

From the land of plenty to regions of prosperity

Not long ago the European Union was known as a land of plenty, complete with excess 'grain mountains' and 'milk lakes'. However, the rising demand for agricultural crops and spiraling food prices is beginning to transform this excess production.

European consumers groan when paying exorbitant prices to fill their shopping baskets, and to add insult to injury their taxes also subsidized the dumping of excess production on the world market. No longer. During the G-8 Summit in Japan last month the European Commission announced it will direct the funds formerly devoted to buying up surpluses from the Union's farmers to agriculture in Africa and other 'hot spots'.

In the past, the EU paid around 1 billion Euro for the so-called 'grain mountains' or 'milk lakes' that resulted when EU farmers produced more than they could sell. The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which consumes 40 percent of the EU's total budget, provides subsidies for farmers who produce surpluses of certain crops. With spiraling food prices, European agriculture no longer needs this safety net. José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission says that "This will aim to generate a



strong and rapid agricultural supply response. For example, promoting agricultural production by improving poor farmers' access to inputs such as better fertilizers and seeds." In his statement Barroso takes up the claim by African leaders that agricultural growth would be essential to reach the MDGs.

The EU is not a lone fighter in this regard. At the Hokkaido Summit G8 leaders released a statement on global food security, expressing concern over the steep rise in global food prices and availability problems that are threatening global food security. The leaders plan to reverse the overall decline of aid and investment in the agricultural sector to achieve significant increases in support of developing country initiatives, including Africa, through full and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme

(CAADP). G8 countries will support CAADP's goal of 6.2% annual growth in agricultural productivity.

Particular emphases will be placed on fostering smallholder agriculture and rural growth, promoting agricultural research and development, and the training of a new generation of developing country scientists and experts, in particular via the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and through partnerships such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Sources:

EU Commission President speaks at G8 outreach session with African leaders
7 July 2008 (http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_8002_en.htm)

G8 Leaders Statement on Global Food Security
G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit
http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/doc080709_04_en.html

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New publications

... from Center staff

Juroszek, P., Palada, M., Ma, C.H., Tsai, H.H., Wu, D.L. (2008). Development of an organic vegetable program at AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(4):1143.

Keatinge, J.D.H. (2008). Vegetable industry and research in Asia. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(4):1068.

Lin, C.H. (2008). Application of population profiling and detection of *Ralstonia solanacearum* on integrated management of tomato bacterial wilt. Taichung: NCHU. ix, 101 pp.

Ma, C.H., Juroszek, P., Palada, M., Srinivasan, R., Wang, T.C., Yang, R.Y. (2008). Integration of

production technologies for organic vegetable soybean in Taiwan. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(4):1106.

Palada, M., Bhattarai, S., Roberts, M. (2008). Farmer participatory evaluation of affordable micro irrigation technology for vegetable production in Cambodia. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(3):1143.

Pandey, J., Singh, J., Verma, A., Singh, A., Rai, M., Kumar, S. (2008). Evaluation of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L) genotypes for some quality traits. *JOURNAL OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - MYSORE*. v.45(5):463-465.

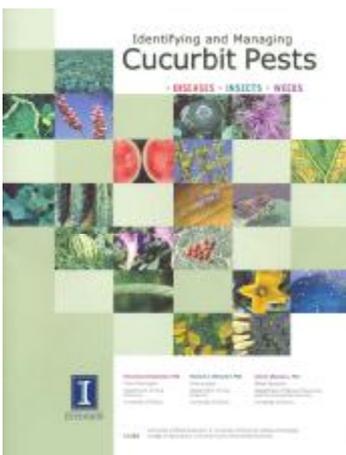
Salas, R., Palada, M., Wu, D.L., Gniffke, P. (2008). Response of

Indonesian chili pepper varieties to irrigation methods in southern Taiwan. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(4):1125.

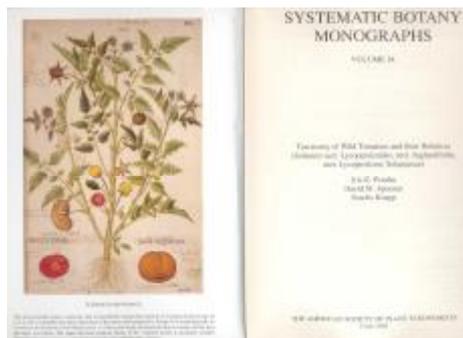
Wu, D.L., Palada, M. (2008). Developing an integrated crop management system for managing soil-borne diseases in sweet pepper production. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.43(4):1158.

Kumar, S., Singh, V., Singh, M., Rai, S., Rai, S.K., Rai, M. (2007). Genetics and distribution of fertility restoration associated RAPD markers in inbreds of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.). *SCIENTIA HORTICULTURAE*. v.111(3):197-202.

... New books available



Babadoost, M., Weinzierl, R.A., Masiunas, J.B. (2004). *Identifying and managing cucurbit pests: diseases, insects, weeds*. Urbana, IL: Board of Trustees, University of Illinois. 48 pp.



Peralta, I.E., Spooner, D.M., Knapp, S. (2008). *Taxonomy of wild tomatoes and their relatives (Solanum sect. Lycopersicoides, sect. Juglandifolia, sect. Lycopersicon; Solanaceae)*. Ann Arbor., MI: The American Society of Plant Taxonomists. 186 pp.

Improving our electronic security

Over the next few weeks all staff in headquarters will be asked to change their passwords to access the network. As a result of introducing the Active Directory system our security has been improved and passwords now need to be changed every three months. You can also change your password by clicking Ctrl-Alt-Del and clicking on <Change password>.

To further strengthen our security the NOD32 anti-virus software has also been installed on all desktop computers in headquarters, and is being rolled out in our regional offices. If any head office staff also wish to have NOD32 installed on their portables please contact the IT staff.

FOCUS

A reminder of our host country's continuing support

To permanently record the visit of Dr. Mignonne Chan, newly appointed Senior Advisor to the ROC President's Office and to act as

an enduring reminder of our generous continued funding from the government of Taiwan she kindly agreed to plant a tree along

the Center's new memorial drive. We hope that she will return frequently to see how the Center and her seedling are prospering .

*Welcome to Nane-nane*

“Karibuni” means welcome, while the Kiswahili term “Nane-nane” in English means eight-eight. Together they refer to a series of agricultural shows taking place throughout Tanzania each year on 8 August. Over 220 large and small-scale businesses attended this year's agricultural and livestock products and services show in Arusha from 1-8 August. Among the exhibitors were our colleagues from the Regional Center for Africa. Read the full report on the Center's contribution to this important event next week.

PEOPLE

Welcome...



Ms. Dörthe Musmann,
Research
Fellow from
the Institute
of Plant
Genetics,
Gottfried

Wilhelm Leibniz University of
Hannover, Germany arrived at
Center HQ on Thursday, 14 August

2008 for three months of training.
Ms. Musmann will work on the
GTZ-funded project “Genetic,
physiological and molecular
approaches to improve heat and
drought tolerance of tropical
tomato” in the Biotechnology/
Molecular Breeding Unit under the
supervision of Dr. Robert de la
Peña. Ms. Muduma can be
contacted at 361 (laboratory) and

876 (dormitory),
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- Source: Lydia Wu, *Global Technology
Dissemination*

SKETCH



Name: Peter Wang

Home: Taipei, but relocated to
Tainan for four years.

Position: Superintendent of the
Technical Services Office

Why do you do?

A giant construction work creates
in people a feeling of achievement
and success. I admired great
architectural buildings and heavy
infrastructural work ever since I
was a teenager. I'm lucky that my
civil engineering education has
allowed me to work in the
construction field now for more
than fifteen years. Beginning with
the construction of high rise
buildings, then the long tunnel of

the Taipei-Ilan highway, the Taipei
subway system and then the Taipei
101 building. Each one was an
unforgettable experience that I am
reminded of every time I drive to
and from Ilan on the highway, take
the Taipei metropolitan subway
system or see Taiwan's tallest
building whenever I return to
Taipei. It's like enjoying the harvest
after a hard day's work in the field.
For me the joy and mental
satisfaction in seeing these projects
completed will last for the rest of
my life.

Why do you do it at AVRDC:

There have been quite a few major
renovation projects at the Center in
recent years including the overhaul
of the laboratory, residential houses
and the administration building as
well as replacement of the
underground electrical cable and
water pumping system,
waterproofing of major buildings
and other miscellaneous projects. I
am glad to have been involved with
these projects from start to finish.
Now I supervise not only all the
construction processes in the
Center but the field and glasshouse

management and daily
maintenance and operations as
well. It's a different kind of
experience and satisfaction for me
leading a support crew, helping
develop our agricultural research
facilities and providing a
comfortable and safe environment.

What's next? I do believe the
Center needs more modern
laboratories, buildings and other
hardware facilities to be
comparable to other national and
international agricultural
institutions and to be a world class
institution. I want to help provide
my experience and assistance to
achieve this target in the future.

**Your favorite experience at
the Center:** I was pleased and
satisfied when the staff were able to
move back into the renovated
administration building last
September. I feel great that our
staff now have a better working
environment and enjoy their new
offices.

Favorite vegetables: Tomato,
Pumpkin, and Lettuce