

3 October 2008

Call to action: Turning point in the fight against poverty

World leaders came together in New York on 25 September 2008 for a **high-level event** convened by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN General Assembly to renew commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and to set out concrete plans and practical steps for action.

Rising food prices, record energy costs and climate change all threaten to reverse existing advances toward the MDGs. The World Bank estimates that high food prices and climate change could together drive over 100 million people into extreme poverty. This would undo most of the gains the world's poor have made over the last decade. "The cost of inaction – even in what may constitute tough economic times – will be devastating, and the effects will be felt all over the world," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "The poor and hungry of this world are looking at us for leadership and solutions. We must not fail them."

Representatives of governments, regional organizations and agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank were in agreement on

the urgent need to increase productivity, especially for smallholder farmers, and to invest more into agricultural development, research, and technology transfer. It was estimated that it will take as much as \$40 billion a year in funding over the next three to five years to alleviate the food crisis and ensure long-term improvement in agricultural production.



There was also recognition of the close linkages between the food crisis and climate change.

The participants called for a "second green revolution," particularly in Africa, and for increases in private sector investment and public funding. At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, progress in many African countries is not on track, as was stated in a status report released by the MDG Africa Steering Group earlier in July. The Steering Group calls for the key actions by sector, and one of these

sectors is agriculture and food security.

Africa is the only region in the world where per capita food production has fallen in the last 30 years. Therefore, the Steering Group calls for support to African Governments to launch a Green Revolution to double crop yields, with a focus on providing smallholder farmers with temporary subsidies for fertilizer and better seeds. Malawi's agricultural support programme provides an impressive example of the rapid gains that can be made with improved inputs. Development assistance for African agriculture must rise from the current US\$1–2 billion provided annually to some US\$8 billion by 2010. In parallel, assistance for feeding and nutrition programmes should be raised by an additional US\$4 billion by 2010.

Source:

World leaders endorse Ban Ki-moon's call for action on climate change and food crisis

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/>

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

www.mdgafrica.org

Further reading:

Tracking the Millennium Development Goals: The **MDG Monitor** shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**.

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>

The LIBRARY

New publications

...from the Tomato SDI Bulletin

Horchani, F., Gallusci, P., Baldet, P., Cabasson, C., Maucourt, M., Rolin, D., Aschi-Smiti, S., Raymond, P. (2008). Prolonged root hypoxia induces ammonium accumulation and decreases the nutritional quality of tomato fruits. *JOURNAL OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY*. v.165(13):1352-1359.

Jacob, D., David, D.R., Sztjenberg, A., Elad, Y. (2008). Conditions for development of powdery mildew of tomato caused by *Oidium neolycopersici*. *PHYTOPATHOLOGY*. v.98(3):270-281.

Lopez-Raez, J.A., Charnikhova, T., Mulder, P., Kohlen, W., Bino, R., Levin, I., Bouwmeester, H. (2008). Susceptibility of the tomato mutant light pigment-2dg (hp-2dg) to *Orobancha* spp. infection. *JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY*. v.56(15):6326-6332.

Lucena, J.J., Sentis, J.A., Villen, M., Lao, T., Perez-Saez, M. (2008). IDHA chelates as a micronutrient source for green bean and tomato in fertigation and hydroponics. *AGRONOMY JOURNAL*. v.100

(3):813-818.

Miao, L.X., Shou, S.Y., Cai, J.Y., Jiang, F., Zhu, Z.J., Li, H.B. (2008). Identification of two AFLP markers linked to bacterial wilt resistance in tomato and conversion to SCAR markers. *MOLECULAR BIOLOGY REPORTS*. online.

Ghanim, M., Medina, V. (2007). Localization of Tomato yellow leaf curl virus in its whitefly vector *Bemisia tabaci*. In: Tomato yellow leaf curl virus disease: management, molecular biology, breeding for resistance. Dordrecht: Springer. p.171-183.

Horowitz, R., Denholm, I., Morin, S. (2007). Resistance to insecticides in the TYLCV vector, *Bemisia tabaci*. In: Tomato yellow leaf curl virus disease: management, molecular biology, breeding for resistance. Dordrecht: Springer. p.305-325.

Lapidot, M. (2007). Screening for TYLCV-resistant plants using whitefly-mediated inoculation. In: Tomato yellow leaf curl virus disease: management, molecular biology, breeding for resistance.

Dordrecht: Springer. p.329-342.

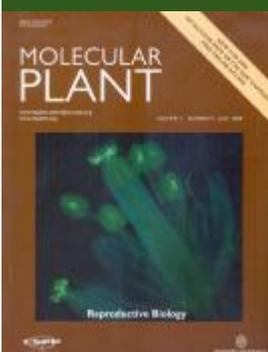
Chaim, A.B., Borovsky, Y., Rao, G., Zamik, D., Paran, I. (2006). Comparative QTL mapping of fruit size and shape in tomato and pepper. *ISRAEL JOURNAL OF PLANT SCIENCES*. v.54(3):191-203.

Charib, J., Lecomte, L., Buret, M., Causse, M. (2006). Stability over genetic backgrounds, generations and years of quantitative trait locus (QTLs) for organoleptic quality in tomato. *THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS*. v.112(5):934-944.

Goggin, F.L., Jia, L., Shah, G., Hebert, S., Williamson, V.M., Ullman, D.E. (2006). Heterologous expression of the Mi-1.2 gene from tomato confers resistance against nematodes but not aphids in eggplant. *MOLECULAR PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS*. v.19(4):383-388.

Zou, L.P., Li, H.X., Bo, O.Y., Zhang, J.H., Ye, Z.B. (2006). Cloning and mapping of genes involved in tomato ascorbic acid biosynthesis and metabolism. *PLANT SCIENCE*. v.170(1):120-127.

New journal available



We are pleased to announce that the new journal **Molecular Plant** (volume 1, number 1-

4, 2008) is now available in the library.

Molecular Plant is a newly founded international journal that publishes significant findings in plant biology, focusing broadly on cellular biology, physiology, molecular biology, genetics,

development and evolution. The journal features a strong international editorial board and aims to become a top-tier journal in the field.

— Fang-chin Chen, Editorial and Library

PEOPLE

Retired but still in the neighborhood — Good bye! Sylvia Green



unsung heroes, our field laborers, who work so hard and under such difficult conditions.” On behalf of everyone at AVRDC, past and present, Dr. Dyno Keatinge expressed gratitude to Sylvia for her long years of service and loyalty to the Center. Dr. Green was praised for all the great things she has accomplished in the Virology Unit and all our best wishes go with her. Dr. Green

Dr. Sylvia Green retired from AVRDC on 30 September 2008, after 28 years of service. Requesting that her departure be a

low key affair she choose to plant a tree in lieu of a farewell party. Dr. Green stated “I would like to dedicate the tree to AVRDC’s

will continue to live in the Shanhua area so I am sure we will still be seeing her from time to time.

New staff

Mr. Kolade Olatifede , Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services, HQ



Mr. Kolade Olatifede will report for duty at HQ on 11 October 2008. He will be

accompanied by his wife (Yawande) and their three children (1st daughter Tunmise at 13, 2nd daughter Dara at 10 and son Boluwarin at 7). His initial appointment is for three years until 10 October 2011. The Olatifedes will stay in the House 810 (Ext. 810) on the campus, and Mr. Olatifede’s

office will be located at the south-east wing of the 2nd floor of Chandler Hall with extension numbers 140/141.

— Dr. Yin-Fu Chang, Deputy Director General for Administration & Services

Dr. Major S. Dhaliwal, Vegetable Breeder, vBSS Program, Cameroon



Dr. Major S. Dhaliwal, Vegetable Breeder, joined vBSS program in Cameroon on 1 October 2008.

Dr. Dhaliwal worked on tomato and chili breeding at the Punjab Agricultural University of Ludhiana, India before joining AVRDC. He can be contacted at: major.dhaliwal@worldveg.org

— Dr. Christophe Kouamé, Liaison Officer, Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems

New E-mail

Dr. Andreas Ebert, Genebank Manager, GRSU
andreas.ebert@worldveg.org

— Letty Lin/GRSU

SKETCH



Name: Kartini (Iin) Luther

Home: My hometown is Solo, in Central Java, Indonesia. Solo is one of the most famous sources of fine batik in Indonesia.

Position: Assistant to the Deputy Director General for Research

Why do you do what you do?

My background education is in agricultural and environmental microbiology with emphasis on water resources microbiology. Right after I graduated, however, I decided to start a family and raise our children as a full time mother. I did that for more than 8 years before attempting to join the

workforce again by taking a part time job as a Hydrology lab coordinator in Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. However, I realize that to go into a career path related to my education the best thing would be to go back to school, either by taking refresher courses or getting a PhD. That was the tentative plan for me. I have to admit, however, that I didn't have the burning desire to go back to school again. In the meantime, the Center was recruiting for the position of the Assistant to DDG - Research I am in right now. First I didn't even think about it at all. However, after I was encouraged to apply for the position, I put a lot of thinking in the possibility of applying for the job. My conclusion was: yes, this is something that I can do, will be challenging and I'll be happy with. Since then, I really am enjoying my job, feel challenged and find the work rewarding. I hope that in my capacity, I am making a difference for the better, for the Center.

Why do you do it at AVRDC?

The first time we came here to AVRDC, I was a dependent to my husband who was hired by the Center. But, our coming to AVRDC is based on our desire to be able to serve the poor better and we firmly believe that the Center is one of the

best places where we can do so. On top of that, I always love the idea of crop plants and harvesting their produce, and enjoy rural environments with plenty of greens surrounding it – AVRDC gives me all that!

My favorite experience(s) at the Center:

Just being in the midst of international community in the campus is an excellent experience. I also enjoy very much the time when I come home with the freshest, crunchiest and best tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, peppers, and all kinds of vegetables. Sometimes, its too much good veggies, too little time ...

What's the next?

Hmm... it would be nice to be able to converse fluently in Chinese. I'd like to travel to more countries as well, although this will need a lot of planning and arranging since my husband travels quite a bit and we have two young sons.

Favorite vegetable(s)

Green leafy vegetables (steamed, with peanut or onion, tamarind sauce) and eggplant (which I used to hate when I was growing up).

CORNUCOPIA

Interim Officer-in-Charge of Virology

Dr. Tien-Chen Wang has been assigned as the Interim Officer-in-Charge of the Virology group effective 1 October 2008 until the arrival of our new Plant Virologist,

Dr. Lawrence Kenyon, on 19 January 2009.

— Dr. Dyno Keatinge/Director General

Farewell

Dr. Shilpi Saxena left AVRDC-RCA on 2 October after two years in Tanzania and has extended for 2 months, till she will start her new job in Germany.