The World Vegetable Center Newsletter
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Tomato Producers Worldwide Take a Pasting from China

Nearly 3,000 farmers in the Ilocos provinces of the Philippines depend on the "Ilocos Red" tomato for their livelihoods. The variety, bred by the Northern Foods Corp. (NFC), produces fruit with a deep, rich red color, hearty flavor, and thick, juicy flesh – perfect for processing into tomato paste. The state-run NFC produces about 6,000 metric tons of tomato paste a year, with a healthy 30% share of the local market.

Healthy, that is, until China got into the paste-making business.

Philippine farmers and processors are not alone as they watch their market share plummet from cheaper Chinese imports. From Russia to Turkey, from Senegal to Australia, cheap Chinese tomato paste is driving farmers off the land. In Italy, farmers cried foul when a new Chinese brand of canned tomatoes appeared on supermarket shelves.

China's processing tomato industry is based in Xinjiang province, in the far northwest. In the 1970s, thousands of small farmers began raising tomatoes around the capital, Ürümqi. Production increased when Xinjiang Chalkis, a former construction company and now one of China's leading agroindustrial firms, entered the region in 1994.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, China is now the largest fresh tomato producer in the world, supplying about a quarter of global output, and accounts for 35 per cent of global tomato paste exports by volume.

China's tomato growers and processors are committed to increasing production. Processors have purchased world-class Italian paste-making equipment, but getting quality tomatoes to the factory in a timely manner remains a challenge due to a lack of good cultivation practices and poor farm-to-factory transport connections.

And what about the Philippines? NFC has managed to keep about 16% of the tomato paste market because local industries prefer to help local farmers, and also because "Ilocos Red" tastes so much better than the competition. However, the company cannot depend on taste alone to keep its customers loyal. It also has to sell its tomato paste at a competitive price. To do so, the company has asked the government for a P200 million investment to modernize its 25-year-old processing plant.

Learn more:

"On a mission to save the Ilocos tomato sector," Philippine Daily Inquirer

http://services.inquirer.net/express/08/02/17/html_output/xmlhtml/20080211-118017-xml.html

"Ketchup diplomacy," *Slate*

http://www.slate.com/id/2177831

- Source: Communications

Selections from the Library's *Allium* SDI Bulletin

Copies of other SDI bulletins for different crops can be found on the Library website:

http://libnts.avrdc.org.tw

Esfahani, M.N., Pour, B.A. (2008). Differences in resistance in onion cultivars to pink root rot disease in Iran. JOURNAL OF GENERAL PLANT PATHOLOGY .v.74:46-52.

Ipek, M., Ipek, A., Simon, P.W. (2008). Molecular characterization of Kastamonu garlic: An economically important garlic clone in Turkey. SCIENTIA HORTICULTURAE. v.115(2):203-208.

Zhang, H., Chen, Z., Yang, G., Wang, W., Li, X., Li, R., Wu, Y. (2008). Microwave pretreatment and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry determination of herbicide residues in onion. FOOD CHEMISTRY. v.108:322-328.

Adekpe, D.I., Ahebayan, J.A.Y., Chiezey, U.F., Miko, S. (2007). Yield responses of garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) to oxadiazon, date of planting and intra-row spacing under irrigation at Kadawa, Nigeria. CROP PROTECTION. v.26(12):1785-1789.

Cavagnaro, P.F., Galmarini, C.R. (2007). Garlic. In: Genome mapping and molecular breeding in plants - volume 5: vegetables. Berlin: Springer. p.349-364.

Chen, Q.B., Hou, X.L., Zhang, B., Yang, J.M., Leng, Y.Q., Jiang, F.I. (2007). Clustering and principal component analysis of germplasm resources of onion (*Allium cepa* L.). JIANGSU JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. v.23(4):376-378.

Corzo-Martinez, M., Corzo, N., Villamiel, M. (2007). Biological properties of onions and garlic. TRENDS IN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. v.18(12):609-625.

Mallek, S.B., Prather, T.S., Stapleton, J.J. (2007). Interaction effects of *Allium* spp. residues, concentrations and soil temperature on seed germination of four weedy plant species. APPLIED SOIL ECOLOGY. v.37(3):233-239.

McCallum, J. (2007). Onion. In: Genome mapping and molecular breeding in plants - volume 5: vegetables. Berlin: Springer. p. 331-347.

Oh, D.G. (2007). Garlic (*Allium sativum* L., Alliaceae). In: Horticulture in Korea./ ed. by Lee, J.M.; Choi, G.W.; Janick, J.; Suwon: Korean Society for Horticultural Science. p.104-108.

New Popular Magazines at the Library

Business Weekly (Chinese) 3–9 March 2008

PC Home (Chinese) January – February 2008

Scientific American (Chinese) – March 2008

Scientific American (English) – March 2008

Time: "Korean Concerto" 10 March 2008

The Economist: "The trouble with Russia's economy" 1–7 March 2008

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics Seeks Deputy Director General – Research

ICRISAT is a nonprofit, apolitical, international organization for science-based agricultural development. Established in 1972, it is an alliance of centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and receives support from more than 48 governments, foundations, and development banks. To reduce poverty, protect the environment, and enhance crop productivity and food security, ICRISAT research focuses on agroecosystems, crop improvement and biotechnology, and the management and use of sorghum, pearl millet, pigeonpea, chickpea, and groundnut in the semi-arid tropics.

ICRISAT is seeking a **Deputy Director General for Research (DDG-R)**, to be located at its Headquarters in **Patancheru, India** (near Hyderabad). The position reports to the **Director General**.

The **DDG-R** is a member of the senior management team. Primary responsibilities include planning, leading, integrating and coordinating research programs in line with the Institute's established policies and strategies; and developing and maintaining harmonious relations and collaborations between **ICRISAT** and **National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems** (NARES) in both developed and developing countries, **civil society organizations**, the **private sector**, **Advanced Research Institutions**, other **International Agricultural Research Centers** (IARCs), and the **Alliance of CGIAR Centers**. The DDG-R is a member of the DDG-R Committee of all 15 centers.

The **DDG-R** will manage the research portfolio with line responsibility for key senior staff; contribute to the formulation of appropriate policies for the Institute through membership in the Management Group, Research Committee and other global committees; represent ICRISAT as appropriate in CGIAR and NARES fora to project ICRISAT's mission and interests and to discuss and develop future programs; assist the DG to ensure effective linkages with NARES, IARCs and other key stakeholders; act as Secretary to the Program Committee of the Governing Board; provide technical support to strengthen relationships with donors; act for the DG as required; and undertake other activities assigned by the DG. The DDG-R will determine the coherence of ICRISAT's research portfolio across the various semi-arid tropical regions where ICRISAT works and will ensure that a multidisciplinary, integrated genetic and natural resources management strategy guides all the Institute's teams.

Applicants should have a **PhD** or **equivalent degree in Agricultural Sciences** and more than **20 years** of **post-doctoral experience**. **Leadership**, the **ability** to **plan** and **manage research**, and skills in **effective interpersonal communication** in a multicultural and multidisciplinary project-based research environment are vital. Proficiency in written and spoken **English** is essential. Proficiency in written and spoken **French** is an advantage.

The initial appointment is for **three years**; further extensions will be based on organizational requirements and the performance of the incumbent. Internationally competitive salary and benefits will be provided. ICRISAT is an equal opportunity employer, and is especially interested in increasing the participation of women on its staff.

Please submit applications before **20 April 2008** by email to **I.Nagaraj@cgiar.org** addressed to **Director, Human Resources & Operations, ICRISAT, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh-502324, India** [phone: +91-40-30713194; fax:+91-40-30713074].

The application should include a curriculum vitae, a statement of personal competency and experience for the position, date of availability, and the names and addresses (including phone/e-mail) of three references.

- Source: Communications

New Recruitments

vBSS Project Vegetable Breeders in Madagascar and Mali

Dr. Martin Agyei Yeboah and **Mr. Meïssa Diouf** have been appointed as Vegetable Breeders in Madagascar and Mali for the Project "Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems for Poverty Reduction in Africa" for an initial period of two years, effective 1 April 2008. They will report directly to Jan Helsen, Project Administrative Manager.

Dr. Martin Agyei Yeboah, vBSS Project Vegetable Breeder, Madagascar

Martin recently received his PhD in vegetable breeding and genetics from Yangzhou University, PRC. He has nine years of plant-breeding experience.

Mr. Meïssa Diouf , vBSS Project Vegetable Breeder, Mali

Meïssa received his Master of Science in horticulture from Laval University, Quebec, Canada in 1992. He has 15 years of experience as a researcher at *Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles / Centre pour le Développement de l'Horticulture* in vegetable plant breeding and germplasm management (Solanaceous family and traditional vegetables).

Martin's and Meïssa's major responsibilities are (1) support the program's national breeding unit (NBU) in their country of assignment in vegetable breeding and seed systems development; (2) with the Country Liaison Officer and Project Administrative Manager, prioritize crops and breeding objectives for each crop, and design efficient breeding strategies. Priority will be given to varietal development of tomato, chili pepper, sweet pepper, onion, cabbage, and locally important indigenous vegetables; (3) develop and release new vegetable varieties; (4) establish breeding infrastructure, procure equipment and supplies, conduct staff training, and design plant breeding protocols in consultation with the NBU of Tanzania, Research Manager and Project Administrative Manager and in accordance with AVRDC's policies and regulations; (5) collaborate closely with staff of the NBU, AVRDC staff at the Regional Center for Africa in Tanzania, and AVRDC headquarters in all other matters related to vegetable breeding and seed systems; (6) develop cooperative linkages with contract seed producers, NARS regulatory personnel, and seed distribution channels; (7) monitor program activities; and (8) perform any other duties required by the vBSS Project Administrative Manager or the Director of AVRDC's Regional Center for Africa.

- Source: Lilia Tan Habacon/Human Resources Manager

Mosquito Control at HQ

Please note that all residential and FDS areas will be sprayed to control mosquitoes on **Friday, 14 March**. TSO gardeners will begin spraying at 1300 hours. Your attention is much appreciated!

技術服務室園丁將於下星期五（3 月 14 日）下午一點進行中心住宅及餐宿區蚊虫噴灑作業。請注意安全！

- Source: Janice Chou/TSO

Journal Information: Find it on the Library website

Authors, have you been searching fruitlessly for important information about journals? Look no further than the **AVRDC Library Website**, where you'll find details about 64 of the most-used journals at the center — including **current impact factors** for 56 journals. Go to **http://libnts.avrdc.org.tw** and click on "*Author Guidelines*" in the left-hand navigation bar. A linked list of journals will appear. The page also features links to the "Science Citation Index" on the *Thomson Scientific* website and "High Impact Journals" on *Science Gateway*.

Save time: Bookmark the Library website in your browser's "Favorites" list today!

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications

Travel

Dr. Robert de la Peña, 4-13 March, to Arusha, Tanzania, to attend a meeting on the Challenge Program for High Value Crops and to meet with the vBSS staff at AVRDC-RCA.

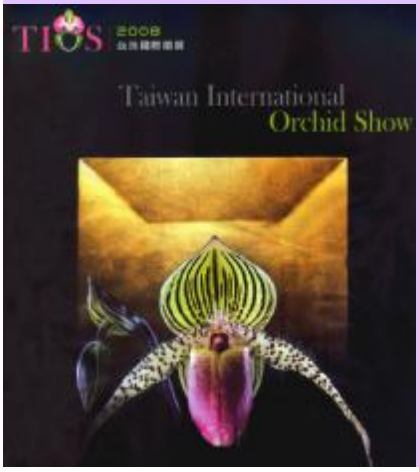
Dr. Paul Gniffke, 9-17 March, to Bangalore, India, to consult with Dr. Madhavi Reddy and IIHR staff on results in the GTZ-funded chili multi-disease resistance breeding trial; 18-31 March, to consult with Dr. Christophe Kouamé in establishing the Cameroon National Breeding Unit (NBU) for the BMGF-sponsored Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems (vBSS) project; 1–7 April, to Mali, to attend the vBSS Annaul Planning workshop and to accompany Dr. Rémi Nono-Womdin on familiarization visits to vegetable and onion production regions in Mali and Senegal.

Dr. Madhusudan Bhattarai, 10-21 March, to Indonesia, to supervise field testing of baseline survey questionnaires, train project staff for baseline surveys, finalize the protocol of the baseline survey activities in Central Java (Semarang, Manglang), and consult on, monitor and evaluate project activities; to monitor and supervise the socio-economic baseline survey activities in Banda Aceh (BPTP office).

Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr., 10-12 March, to Bangkok, Thailand, to serve as a resource person regarding vegetable handling in markets and good practices in selected vegetable supply chains, and to participate in the closing program of Trainers' Training on Horticulture Chain Management (HCM); 13-15 March, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to coordinate and document the experimental set up of the different postharvest experiments for leafy vegetables by the Vietnam team and discuss other project concerns.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

Taiwan International Orchid Show Starts This Week (2008 台灣國際蘭展)



Taiwan is one of the world's largest producers of orchids. The **largest orchid show in Taiwan** will be held in Houbi township, about 40 minutes drive north of headquarters, from **8-17 March**. The show features thousands of dazzling orchids and artistic displays from national and international competitors. A car pool is being organized to go to the show on **Saturday, 15 March** and will leave from outside the cafeteria at 11 am. More information about the show can be found at www.tios.com.tw

2008台灣國際蘭展3月8至17日在後壁鄉烏樹林台灣蘭花生物科技園區展出，康委會將安排車輛於3月15日（星期六）早上11點，在本中心餐廳前集合前往。

- Source: R& S Committee