

5 December 2008

## Vegetables hot at global meeting

The **2008 CGIAR AGM** may be the last one of its kind, but it was also one of the best ever for AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center.

Each year the Annual General Meeting of the CGIAR (Consultative Group in International Agricultural Research) provides an opportunity for up to 2000 people involved in international agricultural research and development to network and plan future activities. Staff from agricultural research centers, partner organizations, and donating agencies discuss and explore new options for development and evaluate their recent efforts. At the AGM, the Center showcased its work to a global audience, strengthened existing partnerships, and sought contacts for new initiatives.

This year's AGM, held from December 1-5, convened at a conference center in Maputo, Mozambique, where more than 40



institutions set up displays to promote their work. AVRDC was represented by a large group from our Board, headquarters, and our African region. The Center's eye-catching booth featured striking posters and promotional literature highlighting the role of vegetables in generating health, wealth, diversity, creativity, and balance in diets, economies, and communities.

Early in the week Director General Dr. Dyno Keatinge outlined his vision for the Center's unique role in international agricultural research and development at the "Friends of AVRDC" public meeting. There was good audience participation and support for the DG's vision of the Center's work.

The Center's booth was also well-visited: By mid-week, Maputo's stifling heat was getting to everyone, and AVRDC's attractive hand-painted fans and sturdy bush hats became the "must-have" items of the event. Never underestimate



the power of a truly useful promotional gift!

Deputy Director General – Research Dr. Jackie Hughes described the AGM as one of the best in recent years for AVRDC, noting the excellent networking opportunities with new potential donors.

The CGIAR is going through a wrenching process of change, which dominated discussions throughout the week. AGMs may be replaced in the future by a different kind of gathering—but for AVRDC, the outcome of this final AGM was positive and promising.

## THE LIBRARY

## New publications

## ...from Center staff

**Palchamy, K., de la Peña, R., Ramasamy, S.** (2008). Genetic relationship of *Diadema semiclausum* populations of Taiwan and Syria by means of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences. In: Proceedings: 23th International Congress of Entomology [Abst.]. Durban: International Congress of Entomology. p.727.

Russell, D., Uijtewaal, B., Shelton, A.M., Chen, M., **Srinivasan, R.**, Gujar, G.T., Rauf, A., Grzywacz, D., Gregory, P. (2008). Bt brassicas for

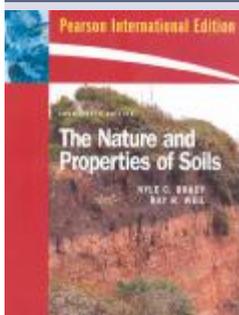
DBM control: the CIMBAA public/private partnership. In: The management of diamondback moth and other crucifer pests: Proceedings of the fifth international workshop. Beijing: China Agricultural Science and Technology Press. p.272-279.

**Srinivasan, R.**, Lee, S.T., **Lin, M.Y.**, Lee, C.Y., **Huang, C.C.**, **Hsu, Y.C.**, **Su, F.C.** (2008). Developing an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy for the legume pod border (*Maruca vitrata*). In: Proceedings: 23th

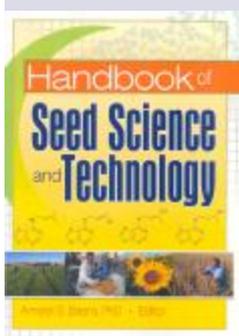
International Congress of Entomology [Abst.]. Durban: International Congress of Entomology. p.621.

**Srinivasan, R.**, Rekha, B.S., Bharpoda, T.M., Chatterjee, H., Kumar, A.R.V., Jhala, R.C., **Lin, M.Y.** (2008). Is *Bacillus thuringiensis* better than pesticides in vegetable brassica production systems?. In: Proceedings: 23th International Congress of Entomology [Abst.]. Durban: International Congress of Entomology. p.836.

## New books available



Brady, N.C., Weil, R.R. (2008). **The Nature and Properties of Soils.** Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc. xvi, 965 pp.



Basra, A.S. (2006). **Handbook of Seed Science and Technology.** Binghamton, NY: Food Products Press. xviii, 795 pp.

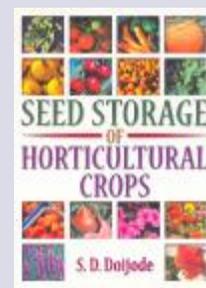


Shelton, A.M., Collins, H.L., Zhang, Y.J., Wu, Q.J. (2008). **The management of diamondback moth and other crucifer pests: Proceedings of the fifth international workshop.** Beijing: China Agricultural Science and Technology Press. 379 pp.

Some useful chapters from this book:

- How host-specific is diamondback moth? A study on performance with brassicaceous and non-brassicaceous species. p.102-111
- Diversity, distribution and role of wild crucifers in major cabbage and kale growing areas of Kenya. p.148-160
- Development of a decision support toolkit for improving the

implementation of integrated crop management (ICM) in brassica vegetable crops in Australia and China. p.303-310



Doijode, S.D. (2001). **Seed Storage of Horticultural Crops.** Binghamton, NY: Food Products Press.

xvi, 339 pp.

Some useful chapters from this book:

- Eggplant: *Solanum melongena* L., Tomato: *Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill., and Peppers: *Capsicum annuum* L. p.157-187.
- Cabbage: *Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* L. p.225-228.
- Cucumber: *Cucumis sativus* L. p.281-285.
- Bitter gourd: *Momordica charantia* L. p.299-301.

— Fang-chin Chen, Editorial and Library

## FOCUS: AFRICA

## GlobalHort meets at RCA



Board members arrive at AVRDC-RCA Center



Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, AVRDC-RCA Director with board members



Board members at the field trials

The board of the **Global Horticultural Initiative** held a meeting at the Regional Center for Africa on 26 November 2008. Board members also toured the RCA facilities and reviewed field experiments.

## Top tomatoes in Madagascar



Farmers get a good look at LBR-9.

Farmers in the Aloatra Mangoro region of Madagascar selected introduced tomato varieties with preferred traits during a **Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS)** event organized by vBSS on November 14 2008 at the Ambohitsilaozana breeding site. Farmers were given tags to place in

polyethylene bags hung in front of the plots they wished to select. Farmers selected 18 out of the 60 varieties, with LBR-9 and CLN3022F2-154-42 the top choices. After the field visit, farmers enjoyed refreshments with vBSS staff and discussed their selections based on seasons,

marketing, cropping systems, packaging, transportation, etc. This important local knowledge will be used in future vBSS breeding objectives.



Farmer examines tomato varieties in the field.

— Dr. Martin Yeboah, Vegetable Breeder, Regional Center for Africa vBSS Madagascar

## FOCUS: REGIONAL CENTER FOR AFRICA, TANZANIA

### DG Dr. Dyno Keatinge visits RCA



**DG Dr. Dyno Keatinge** reviewed the ongoing efforts to improve the research capacity of the Regional Center for Africa from 22-28 November. He talked with RCA personnel, visited field trials, met with some AVRDC partners—including East African Seed (T) Ltd. and the Tanzanian Horticultural Research and Training Institute—and attended the GlobalHort Board Meeting. A busy week for the DG!

### Training course

Farmers learned practical techniques for improving their skills during a training course on **Production, Processing and Utilization of Vegetable Crops to Prevent Micronutrient Malnutrition** held at RCA on 13-14 November. The course highlighted home gardening and methods for the processing and preservation of vegetables to help increase consumption of micronutrient-rich vegetable crops and raise incomes. Eleven farmers (4 women and 7 men) from the Agape Mulala group participated; the group is involved in the production and marketing of vegetables in the Arumeru District of Arusha.

### Participatory evaluation: Spider Plant



Thirty farmers gathered to evaluate the postharvest quality of spider plant during a **participatory evaluation** hosted by RCA on 24 November 2008. DG Dyno Keatinge addressed the group and

told them how important their views were to Center researchers. He urged farmers to teach our breeders what makes a spider plant good.

— compiled by Gloria Sikustahili

## RETA 6376 strategic planning workshop kicks off vegetable postharvest training in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam



Workshop participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, WVC and FAO.

The regional planning workshop for vegetable postharvest technology training programs in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam (CLV) was conducted on 25-26 November 2008 at the Clean Agriculture Development Center, Vientiane, Laos, with the primary aim to develop the strategic plan for different training programs in the

prosperity and poverty reduction.” The workshop also reviewed the track record of CLV partners in postharvest technology development and dissemination. Training approaches and methodologies were discussed by **Dr. Greg Luther**, Coordinator of AVRDC’s global technology dissemination. The workshop,

three countries under the ADB-funded RETA 6376 project “Support of vegetable value chains in GMS countries for

organized by the Laos-based AVRDC-ADB Regional Project Office, was attended by the CLV national training teams of NARS partners. FAO officer, **Dr. Jaakko Korpela**, also attended to learn more about the project’s training activities and substantiate the AVRDC-FAO collaborative plan on conducting training that will integrate postharvest technology, food safety, and linking farmers to markets. **Dr. Robert Premier**, FAO consultant, presented the global and regional developments with GAP (Good Agricultural Practices). The CLV training programs will take off early next year.

— Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr.,  
Regional Project Coordinator, Lao PDR

## PEOPLE

### Welcome



**Mr. Laurence J. Tait**, Research Fellow from the Centre for Plant & Water Science, Central Queensland University,

Australia arrived at HQ on Monday,

24 November 2008 for two months of training. Laurence will work on the GTZ-funded project “Genetic, physiological, and molecular approaches to improve heat and drought tolerance of tropical tomato” under the supervision of Dr. Robert de la Peña in the

Biotechnology/Molecular Breeding Unit. Contact Laurence at 361 (laboratory) and 875 (dormitory), e-mail: [l.tait@cqu.edu.au](mailto:l.tait@cqu.edu.au)

— Lydia Wu,  
Global Technology Dissemination

## CORNUCOPIA

### Year in Review 2006-2007 online



Formerly known as the “AVRDC Report” or the “Archival Report,” **AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center Year in**

**Review 2006-2007** is now available on the Intranet. The report documents the Center's work

as it relates to the Medium-Term Plan for the years 2006 and 2007. Organized by theme, the *Year in Review 2006-2007* also includes an extensive list of publications by AVRDC researchers.

**NOTE:** The *Year in Review* is for internal use only. If you would like a CD with the report, contact

Maureen Mecozzi, Editor, [maureen.mecozzi@worldveg.org](mailto:maureen.mecozzi@worldveg.org)

#### **Mark your calendar:**

Contributions for the *Year in Review 2008* should be sent to [maureen.mecozzi@worldveg.org](mailto:maureen.mecozzi@worldveg.org) by **20 January 2009**.