

## Stuffed and starved

The contrast is striking: In a world where 850 million people go hungry every day, 1 billion people are overweight. In *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Choice and the Battle for the World's Food System*, Dr. Raj Patel travels from the “green deserts” of Brazil and protester-packed streets of South Korea to bankrupt Ugandan coffee farms and barren fields in India to examine the reasons for famine in Asia and Africa, find out why there has been an epidemic of farmer suicides, and expose the false choices and conveniences offered by supermarkets.

Patel, a former policy analyst for Food First, the World Bank, the WTO and the UN, is now a visiting scholar at the University of California Center for African Studies. In light of recent global spikes in the prices of rice, wheat and other foods, and the riots that have occurred as a result, Patel's book has drawn the attention of international policymakers and small farmers alike.

In “World Debate,” a television program aired by the British Broadcasting System on 29 March, Patel and a panel of experts including the managing director of the World Bank, a representative of Unilever, the world's third largest food conglomerate, and Sri Lankan farmer Sarath Fernando — who tills a 1/8th of an acre plot — discussed the impact of large-scale industrial farming on the livelihoods of the world's 1.3 billion small farmers and the health of Earth's 6.6 million (and growing) consumers.



Photo: Sanjeet Kumar

Fernando leads an organization representing 1.8 million small farmers in Sri Lanka. Encouraging small farmers to band together and organize cooperatives like the one Fernando leads is the only way to build the critical mass necessary to serve as a counterweight to the industrial food system, says Patel.

That's exactly what's happening in Africa, according to a recent article in the *Wilson Quarterly* by journalist G. Pascal Zachary. In “The Coming Revolution in Africa” Zachary finds a new generation of entrepreneurial small farmers who may fundamentally change the continent's economy and political structure by doing what they do best: tilling the soil.

### Learn more:

“World Debate” broadcast:  
[stuffedandstarved.org/drupal/node/294](http://stuffedandstarved.org/drupal/node/294)

Raj Patel's website:  
[stuffedandstarved.org](http://stuffedandstarved.org)

*Wilson Quarterly*:  
[www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay\\_id=359819](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=359819)

— Communications

## The LIBRARY

## New publications

## ...from Center staff

Chadha, M.L. (2007). Vegetable research and development strategies for alleviating hunger, malnutrition and poverty in South Asia; Proceedings. Patancheru, Hyderabad: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, Regional Center for South Asia. 152 pp.

Juroszek, P., Tsai, H.H., Ma, C.H. (2007). Weed management in organically grown vegetable soybean in Taiwan with focus on the effect of vinegar application. SOIL AND FERTILIZER NEWSLETTER. no.90:166-167.

Ooi, P.A.C., Canillas, M.D.B., Yambao, R.T. (2007). SDC-AVRDC partnership-promoting sustainability: beyond capacity building. Bangkok: AVRDC-ARC. vii, 71 pp.

## Been to the Library?

*Read, relax, invigorate your mind:* If you haven't visited the Library recently, you're missing out on one of the most enjoyable experiences available on the WVC campus.

The Library staff has moved furniture and shifted shelves to make visitors more comfortable. In the new Library, you'll find quiet corners where you can commune with your favorite journal, and ample space to stretch out and catch up on world events in the latest newsmagazines.

As always, our knowledgeable, friendly librarians Fang-chin, Nick, and Jin-tien are ready to help you locate the information you seek. Been to the Library lately? If not, you don't know what you're missing!

— Source : Communications

## Recent articles requested by scientists

Broad, S.T., Schellhorn, N.A., Lissont, S.N., Mendham, N.J. (2008). Host location and oviposition of lepidopteran herbivores in diversified broccoli cropping systems. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST ENTOMOLOGY. v.10:157-165.

Franklin, M.T., Myers, J.H. (2008). Refuges in reverse: the spread of *Bacillus thuringiensis* resistance to unselected greenhouse populations of cabbage loopers *Trichoplusia ni*. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST ENTOMOLOGY. v.10:119-127.

Jourdie, V., Alvarez, N., Turlings, T.C.J. (2008). Identification of seven species of hymenopteran parasitoids of *Spodoptera frugiperda*, using polymerase chain reaction amplification and restriction enzyme digestion.

AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST ENTOMOLOGY. v.10:129-136.

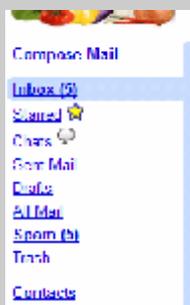
DellaPenna, D., Pogson, B.J. (2006). Vitamin synthesis in plants: tocopherols and carotenoids. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLANT BIOLOGY. v.57:711-738.

Srijayanta, S., Jones, P.M., Persaud, S., Lawrence, M.J., Raman, A. (1998). In-vitro screening of medicinal plants for potential antidiabetic effects. JOURNAL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY. v.50(S):219.

Raman, A., Lau, C. (1996). Anti-diabetic properties and phytochemistry of *Momordica charantia* L. (Cucurbitaceae). PHYTOMEDICINE. v.2(4):349-362.

— Fang-chin Chen/Communications

## IT Tip of the Week



In Gmail, All Mail is your archive.

It stores all the mail you've ever sent or received, but have not deleted. Archived messages are also available by searching, and under any assigned labels.

If you have a specific computer problem, send an e-mail to

Shirley Chen  
([shirley.chen@worldveg.org](mailto:shirley.chen@worldveg.org)) or

Hsien-yang Tien  
([hsien-yang.tien@worldveg.org](mailto:hsien-yang.tien@worldveg.org)).

— Source : Communications

To archive mail:

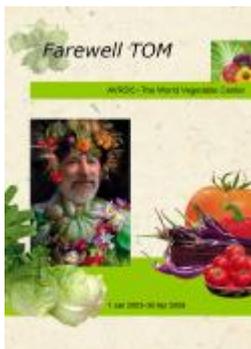
1. Select the message(s) you'd like to archive by checking the box next to the sender's name.
2. Click Archive at the top of your inbox.

You also can archive mail after you open it - just click Archive along the top of the message.

If you have questions about using your new worldveg.org account, ask staff in Communications, Bacteriology or Socio-economics for help. These three units tested the new system to make the transition go more smoothly for the entire Center.

## PEOPLE

## A look at Tom's book



Earlier this month you sent in your farewell wishes for Dr. Tom Lumpkin, but you probably didn't have the chance to see

the entire book of messages, reminiscences, and photos prepared for

Tom by Oliver Hanschke and Chen Ming-che in the Communications Unit. A second copy is available in the library, and you can also read the farewell book on the Center's intranet in the newsletter section.

— Communications

## Welcome to...



Ms. Franziska Beran, Ph.D student from Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, is back at AVRDC for two

months of advanced training. She arrived on 22 April 2008. Ms. Beran is working on "Insect-plant interactions in vegetable brassicas to striped flea beetle (*Phyllotreta striolata*)" under the supervision of Dr. Srinivasan Ramasamy, Entomologist. She will work at AVRDC until 24 June 2008 and can be contacted at 422 (office) and 666 (dormitory), [franzi.beran@gmx.de](mailto:franzi.beran@gmx.de)

— Lydia Wu/Communications

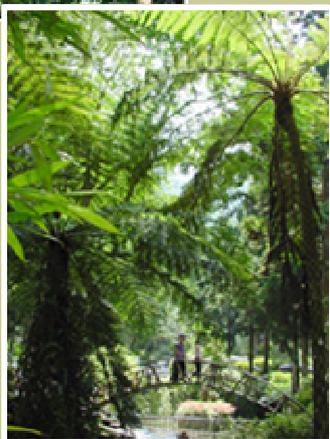
## CORNUCOPIA

## Bus trip to Shi-Tou Forest in May



Left: Be refreshed when you visit Shi-Tou.

Right: Walk in the cool shade of Shi-Tou's huge tree ferns.



The R&S Committee invites you to enjoy the cool greenery of Shi-Tou Forest Recreation Area on Saturday 24 May 2008 from 07:45-19:00. Located about two hours north of the Center in Nantou County at an altitude of 1100 m, Shi-Tou is part of a 33,000 ha forest managed by National Taiwan University. It features a vast network of trails and many scenic spots including a canopy walk through the treetops, a 2,800-year-old cypress, a lake, gardens and bamboo groves. Staff, families, campus residents and trainees are welcome to attend. The fee covers

the bus ride and park admission. Pay before 9 May for the early bird special rate of NT\$200 per person. After 9 May, the rate will be NT\$250. You may bring a picnic lunch or opt to dine at one the restaurants in the forest.

To register, please contact Chee-Wee Tan (ext 374) or Lilia Tan-Habacon (ext 201). There are 120 seats available for the trip. For more information on the forest, visit [chitou.cyh.org.tw/eng/](http://chitou.cyh.org.tw/eng/) or [www.exfo.ntu.edu.tw](http://www.exfo.ntu.edu.tw)



One of Shi-Tou's lovely bridges and ponds.

溪頭森林遊樂區位於南投縣鹿谷鄉鳳凰山麓上，海拔 1150 公尺，為台灣大學農學院總面積為 33,000 公頃的七個實驗林之一，三面環山，谷口朝北，區內雨量充沛。草木繁茂，經年氣候涼爽，一年四季遊客絡繹不絕。康委會將在 5 月 24 日（星期六）舉辦「溪頭森林遊樂區一日遊」有 2,800 多年歷史的溪頭神木遊樂區內遍植柳杉和臺灣杉，古木參天，綠意盎然。風景點包括竹類及針葉

樹標本園、苗圃、銀杏林、神木、大學池、青年活動中心、賞鳥步道、空中步道及孟宗竹林等。歡迎全體同仁、眷屬及學員參加，5 月 9 日前報名優惠價是新台幣每人 200 元，5 月 9 日之後前報名則需付每人 250 元。包括交通費及入門票，午餐自備或可以在遊樂區的餐廳用餐。報名及繳交費用請洽陳志威（分機 374）或譚莉莉（分機 210）。名額 120 位。

詳細資料可上網查詢 <http://chitou.cyh.org.tw> 或 [www.exfo.ntu.edu.tw](http://www.exfo.ntu.edu.tw)。

## WorldVeg Dragon Boat Rowing Team gears up

The R&S Committee is inviting everyone to join the WorldVeg Dragon Boat Rowing Team. This year's competition is on 8 June. Those interested to join may contact Chien-hua Wallace Chen, Dragon Boat Team Captain, Mycology Unit, ext. 342/343 or Lilia Tan-Habacon ext 201. Deadline for registration is 5 May.

一年一度由台南市政府舉辦的端節龍舟賽即將在 6 月 8 日開賽，康委會歡迎全體同仁踴躍報名參加。報名專線：亞蔬龍舟隊長—植物真菌組陳堅華（分機 342/343），或洽譚莉莉（分機 201），報名截止日期為 5 月 5 日。

— Lilia Tan-Habacon/R&S Committee

## FOCUS: AFRICA

### vBSS in action

Mr. Benjamin Rakotoarisoa presented the vBSS program at the Regional Program of Plant Protection (PRPV) workshop in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 21-23 April.



vBSS training course participants in Antananarivo, Madagascar

Sixteen research and extension agents attended a vBSS training course, “Managing multilocation trials and nurseries” from 15-16 April in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The trials for tomato and onions will take place at 12 locations across 3 agroecological zones.

Drs. Jim Ellis Jones, Joseph Hella, Moses Onim, John Stenhouse and Howard Gridley launched the vBSS baseline workshop on 9-10 April in Arusha. Jim and Joseph will focus their attention on Tanzania and Madagascar; John and Howard will undertake survey work in Mali and Cameroon. Moses will provide data on the seed systems in the region. The overall objective is to provide baseline information on seed systems and vegetable production, consumption and nutrition, which will be used for monitoring and impact assessment.

Dr. Christophe Kouamé (vBSS-Cameroon) and Dr. Ekow Akyeampong (AVRDC/vBSS-Mali) attended a national workshop on Vegetable Consumption and Nutrition in Cotonou, Benin in March. Policymakers in agriculture and health departments, scientists, restaurant managers, vegetable producers and consumers discussed safe vegetable production, clinical nutrition, and the desire for more coordinated action on

vegetable research for development with help from the vBSS innovation platform. Participants noted a higher than anticipated consumption of nightshade and okra in Cotonou.



Drs. Kouame and Gniffke at the Dadoun field day

Dr. Kouamé also visited research stations, nutrition services, seed production facilities, NGOs, public seed operations and private seed companies in Benin and Côte d’Ivoire to introduce the vBSS program, explore collaborative research agreements, and assess potential testing sites with the aim of organizing field days, workshops, seed multiplication and variety trials in 2008.



Participants at the Dadoun field day observe the fruit of a new tomato variety.

Drs. Christophe Kouamé and Paul Gniffke attended a field day on new pepper and tomato varieties introduced in Dadoun, Cameroon on 21 March.

The field day was organized by a local private seed company, GMR (Grenier du Monde Rural) in collaboration with the Baddar Co. More than 60 participants visited the pepper and tomato plots. GMR will collaborate with vBSS to evaluate and promote nightshade and tomato cultivars.

— Dr. Shilpi Saxena/RCA

### Welcome to...



Mr. Martin Hallensleben, a BSc student in horticulture at the University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden, Germany, will study African Indigenous

Vegetables at RCA under the supervision of Mr. Stefan Pletziger. The internship, which runs to August 31, is co-sponsored by the International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Martin Yeboah, who has officially resumed work as the vBSS vegetable breeder in Madagascar.

— Dr. Shilpi Saxena/RCA

### Spotlight on soybeans

Dr. Glenn R. Bowers of the Syngenta Seed Co. Ltd. addressed the topic of “Commercial Soybean Breeding in the Western Hemisphere” on 24 April as part of the Center’s 2008 Seminar Series. The multinational company, ranked third in the global seed market, spends \$2 million per day on research as it strives to compete in the high-stakes agribusiness sector. Soybean, grown on farms as large as 500,000 hectares in Brazil, is the world’s number one crop for oil production and animal feed, and the number one source of human protein. Roughly 98% of soybeans planted in USA and South America are genetically modified; seed companies need new sources of genetic material to develop higher-yielding, disease-resistant varieties for industrial farmers. The company would like to search the Center’s soybean germplasm collection for native traits and exotic alleles to add diversity into its breeding lines. Dr. Bowers also discussed how the profession of plant breeding has been changed by technology such as the remote sensing of maturity and “continuous nurseries” capable of churning out four generations a year.

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The issuance of an "Order of Brilliant Star with Violet Grand Cordon" to Dr. Thomas Lumpkin in Taipei on Friday 18 April marked the end of an eventful and festive week at headquarters. With this unique award Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian

honored Dr. Lumpkin's outstanding commitment to the Center's rebirth and growth into a global institute. The ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was attended by Robert S. Wang, Deputy Director of the American Institute (AIT) in Taipei, Mr. C.L. Luh,

AVRDC's first Deputy Director General, Dr. Yin-fu Chang, the Center's current Deputy Director General for Administration and Services, Dr. Paul Sun, Chair of the Board of Directors (left to right), and AVRDC's new Director General, Dr. Dyno Keatinge.



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## Sketch

With the Center's recent rapid expansion you may notice a lot of new faces around HQ and in the regions. To help everyone get acquainted, Sketch - a new feature in the newsletter -- will highlight a different staff member each week. You'll be asked a few questions about your work or research and your reasons for coming to the Center, and you can then recommend a person for the following week's profile. In next week's Sketch: *Anges Yadouleton*.

— Communications

Symposium on Vegetable Production and Quality and Process Standardization in Chain: a Worldwide Perspective" on 14-17 October 2008 in Beijing, China. Growers, scientists, wholesalers, retailers and customers will discuss China's vegetable production, quality control, postharvest issues, and food safety after two decades of rapid industrialization.

Visit [www.bvrc.com/cn/Vege2008Beijing](http://www.bvrc.com/cn/Vege2008Beijing) to register.

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## Mark your calendar



The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) will host the "The Second International

## The beauty of vegetables

Last week, vegetables were a feast for the eyes as well as the palates of board members and headquarters staff as they admired the stunning displays designed by Lu Hsiu-luan of the International Cooperation Office. Ms. Lu incorporates cherry tomatoes, chili



peppers, eggplant, rosemary, snake gourd, squash and other vegetables and herbs into her floral arrangements. Thanks to Mrs. Lu for using her skill and artistry to show us another way to appreciate vegetables.

— Communications