



The International Centre for  
Underutilised Crops

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# ICUC-News #71

29 July 2008

Dear colleagues,

With this issue I hand over the editing of ICUC News – at least temporarily – to Nick Pasiecznik who has joined ICUC for the next several months. He's already contributed to this issue by adding several of the interesting publications in section 3.

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With best wishes,  
Hannah

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**1. Funding & Job opportunities**  
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## **1.1 Junior Professional Fellowship/ Programme Associate, Sustainable Development Governance Programme, Japan**

UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)  
Reference Number: 2008/SDG JPFPA  
Duty Station: Yokohama, Japan  
Application Deadline: 1 August 2008  
Expected start date: as soon as possible

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UNU-IAS Objectives: The UNU-IAS, one of the premier research and training centres of the United Nations University located in Yokohama, Japan, was officially inaugurated in April 1996. Its programme is directed at addressing issues of global concern to the United Nations with an interdisciplinary approach. Since 2002, the Institute has shifted toward a strong policy oriented, strategic research approach, the goal of which is to promote the sustainable co-existence of humans and the environment. The overarching theme is Strategic Approaches to Sustainable Development and includes sub-areas such as biodiversity and biotechnology policy, ecosystem services assessments, climate change, environmental governance, WTO and sustainable development, traditional knowledge, ecological economics, and science technology policy for developing countries. More detailed information on the Institute's activities can be found at: <http://www.ias.unu.edu>.

Background to the Junior Professional Fellows programme: Junior Professional Fellowships of one year with the possibility of extension of one further year are offered to young scholars, recent graduates and budding professionals who are motivated by a desire to contribute to, or gain experience in a UN organisation or international academic institution. The Fellow will be fully engaged in the Institute's programmatic and research activities while at the same time gaining relevant experience and knowledge that will help equip them for a career in the UN or some other international organisation. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies.

Major responsibilities and required qualifications: The Institute is recruiting a Junior Professional Fellow for the Sustainable Development Governance programme with superior academic achievement, excellent analytical, research, organisational and writing skills. Candidates should be comfortable juggling multiple tasks, working on operational and programmatic activities and conducting policy research. The ability to work both independently and in a team setting is required. Applicants should have a background in international relations, political science, law, environmental studies, policy studies, sociology, science and technology policy, and economics or a similar or related field. Given the Sustainable Development Governance programme's research focus areas are climate change, international environmental governance, and WTO and sustainable development, experience in (any of) these areas will be an added advantage.

Qualifications required: Applicants must have a master's degree or higher, and have a high level proficiency in English. Knowledge of the governance structures of the UN and international organisations will be considered an added advantage. Women and applicants from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply. Candidates should also be able to demonstrate:

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work within a team
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc)
- Strong writing and research skills

Remuneration: Fellowship awards include a monthly stipend (YEN 240,000 per month), and a return ticket between Japan and the Fellow's country of residence. Assistance will be given to find adequate housing. Duration of contract: One year with a possible extension as a Programme Associate for an additional year. The extension for an additional year will be based on high performance requirements.

How to apply: Please send an application letter together with your CV. In your application letter please quote the above reference number and demonstrate how your qualifications and experiences match the requirements set out above. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Address applications to:

SDG JPF/PA Recruitment

Att: Director

Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University (UNU-IAS)

1-1-1 Minato Mirai,

Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-8502

JAPAN.

Fax: +81-45-221-2303

Or

E-mail: [sdgrecurit@ias.unu.edu](mailto:sdgrecurit@ias.unu.edu) (preferred). United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies

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**1.2 Director, Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, Washington State University, USA**

The College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS), and WSU Extension invite applications for a tenured, 12-month position as Director, Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (Associate Professor or Professor).

Required: Earned Ph.D. in any discipline related to sustainable agriculture, including agricultural, social, food, natural resources or environmental sciences; qualified for appointment as Associate Professor or Professor.

Desired: Outstanding record of integrated research and educational activities related to sustainable agriculture, food and natural resource systems; broad understanding of the practices, issues and opportunities related to sustainable food and agricultural systems; demonstrated knowledge and experience in developing and implementing research programs related to sustainable agriculture and food systems; demonstrated knowledge and experience in developing and implementing educational programs related to sustainable agriculture and food systems for farmers, students, agricultural professionals and the general public; demonstrated administrative experience and evidence of effective leadership and communication skills with university administration, faculty, colleagues, academic professionals and support staff; demonstrated ability to interact effectively with external constituencies, such as producer associations with missions that embrace sustainable resource practices, state and/or federal legislators, and other public organizations and agencies associated with agricultural and natural resource use; demonstrated evidence of garnering financial and in-kind resources to support programs, build capacity, and establish new institutional partnerships; demonstrated experience working with culturally and economically diverse farmers, farm workers and communities; demonstrated knowledge and experience in managing group dynamics of shared program leadership models.

Application: Send a detailed letter addressing qualifications, a statement of vision for the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, a resume/vita, and three letters of reference to: Dr. Raymond A. Jussaume, Jr., Chair, CSANR Director Search Committee, Wilson-Short Hall, Rm. 17, PO Box 644006, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4006, 509-335-7626, Fax 509-335-2125, rajussaume@wsu.edu.

For position description listing all qualifications and application process, visit:  
<http://www.hrs.wsu.edu/employment/fapvacancies.aspx>  
(Search #5090) Screening: October 3, 2008. EEO/AA/ADA

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**1.3 Professor of Tropical Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, Australia**

The Professor of Tropical Livelihoods will be a research leader with an international reputation who can consolidate and extend the research of the University on issues relating to livelihoods of people living in the tropics, paying attention to livelihoods in a changing environment where climate change adaptation is likely to be a key issue. The successful candidate could have expertise in some of the following: payments for environmental services, governance of natural resource-based industries, social impact assessment, the use of scenarios in community settings, and integration of research into policy. The candidate would be expected to work across disciplines and have experience of cross-cultural research.

Charles Darwin University has a strong reputation for research in tropical and desert environments of Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region, with a particular focus on Indigenous knowledge and on addressing problems of importance to people in the region.

Both the Institute of Advanced Studies and the School for Environmental Research, in which the position would be located, aim to be a 'centre without walls' to facilitate research collaborations. In particular, the incumbent is expected to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations both across the University and with external partners. The School seeks to develop knowledge and provide practical governance and management solutions to an array of environmental challenges working in partnerships with a range of stakeholders.

The Professor of Tropical Livelihoods will:-

- Demonstrate high-level and high-impact research, preferably with international and/or tropical Australian experience;-

- Have a capacity to work across disciplines in a collaborative manner, forming research partnerships to tackle practical problems;
- Be expert in several aspects of livelihoods research, and an appreciation of those aspects with which they are unfamiliar;
- Possess an understanding and aptitude for working in cross-cultural settings.

Application close: 8 August 2008 Remuneration package

A contract for up to 5 years will be negotiated.

Remuneration package: \$137 686 (which includes 17% University superannuation contribution).

In order to apply please obtain an application package by accessing the Charles Darwin University People Management and Development Home Page at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/pmd> or email [recruitment@cdu.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@cdu.edu.au).

Informal enquiries may be directed to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Bob Wasson of 61-8-8946 6868

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**1.4 Project Coordinator, Food Security and Specialty Crops, ACDI/VOCA, Washington DC, USA.**

For 45 years and in 145 countries, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. Based in Washington, DC, ACDI/VOCA is a nonprofit international development organization that delivers technical and management assistance in agribusiness systems, financial services, enterprise development and community development in order to promote broad-based economic growth and vibrant civil society. ACDI/VOCA currently has approximately 80 projects in 40 countries and revenues of approximately \$90 million. We are seeking a D.C.-based Project Coordinator to provide daily support to field operations, commodity management (monetization and distribution), donor reporting and budget preparation. Master's degree in International Development, Business, or related degree, with a minimum of 2 years of work experience in nutrition, health and/or agriculture/agronomy required. Experience should include international development, food security issues and/or commodity management. Must possess strong budgeting and analytical/statistical capabilities, written and verbal skills; and proficiency in Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Internet as a research tool. Knowledge of additional language skills, particularly French, desirable but not required. Please supply resume, cover letter, and salary history to [www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org) or Attn: HR/FS&SC-PC, 50 F Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20001, USA. Only finalists contacted. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Location: Washington DC, USA. Deadline: August 16, 2008

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**2. Workshops & Training Courses**

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**2.1 Seed Health Training, Tanzania**

A range of courses are available on seed health issues to a diverse range of target groups, run by the African Seed Health Centre, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania.

*Orientation Course for Farmers on Seed Health Issues*

Target Group: Farmers involved in seed production under the Agricultural Sector Programme Support (ASPS), other farmers interested in seed health issues.

*A short Course on Seed Pathology & Seed Health Technology*

Target Group: This course is intended for village extension officers, researchers from national agricultural institutions, technical officers of seed companies, teachers of agricultural training institutions and seed farm personnel.

*A short Course on Plant Quarantine*

Target group: Plant quarantine officers, seed inspectors, border post personnel, seed quality control officers and gene bank technicians from African countries.

*Seed Pathology & Seed Health Technology Diploma Course*

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The main objective of the diploma course is to train manpower dealing with seed production, seed industry and other seed quality controlling agencies. The diploma will be a two semester course and students will be exposed to both theory and practical aspects. Towards the end of the course, students will be given the opportunity to work on a research project and submit a report to further strengthen their practical training.

*MSc. Crop Science Seed Pathology Courses and PhDs also available*

For further information, contact:

African Seed Health Centre  
Sokoine University of Agriculture  
Department of Crop Science and Production  
P.O. Box 3005, Morogoro  
Tanzania  
Tel: +255 232 600 573  
Fax: +255 232 600 574  
Website: <http://www.afshc.or.tz>  
Email: [rhm@afshc.or.tz](mailto:rhm@afshc.or.tz)

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**3. Publications & Information**  
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**3.1 ASB Newsletter July 2008 available**

From the table of contents:

News

- Smoke-screens and the lungs of the world
- Governance and economic implications of avoided deforestation activities in Indonesia
- UNFCCC Workshop on Methodological Issues relating to REDD
- Britain urges 'cautious approach' on biofuels
- "Loss of biodiversity threatens livelihoods of world's poorest"
- Global Forest Partnership - Stakeholder consultation reveals livelihoods concerns
- Malaysia shifts palm oil cultivation to Amazon
- New analysis show deforestation is concentrated to a few countries
- Himachal Pradesh increases forest cover through carbon credits
- G8 and Developing country leaders approve climate vision with no binding cuts

Publications and Opportunities

- Comparison of Carbon Offset Standards for Climate Forestation Projects
- START African Small Grants: 2009 Call for Pre-Proposals

Events

- International Society for Ecological Economics Biennial Conference, 9-11 August in Nairobi, Kenya
- Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate, 25-28 August in 2008 in Umea, Sweden
- Africa Carbon Forum, 3-5 September 2008, Dakar Senegal
- Working Forests in the Tropics October 6-7, 2008 in Gainesville, Florida, USA
- 2009 World Forestry Congress, 18-25 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

You can download the newsletter here: [http://www.asb.cgiar.org/newsletter/asb\\_newsletter\\_0708.html](http://www.asb.cgiar.org/newsletter/asb_newsletter_0708.html)

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**3.2. Chronic diseases are the biggest killers in the developing world**

Yet they are still being overlooked by the global health community, which tends to focus on infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

To draw attention to this global crisis, SciDev.Net (The Science and Development Network) publishes a set of articles providing vital information for policymakers, researchers and international donors about

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the need to prioritise the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases affecting millions in developing countries.

Read SciDev.Net's new spotlight on chronic diseases: <http://info.scidev.net/t/414062/8775247/8699/0/>

This free online resource focuses on a selection of the most prevalent chronic diseases in developing countries - such as cancer, diabetes, obesity and heart disease - looking at whether the research agenda is keeping up, what measures scientists feel are necessary to tackle the problem, and highlighting case studies from countries like Brazil, India and China. The spotlight was sponsored by SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), with SciDev.Net retaining full editorial control.

#### Spotlight content overview

Raising the alarm on what is considered a neglected priority, the spotlight's opening editorial explains how governments and donors must find ways to tackle the rise in non-communicable disease.

#### Expert views:

We must study the web of commercial interests and strategies driving obesity in order to stem its spread, argues Jonathan Wells, a reader in childhood nutrition at the UCL Institute of Child Health, who has carried out studies of obesity in Brazil.

Twalib Ngoma, Executive Director of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, argues that African countries must develop their own solutions to deal with cancer patients.

Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and senior lecturer at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, suggests developing nations should stop copying the North's mental health services.

We need better global monitoring for chronic diseases before we can really tackle the risks factors and prevent illness, says Colin Mathers, senior scientist at the Department of Measurement and Health Information Systems of the World Health Organization.

An additional article on obesity in China will be published in the coming weeks.

#### Features:

Vaccines for non-infectious illnesses could help developing nations tackle the growing burden of chronic disease, reports Maryke Steffens, a science and health journalist.

In an interview with SciDev.Net, Abdallah S. Daar, Professor of Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto, talks about the Grand Challenges in Chronic Non-communicable Diseases initiative.

Truths and the myths about chronic diseases in the developing world are explored in a background feature.

Finally, we provide annotated links to key documents and organisations that address many of the above issues. And we have also brought together recent news items from the website that are relevant to the same themes.

Please pass this information on to colleagues and those within your network who will find it of interest. All our material is free to reproduce provided that the author and source are credited.

We welcome comments on any of the issues raised in this spotlight. Please remember that, in order to post a comment on an article, you need be to be signed in (registration is free). You can also email us at [topics@scidev.net](mailto:topics@scidev.net).

Kind regards,

Priya Shetty  
SciDev.Net Health consultant

SciDev.Net is the leading electronic source of free news and commentary about science, technology and innovation in the developing world. You can sign up for free email updates with the latest news, commentaries and notices: <http://www.scidev.net/sign-up>

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### 3.3 CAPRi working papers on collective action

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CAPRI have now published the second set of papers from their collaborative project on Collective Action and Property Rights for Poverty Reduction:

**CAPRI Working Paper 86**

Enabling Equitable Collective Action and Policy Change for Poverty Reduction and Improved Natural Resource Management in the Eastern African Highlands African Highlands Initiative by Laura German, Waga Mazengia, Wilberforce Tirwomwe, Shenkut Ayele, Joseph Tanui, Simon Nyangas, Leulseged Begashaw, Hailemichael Taye, Zenebe Admassu, Mesfin Tsegaye, Francis Alinyo, Ashenafi Mekonnen, Kassahun Abera, Awadh Chemangeni, William Cheptegei, Tessema Tolera, Zewdie Jotte and Kiflu Bedane: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp86.asp>

**CAPRI Working Paper 87**

The transformation of the Afar commons in Ethiopia: State coercion, diversification and property rights change among pastoralists by Bekele Hundie, and Martina Padmanabhan: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp87.asp>

**CAPRI Working Paper 88**

Unmaking the commons: Collective action, property rights and resource appropriation among (agro-) pastoralists in eastern Ethiopia by Fekadu Beyene, and Benedikt Korf: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp88.asp>

**CAPRI Working Paper 89**

Escaping poverty traps? Collective action and property rights in post-war rural Cambodia by Anne Weingart and Michael Kirk,: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp89.asp>

**CAPRI Working Paper 90**

Collective Action to Secure Property Rights for the Poor: A Case Study in Jambi Province, Indonesia by Heru Komarudin, Yuliana L. Siagian, and Carol J. Pierce Colfer: <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wp/capriwp90.asp>

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**3.4 Facilitating pro-poor market chain innovation**

CIP and PapaAndina just published a Working Paper entitled Facilitating pro-poor market chain innovation: An assessment of the participatory market chain approach in Uganda by Douglas Horton. You can download a copy: <http://www.cipotato.org/publications/pdf/004287.pdf>

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**3.5 Giving Priority to the Commons: the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Bioversity's Michael Halewood published a chapter earlier this year entitled Giving Priority to the Commons: the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The chapter is included in The Future Control of Food: a guide to international negotiations and rules on intellectual property, biodiversity and food security. Eds. Tansy, G. and Rajotte, T. Earthscan, IDRC and QIAP. 2008.

The full text of the book is available online at [http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-118094-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-118094-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

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**3.6 Call for contributions: Urban Agriculture Magazine #21**

No. 21: Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development - A Role for Urban Agriculture? (December 2008)  
Deadline for Contributions: 15 September 2008

The Urban Agriculture Magazine (UA-Magazine) facilitates sharing of information on the impacts of urban agriculture, promotes the analysis and debate on critical issues for the development of the sector, and publishes "good" practices in urban agriculture.

The UA-Magazine is produced under the RUAF programme Cities Farming for the Future (CFF), funded by DGIS (the Netherlands) and IDRC (Canada).

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The main aim of the RUAF-CFF programme is to contribute to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, improved urban environmental management, empowerment of urban farmers and participatory city governance via capacity development of local stakeholders in urban agriculture and facilitating participatory and multi-stakeholder policy formulation and action planning on urban agriculture, including safe reuse of urban organic wastes and wastewater.

The UA-Magazine is published two times a year on the RUAF-website ([www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)) and in a hardcopy version. It is available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese, and Portuguese.

The UA-Magazine welcomes contributions on new initiatives at individual, neighbourhood, city and national levels. Attention can be focused on technical socio-economic, institutional or policy aspects of sustainable urban food production, marketing, processing and distribution systems. Although articles on any related issue is welcome, and is considered for publication, each UA-Magazine focuses on a selected theme (for previous issues visit: [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)).

We are currently seeking contributions for the following issue:  
Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development - A Role for Urban Agriculture?

In the past few issues of the UA-Magazine we have highlighted the multiple functions of urban agriculture, its role in building communities and sustainable environments, and the technological, organisational and institutional innovations taking place to further its integration in urban agriculture.

In this issue of the UA-Magazine we will look into the role that urban agriculture can play in mitigating the effects of crisis situations and in rehabilitation and development following the crisis situations. The issue will also discuss how urban agriculture may contribute to building resilient cities.

Natural disasters, political conflicts, wars and economic crises make it difficult for people to maintain their livelihoods and often result in people being forced to leave their homes. Many international refugees or internally displaced people have to remain for an extended period in refugee camps, or reside (often illegally) in and around cities. Under such conditions displaced people may improve their food security by establishing some form of agriculture, be it small-scale gardening on open spaces inside or outside camps or settlements, or by using non-soil bound forms of agriculture. Insecurity in the areas of origin may continue over many years. Refugee camps tend to gradually convert into "shanty towns" or become permanent settlements (see the "camps" in Gaza that for a newcomer are difficult to distinguish from other towns). And for diverse other reasons, part of the displaced persons does not return to their original "home" areas, and often seek new livelihood opportunities in and around cities.

So what role may urban agriculture play when the relief assistance is drying up and people search for opportunities to build up a livelihood in the refugee camp or the nearby city? Increasingly the potentials of vegetable gardening and other agricultural production activities (e.g. eggs, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, etc.) in protracted refugee situations is being recognised.

Similarities exist between agriculture in refugee camp settings and urban and peri-urban agriculture in "normal" cities. Urban agriculture, with its emphasis on space confined technologies (like container gardening, vertical gardening, multi-storey gardens, rooftop gardening), use of composted organic wastes, rainwater harvesting and recycling of grey wastewater, may offer good options for provisioning fresh vegetables, eggs, dairy products and other perishables to the population of the "new town" and generate some income. Moreover, gardening and animal husbandry activities may contribute to enhance the knowledge and skills of the refugees (which also may be of value when returning to their home area), and may play a role in building the new community and improving the living environment (greening, shade, wood fuel) in the camp (often without a single tree!). In many cities around the world, urban agriculture is recognised for its complementary role in food security, but also for its potential contribution to sustainable (urban) development, local economic development, environmental management and community building, providing specific opportunities for vulnerable people.

It is important to share experiences gained in early initiatives in this field and to draw some lessons. It is also important to link such experiences with intensive small scale agriculture inside and around refugee camps and with other approaches to rehabilitation and development and efforts to build more resilient communities and cities.

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We are interested to receive your articles and well-documented experiences regarding agricultural activities after crisis situations in and around cities or in protracted refugee situations, for example:

Case studies on initiatives of refugees to develop agriculture in refugee camps and the specific problems they encountered and they ways in which they sought to tackle such problems;  
Experiences gained by support organizations seeking to assist displaced persons with a prolonged stay in the refugee camps to make the transition from relief and food aid to local development initiatives, including a food production component;  
Innovative technologies that have been developed or propagated in refugee camps, that optimally use the (very scarce) local resources (minimal land availability of low quality, use of recycled organic wastes and waste water, local seed production, etcetera) and minimize health and environmental risks;  
Experiences gained with the social and organizational side of such programmes (e.g. how to motivate poor and traumatised people for agricultural activities, overcome problems of theft and coercion, to organize themselves, etcetera);  
Issues of planning; legal and regulatory issues. Experiences with promoting the integration of agriculture in the plans for the development of the “new town” in which the refugee camp is converting;  
The role of urban agriculture in building resilient cities and disaster/crisis prevention and mitigation (see the debate on the effects of the recent rise of food prices on urban food security and poverty).  
Please clearly mention in your article where these experiences were gained, who the main actors were and the conditions under which the activities were developed. The article should also preferably present clearly the precise impacts achieved, the related costs, problems/challenges encountered and solutions found, the major lessons learnt and recommendations for both practitioners and planners or policy makers.

#### Articles

Articles on urban agriculture should consist of maximum 2000 words (three pages), 1300 words (two pages), or 600 words (one page), preferably accompanied by an abstract, a maximum of 5 references, figures and digital images or photographs of good quality (more than 300 dpi or in jpg format more than 400 kb preferably). The articles should be written in a manner that is readily understood by a wide variety of stakeholders all over the world.

#### Other information on the subject

We also invite you to submit information on recent publications, journals, videos, photographs, cartoons, letters, technology descriptions and assessments, workshops, training courses, conferences, networks, web-links, etc., especially those relating to this theme.

#### Issues of the UA-Magazine in 2009

The following issues will be produced in 2009 and your ideas and contributions of articles are already most welcome:

- No. 22: Linking Urban Producers to Markets; Chain development for urban agricultural products
- No. 23: Designing the Resilient City - What role will urban agriculture play?

Of course, all other suggestions and comments on UA-Magazine are also welcome. Please take a moment to voice your opinion by sending an e-mail to the editor at [ruaf@etcnl.nl](mailto:ruaf@etcnl.nl), or write a letter to:

The Editor of UA-Magazine  
RUAFA, ETC Foundation  
PO Box 64  
3830 AB Leusden  
The Netherlands

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#### 3.7 Publications on baobab

Two recently published articles on the baobab have just come to our attention. Contact either [assogbadjo@yahoo.fr](mailto:assogbadjo@yahoo.fr) or [tina.kyndt@ugent.be](mailto:tina.kyndt@ugent.be) for full papers. Abstracts of further publications on baobab are available from the ICUC website: <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Community/library.htm#genetic>

*Folk classification, perception, and preferences of baobab products in West Africa: consequences for species conservation and improvement* by Assogbadjo AE, Glèlè Kakai R, Chadare FJ, Thomson I, Kyndt T, Sinsin B, Van Damme P, 2008.. *Economic Botany*, 62(1):74–84.

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The present study is a component of a baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.) domestication research program being undertaken in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Senegal. Surveys conducted on a total of 129 women and 281 men of different ages included questions on perceptions and human/cultural meaning of morphological variation, use forms, preferences (desirable/undesirable traits), and links between traits. Local people in the four countries use 21 criteria to differentiate baobab individuals in situ. According to them, the easier the bark harvesting, the tastier the pulp and leaves; the slimier the pulp, the less tasty it is; the more closely longitudinally marked the fruit capsules, the tastier the pulp. This study shows that farmers are able to use preferred combinations of traits as a guide in collecting germplasm from trees. This can allow the selection of trees that would be candidates for propagation, and planning for a domestication program based on the indigenous knowledge.

*Genetic fingerprinting using AFLP cannot distinguish traditionally classified baobab morphotypes* by Assogbadjo AE, Kyndt T, Chadare FJ, Sinsin B, Gheysen G, Eyog-Matig O, Van Damme P, 2008. Agroforestry Systems (online).

Baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.) is one of the predominant tree species in West African agroforestry systems. A local morphological classification system is used by farmers, identifying trees with desired or undesired combinations of traits. This study evaluates the genetic significance of these morphotypes by comparing local identification with AFLP marker information. Eight morphotypes were recognized by seven ethnic groups from Benin, Ghana and Senegal, among 182 sampled baobab trees. Five primer pairs were used for DNA fingerprinting, resulting in a total of 254 scored bands, of which between 94.1% and 100% was polymorphic within morphotypes. Generally, genetic fingerprinting did not correlate with the traditional morphological identification of *Adansonia digitata*. Probably, AFLP markers are not directly linked to the differences in phenotype or the traits used for the traditional classification are largely dependent on environmental factors. Since no genetic differentiation is found between the morphotypes, a morphotype-based approach in the collection of genetic variation for conservation programs is not advisable.

### 3.8 Miscellaneous publications

#### *African pear tree essence 'is food preservative'*

The first study of antimicrobial activity in the essential oil from the resin of the African pear, or Safou, harvested in Gabon, suggests it may be a natural food preservative, researchers write in the African Journal of Microbiology Research. The tropical fruit tree has long been used as a traditional medicine. <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJMR/PDF/Pdf2008/Jun/Obame%20et%20al.pdf>

#### *Canned ugba lasts longer*

Canning shows 'remarkable results' in preserving ugba, the nutritious high-protein snack from fermented African oil bean seeds, consumed by more than 40 million people in West Africa. Normally lasting two weeks, canned ugba survived six months at tropical temperatures, according to Nigerian research in the African Journal of Food Science. [www.academicjournals.org/AJFS/PDF/Pdf2008/May/Enujiugha%20and%20Akanbi.pdf](http://www.academicjournals.org/AJFS/PDF/Pdf2008/May/Enujiugha%20and%20Akanbi.pdf)

#### *African plant breeders collaborate on better pearl millet*

Greater harvests of mildew-resistant pearl millet can be achieved as long as local traditional harvesting and marketing practices are not ignored, according to a study in the African Journal of Agricultural Research. The study was a collaboration between the — usually isolated — breeding programmes in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia. <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJAR/PDF/pdf%202008/May/Wilson%20et%20al.pdf>

#### *Changing The Diet*

Filipinos love their rice and want to ask for additional serving to go with their favourite viand. But with the price of rice spiralling upwards, they may have to rethink their rice-eating lifestyle. Crops expert said households that cannot keep up with the rising cost of rice actually have eight food alternatives they can set on their tables instead of the calorie-rich staple. Dr Jocelyn Eusebio, director of the crops research division of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development, is suggesting cassava, sweet potato, taro, potato, bean sprouts, nami (wild yam), saba banana and white corn as crop substitutes, which are in fact 'cheaper and more nutritious'. MySinchew 2008.06.06. <http://www.mysinchew.com/node/11941>

#### *Springing back: climate resilience at Africa's grassroots*

Climate change is often seen as a global problem demanding global solutions. But for poor people hit hard by the impacts, climate change is a not a boardroom abstraction, but day-to-day reality. Faced with

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local shifts in weather patterns and natural resources, they are forced to find ways of coping that are locally relevant. This kind of experience, gained at the grassroots, boosts resilience as no top-down initiative can. Three case studies from rural communities in Benin, Kenya and Malawi show how it is done. IIED, June 2008, 2p. <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/17038IIED.pdf>

*Agricultural Ecosystems: Facts and Trends*

Agriculture is suffering from a growing dilemma: it needs to feed a fast growing world population, and conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources of an increasingly depleted planet. How to understand this crisis, and the rapid increase in food prices in many countries, is the purpose of the latest publication by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It presents well-documented facts and figures to help governments, farmers, consumers and industry better understand the challenges facing the sustainable management of agricultural ecosystems. "Conserving ecosystems and their biodiversity must be a shared objective of industry, the conservation community and consumers. Nowhere is this more important than in agriculture that directly depends on nature. The tight agricultural markets make this even more urgent" says Julia Marton-Lefevre, IUCN Director General. 2008

Key facts include:

- Meat consumption in China has more than doubled in the last 20 years and it is projected to double again by 2030.
- Producing meat, milk, sugar, oils and vegetables typically requires more water than producing cereals.
- Food production to satisfy a person's daily dietary needs takes about 3,000 liters of water – a little more than one liter per calorie.
- Agriculture was responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2000.
- The soils of the world contain more carbon than the combined total amounts occurring in vegetation and the atmosphere.
- Agriculture uses 70% of total global "blue water" withdrawals (from rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers), most of which is for irrigation.
- Only 17% of all cropland is irrigated, but this land provides 30-40% of the world's food production.
- Over 60% of the world's irrigated area is in Asia , most of which is devoted to the production of rice.
- In the last 40 years, the area of global agricultural land has grown by 10%, but in per capita terms agricultural land area has been in decline. This trend is expected to continue as land is increasingly limited and the population grows

<http://www.wbcsd.org/DocRoot/7Qu0pPBaiUfK5x9k4AND/AgriculturalEcosystems.pdf> (1.1 MB)

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**4. ICUC-related information**  
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**4.1 ICUC welcomes new staff**

ICUC welcomes Mr Nick Pasiecznik on a temporary basis as Assistant Project Coordinator. Nick was one of the first ever intake of students in the then 'new' degree course of agroforestry in 1986, at Bangor (UCNW), UK, and worked on DFID-funded research projects from 1992 to date with only some short breaks. This was mostly on dryland tree legumes, first propagation and provenance trials, then collation of knowledge into database and monograph format, and later on communication to a broad audience, from producing policy briefs to running practical demonstration and training courses. More recently, Nick initiated and managed a DFID project on chainsaw milling as an appropriate technology for producing timber from on-farm and dryland trees. He has also worked for CAB International on their Crop Protection Compendium, Forestry Compendium and Distribution Maps of Plant Pests and Diseases, and continues to work as a freelance editor on their developing Invasive Species Compendium.

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

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- Carolin Bothe-Tews. Working for Paul Bordonni on the GFU website.
  - Ajay Kumar Mahapatra, Director Regional Plant Resources Center Orissa, India Heads the organisation involved in research and development of plant resources of the region. Our website: [www.rprc.in](http://www.rprc.in)
  - Dr. Chiranjit Parmar. I am a horticultural scientist. I have been working on the utilization of wild growing and lesser known fruits for the past 40 years. [www.fruitipedia.com](http://www.fruitipedia.com)

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development