



19 January 2007

A donor perspective

Food Security in Developing Countries

Current donor thinking about food security provides us with a guide to future funding priorities and an in-depth analysis of the global importance of our work. A recent discussion paper released by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in the United Kingdom examines options to achieve progress in food security in developing countries, including increasing access to food and higher agricultural production.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), declared in 2000, are a key guide to this donor's priorities. As recently predicted by FAO (FAO, *The state of food insecurity in the world 2006*), many regions will not reach their MDG targets, particularly sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) where a third of the population is food insecure and there is an actual increase (through population growth) in the number of hungry people. Likewise, southern Asia is also not expected to meet its goals, with increasing numbers of undernourished and malnourished people in countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal.

In addition to the availability of food and access to it, the authors also emphasize the importance of the nutritional adequacy of that food and people's ability to utilize it—including patterns of control over who eats what and the physical ability to absorb nutrients. High value and nutritious food providing the micronutrients necessary is an integral component in any food security strategy.

The report presents useful data on the impacts of food insecurity as well as its causes. In their call for action, the authors identify a range of underlying determinants of food insecurity, including low rates of agricultural production, the organization of trade and international markets, HIV/AIDS, health, water and sanitation as well as the degradation and declining productivity of agricultural soils.

According to the authors science and technology are most likely to help improve food security through food production (using new crop types, etc.), through improvements in the cost and quality of food storage, processing, packaging and marketing, labor saving technologies, better communications, and appropriate technological management. They support occasionally complementing traditional plant breeding methods with biotechnologies to allow for higher yields, increased nutritional content, more tolerance to drought and pests and more efficient use of water and soil nutrients.

Investment in agricultural research is low and has fallen in most of the poorest countries (in Africa from \$200 million in 1988 to \$125 million in 1993). They raise the concern that research is often not aimed at technologies useful to poor farmers, and that many poor countries lack institutional capacity for research.

The UK report provides data that emphasize the importance of international agricultural research for development and encourages future investments. Without the contributions of international agricultural research centers, "poor countries would have produced 7-8% less food, and world food prices would be 18-21% higher, leading to a 5% average decrease in per capita food consumption in developing countries."

You can find the full version of the report for download on the AVRDC intranet.

The view on food policy issues in the UK is the prelude of a loose series that will deal with the political setting and current focus within the donor community.

New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Hamilton, K. (2006). Proceedings of the 2006 APSA-AVRDC workshop. Shanhuu: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. 25 pp.

Kim, S.H. (2006). Inheritance of anthracnose resistance to *Colletotrichum* spp. in chili pepper. Seoul: The Graduate School of Seoul National University. 53 pp.

Wang, T.C., Chen, C.H. (2005). The variation of race composition of *Phytophthora infestans* in Taiwan during 1991-2004. PHYTOPATHOLOGY. v.96(5): S109.

Palada, M.C., Mitchell, J.M. (2004). On-farm evaluation of cucumber cultivars for summer production in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In: Proceedings of the Caribbean Food Crops Society, 40th, 19-23 July, 2004. Caribbean Food Crops Society. p.16-21.

Singh, B.M., Mahajan, R.K., Srivastava, U., Pareek, S.K. (2003). Minimal descriptors of agri-horticultural crops: part IV: Medicinal and aromatic plants. New Delhi: National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources. xi, 439 pp.

Toni, P.M., Robert, H. (2003). Single-nucleotide polymorphism detection in plants using a single-stranded

pyrosequencing protocol with a universal biotinylated primer. ANALYTICAL BIOCHEMISTRY. v.317:165-170.

Ogle, B.M., Dao, H.T.A., Mulokozi, G., Hambraeus, L. (2001). Micronutrient composition and nutritional importance of gathered vegetables in Vietnam. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FOOD SCIENCES AND NUTRITION. v.52:485-499.

Mak, S.C. (1994). Isolated microspore culture system for Brassica parachinensis. Hong Kong: The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. xi, 70 pp.

Arumuganathan, K., Earle, E.D. (1991). Estimation of nuclear DNA content of plants by flow cytometry. PLANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY REPORTER. v.9 (3):229-233.

Weis, E., Berry, J.A. (1988). Plants and high temperature stress. SYMPOSIUM SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY. v.42:329-346.

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

New Popular Magazines Are Now Available in the library (with one exception)

National Geographic (English): Healing the Heart – February 2007

The Economist: Baghdad or bust – January 13th-19th 2007



Unfortunately one copy of the magazine “PC World: Complete guide to Windows VISTA – January 2007” cannot be found in the library. Whoever has this magazine should please return it to the library immediately.

All new popular magazines are located on the MAGAZINE stacks section of the library’s reading area for easy access.

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

Thousands of Open Access Journals Now Available through the Library Site

Open J-Gate: an electronic gateway to global journal literature in the open access domain where you will have seamless access to millions of journal articles available online. Open J-Gate is a database of journal literature, indexed from 3000+ open access journals, with links to full text at Publisher sites.

To visit Open J-Gate through the library web-page, click on: <http://www.openj-gate.com/byjournal.asp> under the Useful Links section.

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

News from Africa, AVRDC-RCA

Travel

Dr. Shilpi Saxena, 17-20 January, to Nairobi, Kenya, to meet with different organizations in the organic sector to discuss her research topic, research already conducted by these organizations and possible future collaboration.

Dr. Issoufou Kollo and Dr. Frank Shotkoski, the General Director of the Agricultural Biotechnological Support Program II, 22 January-2 February, to Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin and Togo.

Dr. Drissa Silue and Mr. Stefan Pletziger, 17-20 January, to Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in a workshop. Together with CIP (International Potato Center) and other stakeholders they will finalize a proposal for the Kilimo Trust which will be submitted at the end of January.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

Visitors

Dr. Bernhard Loehr and Dr. Dagmar Mithoefer from ICIPE (International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology) in Nairobi visited the Regional Center in Arusha, 10-11 January. The main issues discussed were about potential cooperation in socio-economic studies related to vegetables.

Dr. Frank Shotkoski, General Director of the Agricultural Biotechnological Support Program II, will visit Bamako, Mali on 20 January. He will evaluate the Mali office's tomato screening trials for resistance to TYLCV.

Mr. Chris Dubock from Chichester, UK, has joined AVRDC-RCA as an intern from 5 January to 1 April. Last year he finished his International Baccalauréat from the International School of Basel, Switzerland. He is currently doing an internship in the seed conservation unit to become familiar with seed conservation practices and their related challenges.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

New Staff

Dr. Anna Dibiyantoro has been appointed as Project Site Coordinator for the ACIAR-funded project "Integrated Disease Management (IDM) for anthracnose, phytophthora blight, and whitefly-transmitted geminiviruses in chilli pepper in Indonesia" effective 1 January 2007. She has been appointed under a consultancy contract for an initial period of one year with her duty station in Tegal, Central Java, Indonesia.

Dr. Dibiyantoro, a national of Indonesia, has a PhD degree majoring in Environmental Biology and IPM from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the UK. She was a researcher at the Indonesian Vegetable Research Institute (IVEGRI) before accepting our position.

Dr. Dibiyantoro will work closely with representatives of NARS in Western and Central Java under the supervision of the project manager, Dr. Paul Gniffke. Her main tasks are to provide coordination and facilitation services for the numerous activities of the project, and to cooperate with project partners in implementing and monitoring activities, involving regular travel to target production areas in the Brebes/Tegal, Magelang, and Rembang areas of Central Java.

<inem55@yahoo.com>.

- Source: Dr. Thomas A. Lumpkin/Director General

Travel

Dr. Chien-An Liu, 18-25 January, on leave.

Dr. Jaw-Fen Wang, 20-28 January, to La Reunion, France, to visit Dr. Philippe Prior to discuss progress of on-going collaborations on phylogeny of *Ralstonias*

Visitors

Dr. Nemo Peeters, Plant-Microbes Interactions Institute, LIPM, INRA-CNRS, France visited the Center on 11 January. Dr. Peeters is from Dr. Christian Boucher's group with whom the Center is collaborating.

A group of visitors from Taiwan National Agri-biotechnology Science Park in Pingtung visited the Center on 12 January. They hope to learn more the Center's GMO related research activities.

Dr. Roberto Acosta (Philippines) and **Dr. Adrianus Rijk** (The Netherlands) from East West Seed Company visited the Center on 16 January. They came to discuss the progress of their supporting project entitled "Impact

olanacearum and characterization of resistance sources in tomato, pepper and eggplant.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

of Improved Vegetable Farming Technology on Small Farmers' Income in Tropical Asia, and a Strategy for a Horticultural Green Revolution."

A group of 30 some agricultural experts and extensionists from PRC organized by the Horticultural Facilities Association, Chinese Society for Horticultural Science visited the Center today. They were participants in a workshop entitled "Safe Vegetable Production Technology" which was held in Kwangchou on 12 January. They hope to learn more about AVRDC's research activities.

- Source: CTO

Mosquito Control on Saturday, 27 January



The mosquito insecticide spraying within the Center's campus will be done next Saturday, 27 January. The contractor will begin spraying at 0900 hours starting from the residential area and completing the whole campus around 1600 hours.

元月 27 日 (星期六) 上午 9 點至下午 4 點，中心園區將進行殺蟲劑噴灑作業，請大家注意安全！

- Source: Janice Chou/TSO

Job Advertisements Closing Soon

The Center currently has the following vacancies:

Location Taiwan: Agricultural Economist, Assistant to the Deputy Director General for Research, Human Resources Manager and Socio-economics Specialist

Location Tanzania: Project Manager, Financial Administrator and Liaison Officer

Location Lao PDR: Small-scale Enterprise Advisor

Locations Mali, Madagascar and Cameroon: Liaison Officers

For further details, please see

<http://www.avrdc.org/jobs.html>

- Source: CTO

2007 National Holidays to Be Observed by AVRDC HQ

As you may have noticed, this year there are four national holidays falling on either Thursday or Tuesday. To allow people to have long vacations on these occasions, the host country government has adjusted the following days as holidays: 23 February, 6 April, 18 June and 24 September. However, people need to work on four designated Saturdays (3 March, 14 April, 23 Jun and 29 September) to make up for these days.

In order not to affect our scheduled research activities and experiments, national holidays to be observed by the Center this year remain unchanged as announced on 23 August 2006 (listed below) and we will not follow the host country's adjusted holidays.

2007年地主國的國定假日，有部份是在星期二或星期四放假，台灣政府的人事行政局將2月23日、4月6日、6月18日及9月24日的放假日彈性調整成連續假期，但必須在次一星期的週六（3月3日、4月14、6月23日及9月29日）補班。為了不影響本中心既定的研究及實驗整體運作，今年的放假日仍維持原2006年8月23日所公告的放假日（如下表）為準，不比照地主國的調整而有所改變。

1 January 1月1日	Monday 星期一	Founding Day of the Republic of China 中華民國開國紀念日
17 February 2月17日	Saturday 星期六	Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve 農曆除夕
18–20 February 2月18日至20日	Sunday to Tuesday 星期日至星期二	Chinese Lunar New Year 春節
21–22 February 2月21日至22日	Wednesday to Thursday 星期三至星期四	Additional days off for Chinese Lunar New Year 春節補假二天
28 February 2月28日	Wednesday 星期三	Peace Memorial Day 和平紀念日
5 April 4月5日	Thursday 星期四	Tomb-sweeping Day 民族掃墓節
19 June 6月19日	Tuesday 星期二	Dragon Boat Festival 端午節
25 September 9月25日	Tuesday 星期二	Mid-Autumn Festival 中秋節
10 October 10月10日	Wednesday 星期三	National Day 國慶日
One day of your choice 亞蔬特別假（日期自訂）	Any work day 任何一個工作天	Personal Holiday granted by AVRDC – may be used for Christmas, Eid al-Fitr, Holi, Vesak, family matters, etc. 可依各人需要自訂日期，例如：耶誕節、其他重要宗教節日或家庭事由等

For internal control and record purposes, you are required to submit a Leave Request to our Personnel Office **before** you use the Personal Holiday. The Leave Request needs to be approved and signed by the Unit head.

亞蔬特別假請依照中心請假規定於休假前填寫請假單，由單位主管核准，送交人事室登錄。

- Source: Dr. Yin-Fu Chang/DDG-A&S

2006 Lunar Year-end Party, 1800-2000 h, Wednesday, 31 January

The Center will hold the 2006 Lunar Year-end Party in Chinese roundtable style at the Evergreen Plaza Hotel in Tainan City on Wednesday, 31 January 2007 starting at 1800 hours. All IRS, NRS, emergency laborers and trainees are invited. The Evergreen Plaza Hotel is situated at Chunghua East Road, Section 3 and next to Tainan Cultural Center.

At the party, gold pendants with the AVRDC logo will be presented to the staff of 10, 20 and 30 years service in recognition of their services and loyalty. In addition, to let you all have a relaxing and enjoyable evening, we have invited the Tainan Philharmonic Orchestra to perform traditional chamber music, and Chinese, Taiwanese, English and Latin songs during the party.

Transportation between AVRDC and the hotel will be provided. Buses will depart from the Center at 1645 hours and return from the hotel around 2000 hours. For those who want to go there by their own car, the hotel will offer 3 hours free parking at its basement parking lot.

Unit Secretaries, please help to arrange transportation and confirm the number of tables to the hotel. Please send the "Reply Slip" for each unit you are servicing, and return the completed slip(s) to Eva Lee through e-mail: elee@netra.avrdc.org.tw before, Tuesday, 23 January 2007.

本中心的尾牙將在元月31日(星期三)晚上6點,以中餐方式假台糖長榮酒店(位於台南市中華東路三段,台南市立文化中心旁)舉行。全體員工—包括國際專家、本地員工、臨時工及學員都在受邀之列,請踴躍報名參加。晚會中服務年滿10年、20年及30年的資深員工將頒發紀念金牌,以資表揚。中心也將邀請府城愛樂室內樂團在晚會進行中做全程表演。中心也將提供來回的交通服務,交通車4點45分自中心出發前往長榮酒店,晚間8點左右啟程返回中心。請各單位秘書將所屬單位的參加人數及搭乘交通車人數統計表,在元月23日(星期二)前,擲回行政副主任辦公室李翠雄<elee@netra.avrdc.org.tw>,以利作業。

- Source: Dr. Yin-Fu Chang/DDG-A&S

AVRDC Goodwill Club outfits an Indian school

From our recent fundraising efforts the Goodwill Club will be purchasing 25 benches/desks for the Panchayat Union Middle School, K. Puduppalayam, Salem District, Tamil Nadu, India. This school has 410 students from very poor families. The school was recently upgraded from an elementary school (years 1-5) to a middle school (years 1-8) and so now educates twice as many children in the same physical space. The school has many basic needs such as benches/desks, partition boards to divide rooms into more classes and a computer. The school needs 100 benches/desks and the AVRDC Goodwill Club would like to provide at least 50 benches. Please consider making a donation to the AVRDC Goodwill Club to help us raise another NT\$20,000 towards the purchase of another 25 benches/desks. Donations may be given to Lydia Wu (ext. 240) or Tina Yang (ext. 144).

The AVRDC Goodwill Club would also like to alert you of another upcoming event. We are making plans to invite the Christian Mountains Children's Home Choir from Kaohsiung. Tickets for the performance will be sold as a fund raiser for the Orphanage. Further details

will be provided later. Thank you for your continued support of the AVRDC Goodwill Club.

愛心社將購買25組課桌椅捐贈給印度潭美納度省的一所聯合學校。這所學校目前有410名從窮苦家庭來的學生,最近這所學校要從小學教育(1-5年級)延長至中學教育(1-8年級),因此學生人數比原先增加了兩倍之多,學校的基本配備也相對的要增設,如課桌椅、教室隔板以及電腦等。學校需要增加100組左右的課桌椅,愛心社計劃要贈送50組,目前還需要再募集新台幣20000元,增購25組課桌椅。捐款可逕交吳穗芳(分機240)或楊雅婷(分機144)。

愛心社在近期內也將要舉辦一場由來自高雄原住民孩童之家的合唱表演,我們將以販售門票的方式將表演收入捐給這家孤兒院,詳情將於近日公佈,感謝大家對愛心社一直以來的支持與鼓勵!

- Source: Dr. Kathryn Hamilton/AVRDC Goodwill Club