



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](http://www.icuc-iwmi.org) / [icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org](mailto:icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org)

# ICUC-News #72

12 August 2008

Dear colleagues,

I have now taken the ICUC-News 'baton' from Hannah for the time being, and hope the standards remain as high. Working here at ICUC is proving a fascinating experience on a topic close to my heart, at a great number of diverse levels. One of the many documents I have had to read lately has proved particularly interested, and I suggest those of you who have not, read the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/it/ITPGRe.pdf>). Annex 1 includes a number of acknowledged underutilised species, especially forages, known as the 'mandate crops'. I hope you benefit from the inclusions in this issue.

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With best wishes,  
Nick

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**1. Funding & Job opportunities**

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**1.1 Award Scheme: Enhancing the Value of Crop Diversity in a World of Climate Change –Call for Proposals for the 2009 Awards**

<http://www.croptrust.org/main/trust.php?itemid=84>

Farming throughout the world is underpinned by the vast genetic diversity of agricultural plants. This diversity provides the means for adapting crops to meet rapidly changing climatic conditions, with their diverse effects on the magnitude and frequency of both biotic and abiotic stresses. More than 6 million samples of different crops are currently maintained in some 1,500 collections around the world, representing humanity's most important resource in the struggle to feed its ever-expanding population under changing climates, shifting pests and diseases and increasing energy costs. Yet, in spite of its importance, much of this genetic storehouse remains untapped – a neglect that largely arises from the fact that much of it has yet to be adequately characterized and evaluated. We do not know enough about the collections we are conserving. A lack of readily available and accurate data on key traits can severely hamper plant breeders' efforts to identify material they can use in their efforts to breed new varieties for the new climates most countries will experience in the coming decades.

Recognizing this bottleneck to the use of collections, and the urgency of the need, the Global Crop Diversity Trust initiated in 2007 a competitive grants scheme to support the evaluation of crop genetic resources. The grants will enable breeders and others to screen germplasm collections for important phenotypic characteristics and to make the information generated publicly available.

This is the second call under this Award Scheme. All interested parties are hereby invited to submit proposals for consideration by the Trust for an award in early 2009. This call is being made in coordination with the complementary calls of the Generation Challenge Programme and of the Global Initiative on Plant Breeding.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Generation Challenge Programme: Genotyping Support Services (GSS) promotes the use of molecular markers to assess the potential value of germplasm by linking grantees with high-throughput genotyping facilities they may not otherwise have access to. The call for proposals by GSS targets breeding programmes and/or germplasm collections in national agricultural research systems (NARS), academia, and civil society organisations in developing countries. The current call for proposals and further information are available at <http://www.generationcp.org/latestnews.php?i=1279>. The Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity (GIPB) is similarly supporting projects on pre-breeding. Its current call for proposals and further information are available at

[http://km.fao.org/gipb/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=section&id=33&Itemid](http://km.fao.org/gipb/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=33&Itemid). The deadline for both is 10 September 2008, and applications are invited from eligible developing country research programmes working on any of the GCP [mandate crops](#).

All interested parties are hereby invited to submit proposals for consideration by the Trust for an Award in 2009. Provided below are links to information on eligibility and application procedure and the template for the submission of proposals. Also provided is a link to the Trust's terms and conditions for grants under this awards scheme.

[www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Second\\_Evaluation\\_Award\\_Scheme\\_Announcement.doc](http://www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Second_Evaluation_Award_Scheme_Announcement.doc)

[www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Evaluation\\_Award\\_Proposal\\_Template\\_2ndCall.doc](http://www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Evaluation_Award_Proposal_Template_2ndCall.doc)

[www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Evaluation\\_Award\\_Terms\\_Conditions\\_for\\_Info.doc](http://www.croptrust.org/documents/web/Evaluation_Award_Terms_Conditions_for_Info.doc)

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**1.2 Farmland Sustainment Volunteers, Global-Cultural Solution, Ghana**

Location: Koforidua, eastern Region, Ghana

Last Date: August 29, 2008

Email: [info@gcs-np.org](mailto:info@gcs-np.org)

Global-Cultural Solution (GCS) as a non-profit organization implements a number of programs among which Farm-Land Sustainment project is one. The farm-land sustainment project places volunteer(s) with technical expertise in farming or Agric sector to provide short-term technical assistance and training to farmers on non-traditional export products and marketing. As we strive to develop the global world gradually through human resource services, it would be a fair idea as an organisation to sustain farming activities of farmers in the country. The goal of this project is to increase production and

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profitability in Ghana, through diversified and sustainable partnerships. The following objectives have been established to accomplish the project goal & purpose:

1. Increase productivity among target farmers of high-value agricultural produce, non-traditional agriculture.
2. Increase private sector trade for selected agriculture and natural resource products through agribusiness development and improved marketing.
3. Increase the diversity of agricultural professionals by providing technical assistance in developing countries like Ghana.

The organisation invites interested volunteer(s) who come across this opportunity to apply. Most rural farmers in the country have the skill but lack that technological know-how in modern farming; even if they have, the financial needs restrain them drastically. This program is a very challenging but lucrative to be placed on. You get the opportunity working with the native people in villages who are quick to welcome you. Volunteer with us because we offer you one of the most comprehensive packages of service with strict dedication and commitments at an affordable program fee to enable you volunteer with less difficulty. Our bulky information pack for pre-departure and on-program support also awaits you.

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### **1.3 YPARD and ICT-KM Join Efforts to Sponsor Participation in KS Workshop of Three Young Professionals Working in ARD**

See 2.1, below

[http://www.ks-cgiar.org/images/stories/pdf/fao\\_cg\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.ks-cgiar.org/images/stories/pdf/fao_cg_workshop.pdf)

<http://www.ypard.org/ypard/>

<http://ictkm.cgiar.org/>

We are pleased to announce that the Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) and ICT-KM would like to sponsor three participants to the upcoming FAO-CGIAR Knowledge Sharing Workshop, a three-phased event that combines online and face-to-face interaction. If you are under 40, working in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) and are interested in exploring new ways of sharing knowledge with your teams, partners, and stakeholders, then don't hesitate to apply to this call.

The YPARD sponsorship covers your travel expenditures (ticket) and venue costs. The ICT-KM sponsorship covers the registration fee.

If you are interested in participating please send your application by Thursday August 14 to Balasubramanian Ramani [coordinatiounit@ypard.org](mailto:coordinatiounit@ypard.org) answering the following questions:

- Please indicate your full name, contact information, the organization you work for and your current responsibilities.
- Why and how do you think that your participation in this workshop could be beneficial for your work?
- In what way do you feel you can contribute to this workshop?
- How do you plan to share your learnings and the outcomes of the workshop with the wider YPARD initiative, FAO, the CGIAR, and your team members, or partners?

A group of 3 (YPARD, ICT-KM, and FAO staff) will be reviewing your replies and select the winning candidates. We hope to hear from many of you soon.

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## **2. Workshops & Training Courses**

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### **2.1 ICT-KM Knowledge Sharing training course**

We are very pleased to announce that FAO and the ICT-KM Program are joining forces for the second edition of the ICT-KM Knowledge Sharing training course, which will offer FAO and CGIAR staff as well as their research partners an opportunity to explore and experiment with knowledge sharing (KS) principles and methods. The workshop team is this time composed by Nancy White, Gauri Salokhe, Pete Shelton, and Simone Staiger-Rivas.

**Dates:** Phase 1 (online) starts on September, 8. The face-to-face meeting takes place in Rome, Italy from October 7-9. Phase 3 is online and goes on up to March 2009.

**Costs:** 500 USD. You can choose to participate in phases 1, 1+2, or 1+2+3 of the course. You must participate in phase 1 to participate in phase 2, and both 1 and 2 to participate in phase 3. Download the workshop flyer at: [http://www.ks-cgiar.org/images/stories/pdf/fao\\_cg\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.ks-cgiar.org/images/stories/pdf/fao_cg_workshop.pdf) This training is aimed at staff working in both institutional as well as research situations who would like to learn more about knowledge sharing frameworks, principles, methods and tools which may help improve the

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effectiveness and impact of their work. So all are encouraged to consider this worthwhile training opportunity, to find approaches which can be useful in improving your work and projects. As with the last training course the aim is to get a good mix of organizations and participants from different regions, which will also enrich the experience of the participants. For information on the first KS training course—please see [http://www.ks-cgiar.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=108&Itemid=125](http://www.ks-cgiar.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=108&Itemid=125)  
Being promoted on behalf of Simone Staiger-Rivas, Project Leader- Institutional Knowledge Sharing Project (ICT-KM Program).

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## **2.2 Horticulture for Livelihood Security and Economic Growth, India.**

Horticulture for Livelihood Security and Economic Growth.

International Conference on Horticulture (ICH-2009)

9-12 November 2009, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

The object of the conference is to identify key factors and elements influencing the sustainability of the horticulture sector in developing countries and suggest remedial measures to issues and problems confronting this in achieving livelihood security and increased economic growth, through participatory dialogues, exchange of knowledge, genetic materials and human resources among all the stakeholders.

Deadline for submission of abstracts and invited papers - April, 2009

Please send all correspondence to:

The Chairman,

Organizing Committee,

International Conference on Horticulture (ICH-2009),

Dr. Prem Nath Agricultural Science Foundation,

No.9, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, 1<sup>st</sup> Block,

Rajmahal Vilas Extension, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage,

Bangalore 560 094, Karnataka State, India.

[pnasf@vsnl.net](mailto:pnasf@vsnl.net)

[www.pnasf.org/news&events.htm](http://www.pnasf.org/news&events.htm)

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## **2.3 Ecoagriculture Conference: Challenges and opportunities for integrating agricultural production, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction strategies in East Africa.**

25-28 August, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya

This conference, hosted by Ecoagriculture Partners in conjunction with the Kenya Ecoagriculture Working Group, the Uganda Ecoagriculture Working Group and TerrAfrica, will highlight the visions, innovations, policies and tools needed to respond to the integration of agricultural, environmental and poverty reduction objectives in national development programs. The conference seeks to enhance capacity in these areas at the regional, national and local community landscape levels, and enhance multi-sectoral partnerships, networks and platforms for ecoagriculture. There will also be a special 'ecoagriculture, community knowledge village' dedicated to farmers, farmer organizations and community based organizations (CBOs) working in ecoagriculture landscapes in East Africa to showcase their work, share lessons and interact with other stakeholders.

For more information contact: [cochieng@ecoagriculture.org](mailto:cochieng@ecoagriculture.org).

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## **2.4 Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands, Egypt**

Sustainable Development in Drylands – Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change

International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC)

Sponsored by: ALRC (Tottori University), ARC-Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, CAS, DRI, FAO (tbc),

ICARDA, ICRISAT, JICA, JIRCAS, UNCCD (tbc), UNESCO (tbc) & UNU

7-10 November 2008, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt

[http://www.ndrd.org/9\\_ICDD\\_1st\\_Announcement\\_\\_Intent\\_\\_Reg\\_\\_Abstract\\_\\_Appendix-2\\_1.doc](http://www.ndrd.org/9_ICDD_1st_Announcement__Intent__Reg__Abstract__Appendix-2_1.doc)

Subjects to be addressed include the following:

1. Climatic change in arid lands
2. Impact of global climate change on the natural resources of land, water and biodiversity in the dry areas.
3. Enhancing resilience of agriculture in dry areas through management of water and land resources.
4. Biodiversity conservation and utilization

5. Range management and forage and livestock production
6. Stress physiology: drought, heat, cold and salinity.
7. Improvement of stress resistance in dry area crops, shrubs and tree species through conventional breeding and application of biotechnology.
8. Reducing greenhouse gas emission through harnessing renewable energy in the dry areas.
9. Blending indigenous/traditional knowledge and heritage with modern science in the sustainable development of oases
10. Enhancing livelihood of desert communities and socioeconomic studies

If you require further information please contact:

Prof. Dr. Mohan C. Saxena  
 Assistant Director General, ICARDA  
 Arid Land Research Center  
 Tottori University, Japan  
 m.saxena@cgiar.org

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### **2.5 4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, India**

Innovations for improving efficiency, equity and environment, 4-7 February 2009, New Delhi, India  
 The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) will jointly organize the Congress from 4-7 February 2009 in New Delhi, India. The co-sponsors of the Congress are the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Rice-Wheat Consortia (RWC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS), and the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE).

The deliberations during the Congress would develop a road map and evolve strategies to promote conservation agriculture. Following will be the expected outcomes of the Congress: (i) document global R&D efforts in conservation agriculture; (ii) measure benefits of conservation agriculture; and (iii) identify region specific up-scaling issues.

Deadline for abstract submission is 30 October.

P K Joshi

Organizing Secretary of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Pusa, New Delhi 110012 India

Tel: +91-11-25843036

Fax: +91-11-25842684

E-mail: [wccagri@gmail.com](mailto:wccagri@gmail.com)

[www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html](http://www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html)

[www.wccagri.ernet.in](http://www.wccagri.ernet.in)

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## **3. Publications & Information**

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### **3.1 FAO Launches New Global Soil Database**

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has unveiled a new global soil database that will help better map current and future land productivity as well as the present carbon storage and carbon sequestration potential of the world's soils. FAO says that the database will also help identify land and water limitations and assist in assessing land degradation and soil erosion risks. "The more information we have about soil properties, the more we can evaluate the quality of our natural resources all over the world and their potential to produce food now and in future scenarios of climate change", said Alexander Muller, FAO Assistant Director General for Natural Resources and Environment Management. Based on the soil database, the FAO has produced a Global Gap Map which will help identify where soil carbon storage is greatest and the physical potential for billions of tons of additional carbon to be sequestered in degraded soils. Efforts to use agriculture to capture green house gasses have involved above ground sequestration mainly by planting trees. Although the amount of carbon captured using this approach is substantial, there are growing interests in finding ways to increase carbon sequestration in soil.

For more information, read <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000882/index.html>

The World Soil Database can be accessed at <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/luc07/External-World-soil-database/HTML/index.html>

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**2.2 International NGO Journal (INGOJ) call for papers**

International NGO Journal (INGOJ) publishes high-quality solicited and unsolicited articles, in English, in all areas of Non Governmental Organization (NGO) activities. INGOJ is founded to publish proposals, appraisals and reports of NGO projects. The aim is to have centralized information for NGO activities where stakeholders including beneficiaries of NGO services can find useful information about ongoing projects and where to obtain particular assistance. Also prospective donors will easily find information about different NGOs and decide which to fund on specific projects.

Our objective is to inform authors of the decision on their manuscript(s) within four weeks of submission. Following acceptance, a paper will normally be published in the next issue.

Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website

[www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ](http://www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ). Prospective authors should send their manuscript(s) to [ngo@academicjournals.org](mailto:ngo@academicjournals.org), [ngo\\_acadjourn@yahoo.com](mailto:ngo_acadjourn@yahoo.com) or [ngo.acadjourn@gmail.com](mailto:ngo.acadjourn@gmail.com)

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Franklyn Monyei, Editorial Assistant, International NGO Journal

[ngo@academicjournals.org](mailto:ngo@academicjournals.org); <http://www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ>

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**3.3 The New Peasantries: Struggles for Autonomy and Sustainability in an Era of Empire and Globalization**

by Jan Douwe van der Ploeg

This book explores the position, role and significance of the peasantry in an era of globalization, particularly of the agrarian markets and food industries. It argues that the peasant condition is characterized by a struggle for autonomy that finds expression in the creation and development of a self-governed resource base and associated forms of sustainable development. In this respect the peasant mode of farming fundamentally differs from entrepreneurial and corporate ways of farming. The author demonstrates that the peasantries are far from waning. Instead, both industrialized and developing countries are witnessing complex and richly chequered processes of 're-peasantization', with peasants now numbering over a billion worldwide. The author's arguments are based on three longitudinal studies (in Peru, Italy and The Netherlands) that span 30 years and provide original and thought-provoking insights into rural and agrarian development processes. The book combines and integrates different bodies of literature: the rich traditions of peasant studies, development sociology, rural sociology, neo-institutional economics and the recently emerging debates on Empire.

June 2008. 384 pages. Earthscan, London.

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**3.4 Guide to Cultivated Plants**

by ATG Elzebroek and K Wind

Representing almost 80 years of combined experience *Guide to Cultivated Plants* includes concise textual descriptions and attractive full color illustrations of over 300 crop species. These comprise 11 commodity groups ranging from vegetables, both horticulture and forages species, and arable crops to the major fruits and plantation crops. All major cultivated plants from temperate, Mediterranean and tropical climates are covered and the morphology, botany, ecology, agronomy and use of cultivated crops is fully discussed.

CABI, UK. 496p.

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**4. ICUC-related information**

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#### 4.1 CoDI Induction Workshop

The ICUC-led Coalition to Diversify Income from Underused Crops (see ICUC-News # 70), partnered by BAIF, CASRAD, FAVRI and Winrock International India, is holding its induction workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, 13-16 August.

#### 4.2 ICUC welcomes Jan Wreesmann

An intern supported by GTZ/BTZ, Jan started his six month internship on 1 August. He will be based at CASRAD in Vietnam to contribute to the joint ICUC-CASRAD activities under CoDI. Jan will specifically look into indigenous vegetable value chains in Vietnam's Bac Khan Province.

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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.**

- Abhay M.Gandhe, Advisor, Agriculture, MITTRA-BAIF, India. M.Sc. Agriculture (horticulture). Main duties, to identify/ refine innovative themes into project proposals for rural development programmes.
- Dr. Nihal K. Atapattu, CIDA. Agricultural Economist interested in issues of policy and food security.

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International Centre for Underutilised Crops, P. O. Box 2075 Colombo, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94-11-2787404,  
Fax: +94-11-2786854, [www.icuc-iwmi.org](http://www.icuc-iwmi.org) / [icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org](mailto:icuc-iwmi@cgiar.org)  
Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development