



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #74

9 September 2008

Dear colleagues,

The usual mix, but I continue as editor, I do wonder what you all make of ICUC-News (see 4.1 for what will appear in the next issue) and whether there is the need for change. Talking of change, it seems difficult to avoid climate change at the moment, though I have included one interesting take which is the 'micro-documentary' competition (see 1.3). There seems to be increasing interest the relationships between underutilised crops and climate change, and I repeat the request to readers to contact ICUC if you have any projects, thoughts, ideas, etc. on links between the two, however basic they may be.

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With best wishes,
Nick

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1. Advisor for Monitoring and Evaluation in Market Development, Intercooperation

Location: Dodoma, Tanzania. Deadline: September 11, 2008.

Intercooperation, the Swiss Foundation for Development and Cooperation designs and implements projects in 21 countries in the South and East and provides thematic programme support through specific mandates. The focus of its work is on the promotion of sustainable natural resource management, rural economy, and local governance and civil society. Swisscontact, the Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation, aims at promoting a sustainable and economically, socially and environmentally sound development in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Its main areas of activities include small and medium enterprise promotion, financial services, vocational training, and urban ecology. The Rural Livelihood Development Programme (RLDP) in Tanzania started in 2005 and is currently in its second phase (2008-2010). It is being implemented by a consortium of Intercooperation and Swisscontact through the Rural Livelihood Development Company (RLDC) and financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The goal of RLDP is to improve the welfare of poor rural households in Central Tanzania by creating additional income and employment. RLDP facilitates market development in selected market sectors in six regions of Central Tanzania. To reinforce the team (national staff of RLDC and two expat advisors), the consortium Intercooperation-Swisscontact is currently seeking an Advisor for Monitoring & Evaluation in Market Development (80-100%), duty station Dodoma, Tanzania, for a two year contract (with Intercooperation), to begin January 2009, or upon agreement.

Main tasks

- Advise in the further refinement and implementation of the monitoring & evaluation system related to market development
- Support in the capitalization and reporting of programme outcomes
- Support and advise the management in project cycle management and organization of capacity-building

Specific tasks

- Assure the implementation of an effective monitoring & evaluation system related to the market facilitation approach in close collaboration with programme staff
- Advise in the systematic assessment of economic improvements of rural producers and enhancement of competitiveness of enterprises in selected sectors
- Manage internal monitoring knowledge and keep staff up-dated on monitoring approaches and tools used by other market development programmes world wide
- Enhance the capacity of programme staff, to set performance related monitoring indicators for market development and market system changes
- Support the reporting and capitalization of programme outcomes by capitalizing the assessed monitoring data through regular reports and specific documentation of selected case or sector studies
- Coordinate research and knowledge sharing on sector related themes and cross cutting issues by establishing regular internal exchange and learning sessions
- Contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and experiences of the programme through participation in related events and exchange
- Coordinate and organize internal capacity building in collaboration with the programme manager and advisors
- Contribute to the planning & evaluation process and reporting to consortium and donors

Profile

- Degree in economics, business management or social sciences (MSc. or PhD required)
- Good understanding of poverty and economic issues in rural areas of Africa
- Eight years of working experience in development cooperation of which at least three years in Africa
- Proven track record in designing and implementing monitoring & evaluation and impact assessment systems
- Solid working experience in development programmes applying economic/market facilitation approaches
- Experience in organization and implementation of training programmes for national staff
- High analytical capacity and proven skills in writing up and presenting programme outcomes
- Know how and experience in knowledge management
- Excellent team worker and facilitator, communication and networking skills

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- Ability to integrate in an existing complex programme set-up with national management staff and international advisors.
 - Excellent spoken and written English, knowledge of Swahili is an additional asset.

Women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply and in case of equal qualifications would be given preference. For further information please contact: Martin Fischler, Intercooperation: +41(0)31 385 10 83.

Applications with current CV and letter of interest should be submitted to;
Intercooperation, attention Ms Sophie Wüthrich
P.O. Box 6724
Maulbeerstrasse 10
CH-3001 Bern.

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1.2. Agricultural Research and Development Manager, ACIAR

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Makassar, Indonesia. Deadline 14 September, 2008. Indonesia-based international position: ACIAR-SADI Manager. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) forms part of Australia's official development assistance program. ACIAR's main role is the identification of agricultural and natural resource policy and management problems of developing countries, commissioning collaborative projects between Australian and developing country research institutions and publishing and communicating the results of the research.

As part of a whole-of-government approach under the Australia-Indonesia Partnership, ACIAR is managing a major component of the Smallholder Agribusiness Development Initiative (SADI) in Indonesia, which commenced in late 2006. The ACIAR-SADI subprogram aims to strengthen adaptive agricultural R&D services for smallholders and agribusiness in selected provinces of Indonesia, and to ensure that R&D outcomes are effectively packaged and delivered for application. ACIAR-SADI supports adaptive research in the value chains of key commodities, focusing on issues ranging from technical limitations in supply chains through to post harvest and marketing issues.

To qualify as a priority commodity, the commodity should be important to smallholders and the province, have good market potential, have technical or market issues or opportunities with a high chance of being resolved through adaptive research and have the potential to support stronger linkages between farmers and markets. ACIAR-SADI works closely with the two other subprograms of SADI (managed by other organizations) to enhance smallholder agricultural production and marketing and private sector agribusiness development. The other subprograms:

1. help farmers to improve the supply of commodities, giving them the option of tapping improved research results and linking them to buyers, and
2. links the private sector to research and establish more effective and stable supply relations with producers.

ACIAR-SADI helps local research institutions improve their capacity to provide practical demand-driven research results to firms and producers).

We are seeking to fill a senior, international contract position as Subprogram Manager based in Makassar, Indonesia. The appointee will have responsibility for managing a small team of staff involved in planning, implementation management, monitoring and reporting functions. This requires strong interpersonal skills, the ability to lead strategic planning and implementation of the Sub-program and the ability to manage relationships with Indonesian and international R&D agencies. The manager will also need skills in administrative and financial management of donor projects in SE Asia (preferably Indonesia), preferably with in-country project leader experience. Applicants should have an agriculturally-related degree, with postgraduate qualifications and experience in management of donor programs highly desirable. An understanding of Australian and SE Asian agriculture and research systems is required. A second phase of SADI (to 2013) is anticipated, subject to approval of the design by the Australian Government. The appointee will initially be contracted for approximately 2 years and subject to performance and confirmation of the second phase of the program a further contract would be offered. An attractive senior remuneration package will be negotiated.

Selection documentation is available on www.aciar.gov.au or by phoning +61 2 6217 0500. To discuss the position further, contact Dr John Skerritt on +61 2 6217 0510 or +61 407 269 081 or email skerritt@aciarc.gov.au.

Applications specifically addressing the selection criteria, outlining relevant experience, and including names of three referees and contact details should be forwarded by 14 September 2008 to:
The Recruitment Officer, ACIAR
GPO Box 1571, CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA
email: recruitment@aciar.gov.au

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1.3. Vulnerability Exposed: Social Dimensions of Climate Change – micro-documentary competition.

The World Bank's Social Development Department would like to announce the launch of a world-wide documentary competition, "Vulnerability Exposed: Social Dimensions of Climate Change". We hope to receive submissions of 2-5 minute documentaries which creatively showcase the social implications of climate change in the areas of conflict, migration, urban space, rural institutions, drylands, social policy, indigenous peoples, gender, governance, forests and/or human rights. There are two award categories: 1) Social Dimensions of Climate Change Award (general category) and 2) Young Voices of Climate Change Award (youth category). The general category is open to everyone; the youth category is open to entries submitted by filmmakers who are under 24 years old. Award winners will be chosen through a combination of public voting and a judging panel. The award winners will be invited to Washington, DC for a screening of their film and to attend a series of networking and learning events organized by the Social Development Department, World Bank. The tentative schedule of events to be organized for the award winners includes: awards ceremony, film showcase event, cocktail reception, career development workshop, and seminar series on the Social Dimensions of Climate Change. Post your film on YouTube and fill out the online Registration Form at <http://www.worldbank.org/sdccfilmcontest>. If you cannot post your film on YouTube, send a compressed .wmv or quicktime file to socialdevelopment@worldbank.org. If you have slow Internet connection, mail a DVD of your film to the Social Development Department:

ATTN: Megumi Makisaka
Social Development Department
The World Bank
MSN: MC5-800
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20011
USA

For more information: socialdevelopment@worldbank.org, or: www.worldbank.org/sdccfilmcontest, or for the press release, see <http://go.worldbank.org/MESUTV3XP0>

*****Please note*****

ICUC feel that this might be a great opportunity for readers to consider making a short film on an aspect of "underutilised species and climate change". We would be very happy if you would inform us if you decide to make a submission – or if not, to receive any video clips you may have made on the subject.

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1. The 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry

The 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry will assess opportunities to leverage scientific agroforestry in promoting sustainable land use worldwide. The Congress will serve as a forum for agroforestry researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers from around the world to:

- o Share new research findings, lessons, experiences, and ideas that will help influence decisions that impact on livelihoods and the global environment
- o Explore new opportunities and cement exiting partnerships in agroforestry research, education, training, and development
- o Form new networks and communities of practice, and nurture old ones

Program

The overall Congress theme is "Agroforestry - The Future of Global Land Use". Plenary, symposia, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions will be organized around different major topics, based on the following:

- o Markets as opportunities and drivers of agroforestry land use
- o Tree-based rehabilitation of degraded lands and watersheds

- o Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- o Agroforestry's contribution to a multifunctional agriculture combining productivity with environmental sustainability
- o Policy options and institutional innovations for agroforestry land use

We invite interested persons to submit suggestions for technical sessions or abstracts for papers before the following deadlines:

- o Deadline for proposing technical sessions: 31st March 2008
- o Abstract Submission (online): Deadline 31 October 2008.
- o Abstract Review by Session Leaders: Deadline: 30 November 2008.
- o Confirmation to Authors: Deadline: 31 December 2008.
- o Abstract revision and confirmation of participation: Deadline: 28 February 2009. Authors may revise their abstracts online, secure funding, and confirm their participation.
- o Programme Finalization: Deadline: 31 March 2009.

All enquiries to: wca2009@cgiar.org
<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>

*****Highlight*****

ICUC are co-organising one the sessions of the conference with ICRAF and the University of Ghent, Belgium: "Hot or cold: the role of underutilised crops for AF", under the theme 'Markets as opportunities and drivers of Agroforestry'. Please contact Patrick van Damme (Patrick.vandamme@ugent.be) for more information or if you wish to submit an abstract.

2.2. Regional Workshop on Conservation Agriculture, Lao PDR

Regional Workshop on Conservation Agriculture will be held October 28-November 1, 2008, with the theme Investing In Sustainable Agriculture: The Case of Conservation Agriculture and Direct Seeding Mulch-Based Cropping Systems, at Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang, Lao PDR.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. *Discuss on research and extension approaches* and transfer of knowledge for different stakeholders and to analyze the main constraints in up-scaling CA alternatives.
2. *Develop a knowledge base in the field of Conservation Agriculture* based on the experiences of the different countries of the GMS region in creating and validating CA and DMC systems.
3. *Strengthen and facilitate exchanges* between countries of the GMS region and to promote regional exchanges and synergies in the field of Conservation Agriculture.

Workshop Themes

- Agronomy and socio-economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems.
- Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties.
- Determining factors in up-scaling CA/DMC systems.
- Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders.

Deadline for submission of abstract is September 26, 2008. Drafts of selected presentations are expected for October, 17th. The Workshop language is English.

Contact: Workshop Secretariat:

CA-SCV Regional Workshop Secretary

National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute

PO Box 7170, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: 856-21-770-084, 856-21-770-027

Fax: 856-21-770-047, 856-21-770-027

Email: ca-scv2008@nafri.org.la; Website: www.nafri.org.la

2.3. The 3rd Indian Horticulture Congress - New R&D Initiatives in Horticulture for Accelerated Growth and Prosperity

Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, 6-9 November, 2008.

The HSI is premier society in the field of horticulture with a membership/subscribers numbering 1800 or so. The society publishes a quarterly journal titled Indian Journal of Horticulture

(<http://indianjournals.com/ijor.aspx?target=ijor:ijh&type=home>). Among other things, it organises a biennial Indian Horticulture Congress widely participated, where issues of national and international relevance to researchers, students, industry and farmers are discussed through invited lectures and poster presentations. Two such congresses have already been held. Like ISHS International Horticulture Congress, The Indian Horticulture Congress covers all horticultural crops and diverse

aspects. The programme lists 14 broad areas of the congress under scientific programme. In each broad area, eminent scientists/ experts will be presenting invited papers on important aspects besides poster presentations. Nearly 1000 horticulturists are expected to participate in the event representing R&D workers, extension workers, farmers and industry. More than 60 invited speakers have been requested to present papers besides approximately 500 poster presentations.

K.L. Chadha
Chairman,
National Organising Committee
Details of congress are available on www.hsi1942.in

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2.4. The Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance

The theme of the congress is: Gender in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, 19-22 October, 2008, Makati City, Philippines.

The Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN-ISDR), and the Women Environment Development Organization (WEDO) is pleased to invite you to the Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance. The congress promises to be the first and biggest global forum for climate change experts, parliamentarians, decision makers in government, environment organizations and stakeholders to discuss legislation and policies that will introduce gender in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Please download the full information sheet and registration form for this Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance from our website, <http://www.capwip.org/3rdglobalcongress.htm>
May we request you to share the attached information with your colleagues and friends. We look forward to having you join us in the congress.

Sylvia Ordonez, Executive Director
Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP)
YSTAPHIL Building
4227-4229 Tomas Claudio St
Baclaran, Paranaque City, Philippines
Telefax (632)8522112; 8514954
Globalcongress2008@gmail.com; capwip@capwip.org
Website:<http://www.capwip.org>

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1. Climate Change Policies in the Asia-Pacific: Re-uniting Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Hayama, Japan, is pleased to announce the publication of its second white paper Climate Change Policies in the Asia-Pacific: Re-uniting Climate Change and Sustainable Development. This White Paper is a summary of current climate change policies in the Asia-Pacific region and new recommendations, based on strategic research carried out at IGES so far. The Asia-Pacific is experiencing rapid economic development and, as well as being a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, it is feared that the region will suffer the worst impact. Climate change is the most urgent problem facing the international community and in pursuing a post-2012 framework, attention is focused on ways to deal with climate change in Asia Pacific countries. This White Paper proposes climate strategies that fully take into account the needs of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. It looks at the impact of climate change in the Asia-Pacific region and current policies from various aspects such as international framework, market mechanisms, forestry, biofuels, waste, water and business, and sets out policy recommendations that integrate climate change policies and sustainable development and shows the way for new development towards the realisation of a low-carbon society. The white paper can be downloaded from: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/whitepaper.html>, or is available from:

Ms. Kitamura, Publication officer,
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, 240-0115 Japan
Tel: +81-46-855-3720 Fax: +81-46-855-3709
pub-iges@iges.or.jp

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3.2. Rising prices can change attitudes

The rising food prices may actually bring some benefits for people living in the Pacific Islands, says a Pacific scientist. Dr Mary Taylor of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community believes the rising food prices will encourage people to grow their own food, *reports Pacnews*. Dr Taylor promotes crop diversity for the regional Institute, said the food crisis has a silver lining, which will encourage people to grow more of their own food and may change attitudes to traditional crops. "We have fewer options for feeding our people as 75 per cent of genetic diversity has been lost in the past century. Most people globally now rely on just 12 food crops and 14 animal species. "The rising cost of food is placing more value on the need to collect and share our plant materials. For example, an international plant centre in Hawaii has varieties of breadfruit trees that produce all year round," Dr Taylor said. According to her, traditional food crops often viewed as inferior to imported processed food were likely to become more popular. "No country is self sufficient in crop diversity and access to overseas stocks is vital. For example, in Samoa a taro disease in the 1990s wiped out the entire industry, and taro only recovered when more resistant varieties were imported," Dr Taylor said. She suggested that one way to prepare for future changes was to join the 120 countries who had ratified the international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture this was making it easier for countries to collect and share plant materials under the treaties standard material transfer agreements.

The Fiji Times, 7 September, 2008. <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?ref=archive&id=99992>

Thanks to Tavita for highlighting this article. http://papgren.blogspot.com/2008_09_01_archive.html

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3.3. Breadfruit Catalogue Now Available on Web

A catalogue of the breadfruit germplasm collection at the National Tropical Botanical Garden is now online as a searchable database on the Breadfruit Institute (<http://www.ntbg.org/breadfruit/collection>). Varieties come to life through stunning photographs (courtesy of Jim Wiseman, DigitalMedia Hawaii/Pacific) that interactively present the visual gestalt of each tree, so necessary for accurate identification. The database combines variety information acquired during field work in the islands of origin as well as descriptors, weights, and measurements of fruits, leaves, seeds, and male flowers, collected during a decade of research on the breadfruit trees at Kahanu Garden. Data and photographs are now available for close to 80 varieties. The entire collection of more than 100 varieties and three species will become available as photographs and data are completed. Varieties from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Hawaii, Kiribati, Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu are currently represented in the database. The database search page allows the user to find varieties by searching on scientific name (species), variety name, geographic origin, distribution, fruit weight, shape, or skin texture, seed number, and find those that do well in coastal, sandy soils or atolls. There is also a search option for varieties that will be available for distribution. Other search options include 20 selected varieties, a Pacific map showing where varieties were collected, and a list of variety names and synonyms (<http://www.ntbg.org/breadfruit/collection>).

Thanks to Tevita for highlighting this article. http://papgren.blogspot.com/2008_09_01_archive.html

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3.4. Correcting Bias against Drylands Can Help Solve Food Crisis

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Director General William Dar warned that policy bias against dryland agriculture may contribute to the global food crisis and worsen the situation of poor farmers. In a policy paper, Dr. Dar pointed out that less than 1 percent of public spending goes to agricultural research, "which is vital to the innovation that is the engine for new livelihood opportunities". Of that, only a small proportion is invested in dryland agriculture. Dryland agriculture is also struggling against a headwind of policies that are biased in favor of lands with plenty of water. In addition, policies tend to favor urban populations and the familiar cereal grains that they consume: rice, wheat and maize. "We suspect that the world may come to regret its under-investment in dryland grain crops as climate change kicks in, increasing the need for more robust, drought-hardy crops and crop traits for plant breeding", Dar said. He also stressed that over-dependence on a few crops creates agro-ecological risks, such as vulnerability to climate change and crop disease epidemics, such as the new Ug99 strain of stem rust currently threatening wheat.

Read the complete article at <http://www.icrisat.org/Media/2008/media17.htm>

Thanks to WASWC Hot News for this posting

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3.5. Food and Agriculture Organization launches ecosystem services website

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launches the Payment for Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes (PESAL) website. PESAL improves incentives and shares designs for sustainable natural resource management in agriculture, including guidelines for using PES systems to potentially reduce rural poverty. For more information see <http://www.fao.org/es/esa/PESAL/index.html> or www.fao.org.

Thanks to WASWC Hot News for this posting

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3.6. Free access to scientific literature

If your library has no subscriptions to your favourite scientific journals then the following is a reminder that there are various ways to get to the papers.

TEEAL is a project of Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library in cooperation with over 60 major scientific publishers, societies and index providers. TEEAL contains: 130+ agricultural journals, Full-text articles, 1993-2008 coverage, Index database, Offline tool (no Internet or phone line required). It works on a stand alone PC or network, see <http://www.teeal.org/index.html>>

The AGORA program, set up by FAO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to a digital library collection in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science and related social sciences. AGORA provides a collection of 1278 journals to institutions in 107 countries. AGORA is designed to enhance the scholarship of many thousands of students, faculty, researchers, etc in agriculture and life sciences in the developing world, see <http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/>

Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), an international public-private consortium coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Yale University, and leading science and technology publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of environmental science research. Over 1,300 peer reviewed titles owned and published by over 340 publishing houses and scholarly societies are now available in more than 100 low income countries, see <http://www.oaresciences.org/en/>

INASP's Mission is to enable a sustainable network of stakeholders that owns and drives access, use, dissemination and communication of research information. As part of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) publishers and networks of libraries work together to enable access to scholarly information using ICTs within the developing and emerging countries. This project includes: over 20,000 full text online journals, many of the world's leading citation, bibliographic and reference databases, document delivery from over 20,000 research journals, CD-ROM (or DVD) format can be provided where they are available, see <http://www.inasp.info/file/105/access-to-journals-and-research-content.html>

Thanks to WASWC Hot News for this posting

*****ICUC Library*****

Of course, these and many other information sources can be found on ICUC's library webpage: <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Community/library.htm>

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 ICUC-News subscriber survey in the next issue

The next issue of ICUC-News will be # 75, and this seems a good time to reappraise the content of the newsletter, and to tailor it more to your needs. Thus I do hope that as many of you will take a little time to help ICUC-News help you, but answering a few questions in two weeks time.

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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.

- Abalo Atato, working at the University of Lomé, and work on the wild fruits of Togo under the supervision of Prof. Akpagana. We are interested in their diversity, ecology and economic potential
- Srinivas Chandupatla, working for the not-for-profit Nirmaan Organization based in Bangalore, working for the development of agriculture in rural India.
- Winifred Ononye-Willis, a High School Biology Teacher in the USA, amazed by the amount of truly under utilized fruits in Africa, and wants to join a group of like minded people.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development