tools assisting applied crop breeding: genomics-assisted breeding, new molecular and tissue culture technologies, new genetic resources and molecular markers to assist breeding;
- Short-term transfer, such as transfer of seeds of interest and application of available markers;
- Middle-term transfer, such as development and validation of molecular markers for marker-assisted selection;
- Longer term transfer, such as generation of near-isogenic lines of current elite breeding lines by marker-assisted introgression of traits of agronomic interest from new genetic resources, validation of candidate genes from model to crop, analysis of allelic diversity and development of perfect markers.

Apart from the Second GL-TTP Workshop itself, there will also be held the GL-TTP General Assembly, aiming at an active, efficient and fruitful exchange of the views on the GL-TTP activities today and tomorrow. It is rather certain that among the invited speakers of the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be those who deal with soyabean and forage legumes, what should strongly encourage the other researchers dealing with these crops to participate actively in the event. The detailed programme of the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be available in the Third Announcement.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS

All participants of the Second GL-TTP Workshop are kindly invited to submit their contributions that will be published in the Book of Abstracts. If approved by authors, all oral and poster presentations will be available at the GL-TTP web site and on a CD after the conference. The Programme Committee will select the most appropriate contributions to be presented orally, while others will be presented as posters. The abstracts should be prepared according to the instructions and the sample (2glttpw_abstract_instructions.pdf and 2glttpw_abstract_example.doc). The abstracts are submitted electronically to the workshop address, 2glttpw@gmail.com.

The deadline for the abstract submission is September 1.

7. VENUE AND ACCOMODATION

All relevant information on how to come to Serbia and reach Novi Sad, as well as on the exact place where the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be held, may be found at BREEDING 08 web site, <http://www.ifvcns.co.yu/breeding08>. All the participants of the Second GL-TTP Workshop will be able to use the services engaged for BREEDING 08 and thus have solved the issues of both transport within Serbia and accommodation in Novi Sad.

9. SOCIAL EVENT

The Second GL-TTP Workshop dinner will take place on Friday, November 28, at a price of 35 €. The dinner fee can be pay individually at the registration desk before the beginning of the workshop on Thursday, November 27.

10. REGISTRATION

All participants of the Second GL-TTP Workshop are kindly asked to register in two steps:
First step: pre-registration, in order to get rough information on the number and interest of the workshop participants, by August 1;
Second step: full registration, until September 1.

The participants of the Second GL-TTP Workshop are invited to pre-register by returning the filled pre-registration form (2glttpw_preregistration_form.doc) to the workshop address, 2glttpw@gmail.com. Although there is no a strict deadline for the pre-registration, we kindly ask the participants to do it by August 1, in order to facilitate diverse organisational issues.

The full registration form will be distributed to the pre-registered and all targeted participants of the Second GL-TTP Workshop together with the Third Announcement. The deadline for full registration is scheduled for September 1.

The registration fee for the Second GL-TTP Workshop is 250 €. The GL-TTP members do not pay the registration fee for the Second GL-TTP Workshop. The non-GL-TTP members can participate in the Second GL-TTP Workshop if they pay the registration fee of 250 €. This will automatically provide them with the GL-TTP membership in 2008 and they are kindly asked to return the filled GLTTP application form for 2008 (glttp_application_form_2008.doc) to the GL-TTP official address, contact@gl-ttp.com.

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 CAPRi working papers on collective action

CAPRi have just published the first set of papers from their collaborative project on Collective Action and Property Rights for Poverty Reduction:

CAPRi Working Paper 81

Property Rights, Collective Action, and Poverty: The Role of Institutions for Poverty Reduction by Monica Di Gregorio, Konrad Hagedorn, Michael Kirk, Benedikt Korf, Nancy McCarthy, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, and Brent Swallow: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp81.asp>

CAPRi Working Paper 82

Collective action and property rights for poverty reduction: A review of methods and approaches by Esther Mwangi and Helen Markelova: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp82.asp>

CAPRi Working Paper 83

Collective Action and Vulnerability: Burial Societies in Rural Ethiopia by Stefan Dercon, John Hoddinott, Pramila Krishnan, and Tassew Woldehannam: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp83.asp>

CAPRi Working Paper 84

Shocks, Groups, and Networks in Bukidnon, Philippines by Agnes R. Quisumbing, Scott McNiven, and Marie Godquin: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp84.asp>

CAPRi Working Paper 85

Community Watershed Management in Semi-Arid India: The State of Collective Action and its Effects on Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods by Bekele Shiferaw, Tewodros Kebede, and V. Ratna Reddy: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp85.asp>

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3.2. Phytotrade receives Novel Foods approval for baobab products

Press release dated 3 July 2008

Move over goji berries, here comes Baobab!

The fruit pulp of the African Baobab tree is set to be the latest nutritious and exotic ingredient to hit supermarket shelves, following Novel Foods approval by the European Commission.

PhytoTrade Africa, a trade organisation that promotes fair and ethical trade, and represents tens of thousands of rural southern African producers, brought the application in 2006 and now predicts a surge in demand for the ingredient.

'Baobab fruit pulp is an ideal ingredient for cereal bars and smoothies,' said Cyril Lombard, Market Development Manager of PhytoTrade Africa.

'It has excellent nutritional benefits for the consumers, offering manufacturers a new opportunity to target the growing market for healthy, natural and Fair Trade foods, while being an easy, adaptable and cost effective ingredient to work with'.

The iconic Baobab – commonly known as the “upside down tree” and familiar to anyone who has watched an African wildlife documentary - is a common feature of the landscape in southern Africa.

Its fruit has been shown to have an exceptionally high Vitamin C content, up to three times that of oranges; only 10 grams can supply a quarter of the recommended daily Vitamin C intake. Baobab is also high in anti-oxidants (over 10 times the level of oranges), natural fibre (pectins) and is an excellent source of calcium and iron.

African people call Baobab “the tree of life” and have long used its fruit pulp to make refreshing drinks and as a baking ingredient. It is also a traditional food for pregnant women and children due to its high calcium content.

The optimum level of Baobab pulp in products such as smoothies and cereal bars is between five and ten per cent as determined by preliminary work by Leatherhead Food International.

Other uses are expected to include biscuits and confectionery, as well as fruit juices and sports beverages.

Following Novel Foods approval, PhytoTrade Africa will be focusing resources on supporting the development of the supply chain and production capacity to meet European industry demand.

‘Approval for Baobab is fantastic news for Africa,’ said Lombard. ‘Opening up the European market to this product will make a real difference to poor rural communities there, offering them a potentially life-changing source of income.’

A recent report by Ben Bennett of the UK’s Natural Resources Institute found that sustainable wild harvesting of Baobab fruit could generate trade worth up to US\$1 billion a year for African producers.

-ends-

For further information contact:
Mark McKenzie, PhytoTrade Africa, London
07986 175104 mark@phytotradeafrica.com

Lucy Welford, PhytoTrade Africa, Cape Town
Phone +27 21 790 5707 Mobile +27 763 750220 lucy@phytotradeafrica.com
PhytoTrade Africa: www.phytotradeafrica.com

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3.3 Request for Post-doc position

[sent by Premendrasingh Sisodia]

I am working as SRF in Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Vejalpur, Godhra, Gujarat (India). This station works in the field of vegetable crops, fruit crops, entomology, plant protection, agroforestry and soil science. Basically I am botanist; I have done my Ph.D in the field of Botany and my Ph.D title is "Plant Inventory and Some Ecological Studies in Gir National Park and Sanctuary". It is well-known for last gene pool of Asiatic Lion. I am very much interested in the underutilized fruits because of my project on underutilized fruits of arid and semi-arid regions. We work on the fruit crop like rayan (*Manilkara hexendra*), karonda (*Carissa congesta*), mahuva (*Maduca indica*), charoli (*Buchnania lanzen*) and jamun (*Syzygium* sp.). If am get any fellowship regarding Ph.D/Post Doc than I want to apply for that or if you know any person or scientist they can hire me for fellowship. Please give me the detail or any reference, please send me on my email ID. I will also send my CV for your kind information or you can forward my CV to any scientist worked on this aspects.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,

Premendrasingh Sisodia,

Cental Horticultural Experiment Station, Godhra-Vadodara High way, Vejalpur, Godhra-389340 Gujarat (India) My ID: premendraches@yahoo.com.

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3.4 ASB launches its new and improved news site

[from Vanessa Meadu]

We are pleased to announce that the ASB Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins has launched a new and improved news service at <http://www.asb.cgiar.org/blog>

As the only global partnership devoted entirely to research on the tropical forest margins, ASB's goal is to raise productivity and income of rural households in the humid tropics without increasing deforestation or undermining essential environmental services.

Highlights

The site features news relating to our research on land use, livelihoods and environmental services in the tropical forest margins, including news about and from the partnership, publications, opinion pieces and an events calendar. We also cover stories that touch on carbon markets, climate change negotiations, and current debates.

Interact with us!

We welcome you to share relevant news, publications and events with us, by sending them to <mailto:asb@cgiar.org>. The new site is also an interactive forum where you can react to articles and post your comments.

Stay current!

An easy way to keep current on the items we post is to subscribe to our RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/asbblog>. If you're new to RSS, you can learn more at http://www.asb.cgiar.org/rss_explained.htm

As a member of our listserv, you will continue to receive updates highlighting the best stories from the month via our E-Newsletter (<http://www.asb.cgiar.org/newsletter/default.asp>). But now you can visit the site and search or browse through our categories to find the news you need!

We look forward to your feedback and hope you will share this resource with your colleagues.

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3.5 New publications: **Plant Biotechnology. Methods in Tissue Culture and Gene Transfer**

Edited by R Keshavachandran and KV Peter; Foreword by MS Swaminathan
University Press, Hyderabad (a constituent of Orient and Longman). Paperback, Price INR300.00

There is growing demand for more food crops. Agricultural yield is however challenged by two concerns: availability of arable land and reduced water resources for irrigation. Biotechnology offers several tools that can be used appropriately for sustainable agriculture. Recent advances in molecular biology and recombinant DNA technology can make increased production and pest resistant crops with increased nutritive value a reality. The book has 21 chapters contributed by eminent scientists from all over the country. It discusses the various techniques and aspects of biotechnology that can bring about crop improvement. The book will be useful for all undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers studying plant biotechnology.

Dr R Keshavachandran is Professor, Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, and Coordinator, Bioinformatics Centre, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

KV Peter is Professor of Horticulture and Former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 ICUC signs Memorandum with CASRAD, CARP

ICUC signed memoranda for collaborative activities with the Vietnam Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development (CASRAD) on 3 July 2008 and with the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) on 10 July 2008. We look forward to closer collaboration with the colleagues from these two organisations.

4.2 ICUC coordinates new Coalition to Diversify Income from Underused Crops

We are pleased to announce the start of a new collaborative project “Coalition to Diversify Income from Underused Crops” (CoDI) in which ICUC collaborates with BAIF Development Research Foundation, India; Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development, Vietnam; Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute, Vietnam; and Winrock International India. The 3-year project is funded by DFID’s Research Into Use Programme (RIUP).

The aim of the project is to provide community services for production, postharvest and marketing to help disadvantaged people in India and Vietnam to have better access to the market so that they will be able to generate sustainable income and have more options for better land husbandry.

At the core of our initiative are Food Processing Parks, where people will come for training, information and business development services, processing, grading and other post-harvest activities and for wider support on available market opportunities, credit advice and links to other value chain actors at local, national and international levels. The Parks will be set up by the project but ultimately run and managed by the communities.

Backing up this initiative we will organize regular Village Crop Fairs, during which local fruits and plants will be evaluated and superior germplasm selected by the communities. This material will then be propagated for further distribution and sale in Community Germplasm Orchards (nurseries) which will also serve as training grounds for plant propagation and nursery management skills. This project will thus provide sustainable empowerment—especially of women and tribal communities—and income generation at a significant scale.

Annual Knowledge Fairs are a major element of our communication strategy and will be organized in each country to communicate and discuss our experience with wider stakeholders from the public and private sector, in addition to audio-visual and IT information and training materials which we will develop.

In this project, we build upon in-depth experience by each of the partners: in India on integrated rural development, especially for tribal and marginalized farm communities; in Vietnam on making markets work for the poor by facilitating links between rural cooperatives and urban super-markets. Here the project will focus on women farmers who form the majority of vegetable and traditional crops producers in an increasing urban environment where many men move to the towns for off-farm employment.

The project is set up so that we will be able to monitor impact on the beneficiaries’ household income and skills development as well as related parameters. This solid monitoring and learning component allows us to contribute to broader efforts to develop mechanisms to spot ‘future winners’ already at early project development stage, an important issue for any investor. Thus our project has wider relevance than the immediate countries involved.

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4.3 ICUC coordinates activity to optimize CGIAR contribution on conservation and sustainable use of underutilized PGR

With the departure of Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon from the GFU, ICUC has taken over with effect of 1 June 2008 the coordination of activity 5.3: “Optimise the CGIAR’s contribution to global efforts on the conservation and sustainable use of underutilized plant genetic resources” within the World Bank-funded project “Collective Action for the Rehabilitation of Global Public Goods in the CGIAR Genetic Resources System: Phase 2” (GPG2) which is coordinated through the Bioversity International-based System-wide Plant Genetic Resources Programme.

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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.

- My name is Mr. Feysal Bushira, from Ethiopia, Haramaya University lecturer. I have MSc in Horticulture Sciences. I have a great interest about the underutilized crops all round especially during this time when the stable food crops prices is alarmingly boosting.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development