



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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

ICUC-News #75

25 September 2008

Dear colleagues,

Now 75 issues old, ICUC News can look back at 3 years of disseminating information to an ever-increasing number of subscribers, and is looking forward to what is wanted for the next 25 issues at least. A user survey was promised in ICUC News 74, and is included, though kept very 'short and sweet' in the hope of attracting as many responses as possible. Basically, (a) what do you appreciate, (b) what not, and (c) suggestions for the future. Please send your thoughts to me at n.pasiecznik@cgiar.org, and I will summarise them for the next issue and take the necessary steps to match this newsletter to the needs of you the readers and subscribers. This issue is relatively light in content, but it is hoped that with your input, further issues can contain more of what you want.

In this issue:

1. Funding & job opportunities

- 1.1. Agricultural Business and Farmer Organisation Specialist, Danida
- 1.2. Enterprise Development Expert, Ramboll Finnconsult
- 1.3. Chief Scientist, L-6, United Nations Environment Programme

2. Workshops & training courses

- 2.1. Experiential field based training on Solid Waste Management

3. Publications & information

- 3.1. Life without cigarettes benefits dry fruit sector
- 3.2. Call for Evidence: Biological Approaches to Enhance Food Crop Production

4. ICUC-related information

- 4.1 ICUC News Subscriber Survey
- 4.2 Two ICUC Research Reports published
- 4.3 Overstory #210 features Underutilised Crops and Biodiversity

5. ICUC network

No new entries

With best wishes,
Nick

+++++

1. Funding & Job opportunities

+++++

1.1. Agricultural Business and Farmer Organisation Specialist, Danida

Danida seeks a Senior Adviser, Agricultural Sector Programme, Agricultural Business and Farmer Organisation Specialist, Mozambique. Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deadline, September 25, 2008

As Senior Adviser (N2) in the Central Management Unit of the Agricultural Sector you are to support and advise small and medium-size agri-enterprises and farmer marketing organisations in business development. You will coordinate initiatives with national partners, Danida's B2B Programme and other donor agencies. You have a relevant university/masters degree in agro-economy, commerce or business management and relevant experience from working with SME's regarding planning, budgeting and financing in the agricultural sector. You are fluent in English and able to communicate in and read Portuguese.

Reference no.: DK-37411-2008/MOZ.07-W

Application deadline: 25 September 2008, at 9.00 am (Danish time).

A full job description and mandatory application form is available at: www.mercuriurval.com/dk/danida

Applications with the reference no. above should be sent to Mercuri Urval A/S, muo@mercuriurval.com, or by post to: Philip Heymans Allé 5, DK-2900 Hellerup, or faxed to: +45 39 45 65 65.

+++++

1.2. Enterprise Development Expert, Ramboll Finnconsult

Enterprise Development Expert, Central America. Deadline, September 18, 2008.

Ramboll Finnconsult is a consulting company specialized in international development cooperation, active in the Central American market since early 1990's. To intensify our efforts we are looking for candidates for a 3-year Enterprise Development Expert post in a project, the focus of which is to develop and support micro, small and medium enterprises. The project, with an aim to promote growth, develop innovative solutions and enhance the participation of excluded populations in the entrepreneurial activities will be located in Central America. It is foreseen to be mobilized in the end of 2008.

Qualifications and professional experience

Compulsory

The Enterprise Development Expert should have

- an academic degree (MSc or equivalent) in the field of enterprise development, business administration, business economics or related field
- at least ten years of working experience with enterprise development/innovations and at least five of them in a developing country, preferably in Latin America
- working experience of value chains development and inclusive growth
- familiarity with the Making Markets Work for the Poor approach
- working experience in multi-donor funded project(s)
- working experience on information dissemination and on promotion of MSMEs
- excellent communication skills and fluency in spoken and written English as well as in Spanish

Preferred

- Experience of sustainable natural resources management and environmental protection
- Social intelligence with sensitivity for gender and socio-cultural issues
- Previous working experience in Central America
- Knowledge and understanding of private sector dynamics

Applications:

Please send your updated CV to Mr Jarmo Hakkarainen at your earliest convenience, however at the latest by Thursday 18 of September 2008 to the address: jarmo.hakkarainen@ramboll-finnconsult.fi

+++++

1.3 Chief Scientist, L-6, United Nations Environment Programme,

Location, Nairobi. Deadline 6 October 2008, Vacancy 08-SCI-UNEP-418989-R-NAIROBI

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

Competencies

Professionalism: Expert knowledge of a broad range of environmental issues, demonstrated capabilities as evident from published scientific papers and experience from scientific programming, scientific assessments, and provision of scientific advice, as well as work experience in the policy domain.

Familiarity with issues of relevance to both developing and developed countries and at different scales from global to local. Clear understanding of the science that can integrate the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development. **Communication:** Proven track record of explaining complex scientific issues and associated data in simple language easily understandable by non-scientists, and in utilising visualisation tools and mapping applications to present scientific evidence.

Technological awareness: Ability to stay fully abreast of the latest developments in environmental science and earth observation technologies of relevance to UNEP. **Willingness to monitor current research and scientific literature for emerging environmental issues that may influence the future direction of UNEP's programme of work.** **Leadership:** Demonstrated track record as a strategic thinker with strong multi-disciplinary background who can analyse and synthesise complex environmental issues, identify interlinkages and communicate findings for the consideration of executives and other decision-makers. Ability to identify and explore issues at the cutting edge of science.

Judgement/Decision-making: Proven ability to make sound recommendations for policy-makers based on scientific analysis with practical implications for strategic, political and programmatic directions. **Resourcefulness and tact in positioning an intergovernmental body such as UNEP as a credible partner with the international science community.** **Building trust:** Ability to foster collaboration and work with different scientific and major groups engaged in different aspects of environmental science and having different agendas with the objective of ensuring that synergy is generated among disparate initiatives so that informed decision-making is based on the best available science.

Education

Advanced university degree in a natural or social science discipline relevant to addressing the current and future environmental challenges relevant to the work of UNEP.

Work Experience

Over 15 years of progressively responsible experience in substantive areas of requisite competency and professionalism preferably in multicultural institutions and/or processes engaged in scientific research, environmental assessment, environmental monitoring and observing, environmental policy research, scientific programme management or related scientific area. Proven track record in scientific leadership, including a substantial record of publications in leading scientific journals and of providing advisory services to governmental, intergovernmental, scientific or industry fora. Personal recognition in the international arena as a leading scientist and strong communicator.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post advertised fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language is an asset.

Other Skills

Experience in fund raising, especially in the UN system, would be an asset. Proven project management skills an advantage.

How to apply

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online as soon as possible after the vacancy has been posted and well before the deadline stated in the vacancy announcement. Because applications submitted by United Nations (UN) staff members are considered first, provided the eligibility requirements set out in ST/AI/2006/3 are met and the application is submitted in a timely fashion, staff members should apply within 15-day or 30-day mark. Online applications will be acknowledged where an email address has been provided. If you do not receive an e-mail acknowledgement within 24 hours of submission, your application may not have been received. In such cases, please go to "My UN" page and check the status of your application by clicking on "View Application History", and resubmit the application, if necessary.

-
1. To start the application process, applicants are required to register by opening a "My UN" account. Go to Login, and Register as a User. Fill in the form and choose a User Name and Password.
 2. After opening the account, applicants may apply for vacancies using the Personal History Profile (PHP) provided. Once the PHP has been completed for a particular vacancy, it can be saved and used for future applications. The PHP may be up-dated, when necessary, for future applications.
 3. In completing the PHP, please note that all fields marked with an asterisk must be completed.
 4. UN staff members must submit scanned copies of their two latest Performance Appraisal System (PAS) reports at the time of application to the appropriate Human Resources Office (HRO)/Personnel Office (PO) to the email address below, clearly indicating the vacancy announcement number. In case you have no access to the digitizing equipment, please submit hard copies of the two latest PAS reports to the relevant HRO/PO via fax.
E-mail: Recruitment@unon.org,
Fax: 254-20-762-4212

+++++

2. Workshops & Training Courses

+++++

2.1. Experiential field based training on Solid Waste Management

Capacity Building Series (2008-09), 5-7 October 2008. TARAGram, Appropriate Technology Centre, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh, India

Solid waste management has emerged as one of the biggest challenges today in urban India. The municipal bodies have been unable to adjust to the rapid changes that have led to both increased quantities and changes in the composition of the waste. The current situation, which gives rise to the indiscriminate dumping and burning of wastes, has a serious impact on air, land and water pollution and causes a dramatic increase in health hazards in the urban environment.

As a response, in many cities, non-governmental organisations have started developing neighbourhood waste collection services, as well as initiating composting and recycling activities. These moves are backed up by new municipal solid waste management and handling rules published in 2000, which, among other recommendations, require source segregation and waste recovery. Several alternatives have been proposed for solid waste management. Some recommend incineration. However, recycling the materials saves three to five times the amount of energy as incinerating these same materials would generate. Waste incineration encourages a one-way flow of materials on a finite planet, thus making the task of conserving resources and reducing waste more difficult, not easier.

Today the world is moving towards Zero Waste Management. There are cases where countries are starting to adopt Zero Waste Goals as policy measures. San Francisco has already achieved 52% landfill diversion and is hoping to reach zero by 2020. Even after the directive from the Supreme Court of India (MSW Rules 2000) to be implemented before 31st December 2003, Sulurpet in Andhra Pradesh is one of the few municipalities who have implemented source segregation, door to door collection and composting. The Zero Waste Management model should concentrate on the challenge to recover the recyclable fraction of household refuse, at least 95% of the total amount generated (80% organic wastes, 15% inorganic) - so that only 5% would need to be handled by the Municipal Corporation.

The best way to handle the 80% of organics generated at the household level is to compost it. Several methods of composting are in vogue in India and any one or many methods of composting can be applied in given situations. Selecting an appropriate method of composting appropriate to the place based on resource availability as well as limitations should be applied to evolve a most suitable model for a given place.

The training is expected to equip the senior and middle managers of project and programmes with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to develop knowledge on environment, and learn to work out solutions depending on the situation.

To ensure your participation, we request you to send the nomination form (Down load the registration form by clicking on the link given below) and the course fee (non-refundable) by 3rd October'08.

<http://www.devalt.org/da/isb/tsu/form.htm>

For more information, contact:
Madhuban Pandey, Executive Training

Juhi Nigam, Training Assistant
Jhansi (UP)
Tel: - + 91 510 2911 368, +91 972 1754 958, +91 983 9820 689,
E-mail: fla@deval.org

Bhavana Gadre
Executive Programme Management Unit
New Delhi
Tel: 011-26132718
Email: bgadre@deval.org

+++++

3. Publications & Information

+++++

3.1. Life without cigarettes benefits dry fruit sector

After the law that banned smoking in closed areas all around Turkey came into effect on May 19, more people have started to quit smoking and this has benefited the medical and dry fruits sectors. When the law extended the smoking ban to include most enclosed areas, including taxis, ferries and shopping malls, those who cannot smoke in their business places and public open spaces, are trying various methods to quit smoking. It has been reported that smokers show great interest in substances that help quit smoking like nicotine patches, nicotine gum and various drugs sold in pharmacies.

There is a 25 percent increase in the sales of substances that deter smoking within a month. Also, nicotine gum sales increased by 40 percent, nicotine patch sales increased by 37 percent and drug sales increased by 30 percent in the same period. Only in the Mediterranean city of Adana, 920 nicotine gums, the price of which varies between YTL 9-12, were sold in one month. This figure was 640 one month before the ban was put into effect. Total sales of nicotine gums increased from 13,200 to 22,000 countrywide. "There is a high demand for substances that help quit smoking after the ban," said Adana Pharmacies Chamber Chairman Burhanettin Bulut. He said pharmacies had difficulty selling such products in the past but now they order new products for two or three times a week. "At least two or three people used to come to pharmacies to ask about these products before the ban. This number increased three-fold thanks to the law. Those, who cannot have a chance to smoke in their business places and other closed areas, tend to quit smoking. This is why there is an increase in the medical sector. We believe that there will be more sales after the ban will put into effect in coffee houses and restaurants in 2009. Thanks to this law, people now know more about methods to quit smoking. This is an important development and also the sector continues to grow."

Dry fruit sellers are pleased with the law, too. Sales in the dry fruit sector increased by 25 percent, too, after the law was put into effect. Ateşler Dry Fruit Industry A.Ş. Executive Board Chairman Tahsin Ateş said the real increase in sales would be seen after 2009. Ateş said those who quit smoking began to consume dry fruits and it revived the sector. He said dry fruit consumption in Turkey was above European levels, and continued, "Three-four grams of dry fruit is consumed per person in Turkey. Sales were already high but increased more after the ban. People who quit smoking want something in their mouth to replace cigarette. Dry fruit fills the gap of cigarette. Those who decide to stop smoking resist cigarettes and need to eat something at home. That is why dried fruits are consumed. There is a nearly 25 percent increase in the market. But when the law is extended in 2009, sales will increase." Ateş mentioned that the law was put into effect at the time when the European Football Championship started, adding, "Smokers who are stressed while watching the championship, consume dry fruits. There is a serious increase in the sales especially during nights of national team matches."

ADANA - Anatolia News Agency, 30 June, 2008
<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=108292>

+++++

3.2. Call for Evidence: Biological Approaches to Enhance Food Crop Production

The Royal Society is launching a new study to undertake a balanced assessment of the challenges to world food crop production and detail the range of different biological approaches that could be used to enhance yields in addition to their likely consequences and impacts. Evidence is being sought particularly views of agriculturists, bioscientists, academics, policy makers, industrialists and other interested parties. The deadline for submission is 6 October 2008.

Evidence can be submitted electronically (preferred format) to sarah.mee@royalsociety.org or by post to Sarah Mee, Science Policy Section, The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, UK or by fax to +44(0)20 7451 2692.

For more information, visit <http://royalsociety.org/page.asp?tip=1&id=7927>

+++++

4. ICUC-related information

+++++

4.1 ICUC-News Subscriber Survey

Now 75 issues old, ICUC News looks back at 3 years of disseminating information to an ever-increasing number of subscribers, and looks forward to what is wanted for the next 25 issues at least. A user survey was promised in ICUC News 74, and is included, though kept very 'short and sweet' in the hope of attracting as many responses as possible. Basically, (a) what do you appreciate, (b) what not, and (c) suggestions for the future. Please send your thoughts to me at n.pasiecznik@cgiar.org, and results will be summarised for the next issue and the necessary steps taken to match this newsletter to the needs of you, the subscribers.

1. How long have you been a subscriber?
2. From where did you hear about ICUC News?
3. Do you read it? (All of it, some of it, none of it really)
4. How do you read it (by email directly, on the website, forwarded?)
5. Is it a useful newsletter? (yes, a little, no) – give reasons
6. What sections do you read first – which are most important to you? (1. Funding & Job opportunities; 2. Workshops & Training Courses; 3. Publications & Information; 4. ICUC-related information)
7. What parts are unimportant to you – or contain information that you get from elsewhere?
8. Is bi-monthly too often (or not often enough), would monthly (or weekly) be better? Would you like to get it as an RSS feed as soon as information reaches us?
9. Would you like to see it in a different format, e.g. with pictures, in print, etc?
10. What else would you want to see in ICUC News?, e.g. sections on new or on-going research projects, a regular feature on specific underutilised crops, a blog?
11. What information could you, or would you like to, contribute to ICUC News? The newsletter is open for contributions by all but we receive very little.
12. Did you realise that this issue was overdue?

Please cut these questions into an email to n.pasiecznik@cgiar.org and add your replies – though no all need to be answered. You may also wish to word your suggestions referring the questions only as a guide. Please also send your postal address, and what ICUC publications you would like to receive a hard copy of in return. The ICUC publication form is available from <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Publications/index.htm>

Our thanks in advance!

+++++

4.2. Two new ICUC Research Reports published

Barry, I.N. 2008. A value chain analysis of the Sri Lankan beli and woodapple subsectors. Research Report No. 4. International Centre of Underutilised Crops, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 24 pp.

<http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/files/Publications/Final%20RR%20Issue%204.pdf>

This is the companion paper to RR2 on the rambutan value chain. The aim of this study was to develop a general level of understanding concerning the functioning of the market for two underutilised crops: beli (*Aegle marmelos*) and wood-apple (*Feronia limonia*), and to identify a set of interventions which can be made to improve the economic position of the crop growers and collectors. The study raised the following major issues and recommendations:

1. There is a genuine lack of coordination along the supply chain with the absence of any superior varieties being a leading cause.
2. There seems to be a gradual movement away from beli/wood-apple towards more profitable fruits such as mango, coconut and papaya.

3. Many beli trees also are cut down for their timber, which is said to fetch a better price on the market for ayurvedic medicine than its fruits, and allows for greater, short term, financial gains.
4. Some growers' remoteness in rural areas renders an effective coverage by extension services difficult.
5. Due to the geographic spread of the crop, transport costs faced by intermediaries are very high and direct market access to urban and peri-urban markets by growers is limited.
6. Export of beli/wood-apple to date has been limited to ethnic markets and only in relatively small quantities.
7. The presence of various legal, financial as well as social barriers are preventing many growers and small scale intermediaries from accessing the major distribution centres in Dambulla, Colombo and Kandy.

Ndindeng, S.A., Bella-Manga, Kengue, J., Talle and Lewis, D.L. 2008. Quality standards for *Dacryodes edulis* (safou). Research Report No. 5. International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 26 pp.

<http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/files/Publications/RR%20Issue%205-Final%20for%20web.pdf>

The development of quality standards for safou (*Dacryodes edulis*) will help the productivity and efficiency in the safou sector. The described quality requirements will provide a common 'language' for the buying and selling of safou, which is fast gaining ground on the international scene. The 14 clones described herein are part of an ongoing programme to develop cultivars that meet specific market demands like size, taste, longer shelf life and disease resistant. The characterization of these clones to specifically targeted product markets is the primordial link-pin to a genetic improvement programme.

+++++

4.3. Overstory #210 features Underutilised Crops and Biodiversity

An abridged version of ICUC's Position Paper No. 2, Underutilised Plant Species: Impacts of Promotion on Biodiversity, appeared in the Overstory #210 on 15 September. Please contact us if you want to receive the full article. The original position paper is available at <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/files/Publications/ICUC-PP2%20web.pdf>

The Overstory is a free email newsletter on topics related to agroforestry, but which publishes articles many of which would be of interest to ICUC News readers. To subscribe to the Overstory, please send an e-mail to overstory@agroforestry.net with the subject "subscribe" and in the body of the message: your name, e-mail address, organization, and your location.

+++++

5. ICUC network

+++++

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

+++++

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