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Big in China

While China's economy produces one record after another, the emerging giant is leading another revolution that is proving to be a heavy burden now and promises to be even more troublesome in the future. More than a fifth of China's adult population is overweight, the result of changing dietary and physical activity patterns. Poor diets are becoming a greater issue for poor and rich alike as chronic and degenerative diseases rise in tandem with the scales. The related economic costs represent 4-8 percent of the economy. Obesity and poor diet are causing large increases in hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and adult-onset diabetes, putting pressure on the health system. However, obesity has not been prioritized in the country's public health agenda, says a study whose results were published in the July/August issue of the journal *Health Affairs*.

More than 1.2 per cent of the Chinese adult male population became overweight or obese each year during the past decade, higher than in developed countries and all other developing countries except Mexico. Western-style food and less physical activity are driving up China's obesity problems and

straining the health system. The rapid expansion of supermarkets and junk food stores in China, declining physical activity as people take on more sedentary jobs, and the rise of private car ownership are the primary culprits. This scenario is supported by a separate study presented at the annual meeting of the WHO in late May. It warns that childhood obesity is also becoming a major problem. More children are taken to fast food chains by their parents, are increasingly adopting Western 'couch potato' lifestyles, and are indulged due to China's one-child policy. Almost one in five Chinese children under seven years of age is overweight, and more than seven per cent are obese.

Reducing hunger is politically appealing; controlling obesity, hypertension, and diabetes does not have the same appeal. In the past, undernutrition and chronic diseases were seen as two totally separate problems, despite being present simultaneously. The root causes of malnutrition include poverty and inequity, says Ray-yu Yang, AVRDC The World Vegetable Center's nutritionist. Sufficient, safe and varied food supplies including vegetables and fruits not only prevent malnutrition but also reduce the risk of chronic diseases. This is in alignment with WHO suggestions that call for integrated

approaches to tackle the double burden of undernourishment and obesity.

Further reading:

Barry M. Popkin: Will China's Nutrition Transition Overwhelm Its Health Care System And Slow Economic Growth? *Health Affairs*, 27, no. 4 (2008): 1064-1076

WHO Technical Report Series 916: *Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases*. Geneva 2003.

The LIBRARY

New publications

from the Bacterial Wilt SDI Bulletin

Alvarez, B., Vasse, J., Le-Courtois, V., Trigalet-Demery, D., Lopez, M.M., Trigalet, A. (2008).

Comparative behavior of *Ralstonia solanacearum* biovar 2 in diverse plant species. PHYTOPATHOLOGY. v.98 (1):59-68.

Cho, E., Lee, S., Jung, S. (2008). Novel acetylated alpha-cyclophosphorotridecaose produced by *Ralstonia solanacearum*. CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH. v.343(5):912-918.

Gao, G., Jin, L.P., Xie, K.Y., Qu, D.Y. (2008). Differential space-time expression of StLTPb1 gene

between resistant and susceptible potato genotypes in response to *Ralstonia solanacearum*. AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES IN CHINA. v.7(6):713-725.

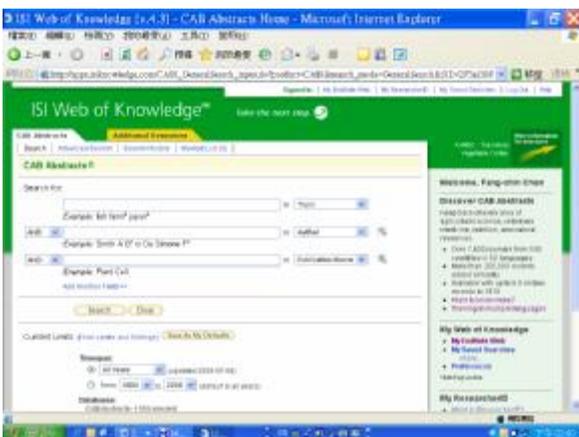
Kino, K., Nakoto, Y.N., Yagasaki, M. (2008). Dipeptide synthesis by l-amino acid ligase from *Ralstonia solanacearum*. BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS. v.371 (3):536-540.

Perez, S., Mejia, L., Fegan, M., Allen, C. (2008). Diversity and distribution of *Ralstonia solanacearum* strains in Guatemala

and rare occurrence of tomato fruit infection. PLANT PATHOLOGY. v.57(2):320-331.

Alvarez, B., Lopez, M.M., Biosca, E.G. (2007). Influence of native microbiota on survival of *Ralstonia solanacearum* phylotype II in river water microcosms. APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY. v.73(22):7210-7217.

CAB Abstracts now on ISI Web of Knowledge



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more than 8,000 journals, conference proceedings, books, theses, and gray literature from over 140 countries and spanning 50 languages.

The new version of **ISI Web of Knowledge** provides more comprehensive features: CABICODES, CAB Thesaurus, CAS Registry

Number, Analyze Results, Search Within Results, and One-Click Searching. Also, you can save your output records to Endnote Web or PC, and link directly from records in CAB Abstracts to full-text articles (*ScienceDirect* & *SpringerLink*) or the AVRDC Library Catalog.

To access CAB Abstracts through

ISI Web of Knowledge, visit the Library website <http://libnits.avrdc.org.tw> and click on Electronic Resources. If you need assistance, please refer to the User Guide link under the CAB listing, or contact our librarians:

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PEOPLE

Farewell...



The Juroszek family left for Germany on 24 July after Peter's three and half years working with the Center. Peter would like to say thank you to all of us.

His e-mail: pjuroszek@yahoo.com

Photo (top): Organic team staff (L to R: Ida Tsai, Tsai-tu Chen, Peter Juroszek, Ming-jen Yang, Kuei-hsiang Shen)

Photo (left): The Juroszek family (L to R: Yonghong, Sonia, and Peter)



CORNUCOPIA

New e-mail groups created for your convenience

Save time when sending a message to a group of staff by using the **readymade group e-mails within worldveg**. These can be accessed via the Contact Picker when composing a new e-mail. Following the recent changes, and requests for new groups the following addresses have been created:

hq-allstaff@worldveg.org
all staff in headquarters

admin_services@worldveg.org
administration service in headquarters

editor_library@worldveg.org
Maureen Mecozzi and library staff

public_awareness@worldveg.org
Oliver Hanschke and public awareness & information staff

donors_IT@worldveg.org
Warwick Easdown and IT staff

projects_programs@worldveg.org
former GDO

tech_dissemination@worldveg.org
Greg Luther, Edwin Javier, training and ICO staff

Warwick Easdown/Donor Support and IT

SKETCH



Name: Vivian M. Bernau

Home: Altoona, Iowa, USA

Position: Student/Borlaug-Ruan International Intern

Why you do what you do:

My first experiences with agriculture were on the family farm in northeastern Iowa. In 2001 we ended up moving to the suburbs of Des Moines, Iowa's state capital. We now raise and sell chemical and pesticide-free fruits and vegetables on our 1.5 hectare homestead located in the middle of town. The garden was meant to help my dad adjust to city life after 35 years on the farm; but my mom, a

schoolteacher, and I end up doing most of the work during the summer months. This year we also started keeping a hive of bees and chickens. I have always been interested in sustainable agriculture and agricultural practices.

Why you do it at AVRDC:

My stay here is funded by the World Food Prize Foundation's Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program. It is the only study abroad program that allows high school students to participate in research programs. This year 13 US students were sent to research centers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The goal of the Summer Internship Program is to inspire youths to pursue careers in food, agricultural and natural resource disciplines.

Research:

My project here deals with whitefly transmitted *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus*. I have been studying the effects of whiteflies on 15 different species of tomato to select varieties

that are resistant to the whiteflies.

What's next:

When I return home on 28 July I will have about three weeks until I start my first year at Iowa State University. I will be studying Agronomy.

Your favorite experience in Taiwan:

I really enjoy going to all of the afternoon and night markets. There is so much to see and the food is great!

Favorite vegetable:

Turnips! I like to use it instead of potatoes to add more flavor.

HOT OF THE PRESSES: AFRICAN INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES



How to Grow

In sub-Saharan Africa indigenous vegetables provide an important but under-recognized source of nutrition for poor households. The series of new leaflets, released by the Regional Center for Africa in collaboration with headquarters, aims to raise awareness of these valuable plants. The leaflets come in in English and Kiswahili, and will be ready for download from our website next week.