



AVRDC
The World Vegetable Center

Newsletter

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'Food Miles' Campaigns Bad for Africa's Development

Air freighting vegetables from Africa is a small contributor to Britain's carbon emissions. There is growing concern that carbon dioxide emitted when transporting food over long distances contributes significantly to global warming. But researchers at the UK-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) have urged British policymakers and consumers not to undermine the trade in fresh fruits and vegetables flown from sub-Saharan Africa in efforts to reduce these 'food miles'.

They argued at a meeting last week (16 January) that the impact of air freighting vegetables from Africa is small compared to Britain's overall emissions. Food miles campaigns could undermine the social and economic development of African countries and be 'disastrous' for many poor African farmers, they warned. Bill Vorley, a senior researcher at IIED said, "Climate change is going to affect the poor in Africa harder than anyone else. These are the people who have done least to cause the problem. They shouldn't be made to pay the cost of fixing it too."

He noted that more than one million Africans depend on exporting fruit and vegetables to the United Kingdom for their livelihoods.

Climate change researcher David Wasawo at the University of Nairobi, told SciDev.Net that for most countries in Africa, food miles are the least of their climate change worries. He called for more research into the impact of climate change on Africa, not Africa's impact on climate change. According to James MacGregor of IIED's Sustainable Markets Group, the link between climate change and food miles should be weighed against other sources of fossil fuel pollution. "In the UK, domestic food miles on roads and customers driving to shops are the main contributors to carbon dioxide emissions," says MacGregor. He argues that people in the developed world should instead focus their behaviour change on the 99.9 per cent of their emissions that come from things like energy use and leisure flights

- Source: SciDev.Net, Nairobi

What's New? - A View from the Center's Senior Management

With increasing support and rising awareness of vegetable research and development the challenges for AVRDC-The world Vegetable Center are growing. What are current and future key issues for the Center? What's new at AVRDC in regard to strategic planning or administrative matters – this ongoing feature in the newsletter will provide you with insight from the perspective of Senior Management. This week we spoke with Dr. Jackie Hughes, Deputy Director General for Research.

Q.: Looking at the timeline for 2007, a major activity will be the External Review towards the end of the year. Could you give us an update on the current status of preparations for it?

J.H.: At the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors meeting in Washington on 1 December 2006, we briefly discussed the scope of the planned External Review, the members of the panel, the time-frame and so on. At this point we are looking for nominations for potential reviewers of our Center. We may require up to six people for a program and management review, and we are looking for reviewers with diverse expertise (e.g. horticultural science, molecular biology, crop management, nutrition, development, information and communication technology (ICT), finance/accounting and business administration).

Q.: Who is eligible to nominate candidates?

J.H.: During the last Senior Staff Meeting [held on 11 January] we mentioned that we were also seeking nominations from our staff. I would like to encourage everyone to send any nominations for reviewers to me (with contact details please) by 2nd February 2007 so that I can compile the list of reviewers for the discussion at the 40th Board meeting in March in Bangkok, Thailand. In this regard I like to say many thanks to those who have already sent me suggestions.



Q.: The next Board Meeting is coming up soon. Could you name some of the key issues that will be discussed there?

J.H.: The Board Meeting will be held at the Asian Regional Center in Bangkok from 12 to 15 March this year, and for the first time ever it will not only include the Board Members and Senior Management, but also all three Regional Directors of our Center. For that reason we are expecting to develop an all-embracing strategic plan for the regions, which we will discuss right after the actual Board Meeting. The biggest strategic issue within the meeting itself will be the Medium Term Plan for our Center. Currently a draft is in preparation. We will also be looking at the EPMR logistics and program.

Another important issue on the agenda will be to finalize our position paper on GMO technology. A first draft had been presented at the meeting of the Executive Committee during the Annual General Meeting of the CGIAR last December. Right now we are refining it, and I am rather optimistic that we can communicate the approved position statement by the end of March.

Q.: Therefore it is not a coincidence that there will be two members of the CGIAR Central Advisory Service (CAS) on Intellectual Property Rights visiting the HQ next week?

J.H.: No, not at all. We invited Victoria Henson-Apollonio and Guat Hong Teh from CAS to help us most on a number of topics, but most of all on intellectual property issues. They will be looking at our contracts with the private sector, advise us on varietal rights and the legal aspects of our transgenic work. I am very happy that Dr. Henson-Apollonio will give a seminar on Tuesday, 30 January and encourage all staff to attend.

- Source: CTO

Re-organization of AVRDC's Socio-economics

With immediate effect AVRDC's former separate units Socio-economics I and II will merge to form a single, powerful research group at Headquarters.

The group will be led by Dr. Katinka Weinberger, previous Head of Socio-economics II.

- Source: Dr. Thomas Lumpkin/Director General

New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Ali, M. (2006). Chili (*Capsicum* spp.) food chain analysis: setting research priorities in Asia. Shanhua, Tainan: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. vi, 245 pp.

Bhonde, S.R., Prakash, H. (2006). Garlic cultivation in India. Nashik: National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation. 50 pp.

Huang, S.C., Chen, S., Lin, C.Y. (2006). Ecological and environmental biosafety of transgenic plants; Proceedings. Wufeng, Taichung Hsien: Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, COA. ix, 224 pp.

Shin, Y.A., Lee, J.S., Um, Y.C., Park, S.H. (2006). Effects of seed spacing and depth and planting date on yield of once-over harvested hot pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.) planted by direct seeding. KOREAN JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY. v.24(1):8-12.

Srivastava, K.J., Gupta, R.P. (2006). Diseases of onion and garlic. Nashik: National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation. 55 pp.

Alan, A.R., Brants, A., Cobb, E., Goldschmied, P.A., Mutschler, M.A., Earle, E.D. (2004). Fecund gynogenic

lines from onion (*Allium cepa* L.) breeding materials. PLANT SCIENCE (INDIA). v.167:1055-1066.

Ali, M.A. (2002). Nutritional and economic benefits of enhanced vegetable production and consumption. JOURNAL OF CROP PRODUCTION. v.6(1/2):145-176.

Campion, B., Bohanec, B., Javornik, B. (1995). Gynogenic lines of onion (*Allium cepa* L.): evidence of their homozygosity. THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS. v.91:598-602.

Stokinger, E.J., Walling, L.L. (1994). Pto3 and Pto4: novel genes from *Lycopersicon hirsutum* var. *glabratum* that confer resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. tomato. THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS. v.89:879-884.

Bradshaw, J.E. (1987). The choice of selection index in kale (*Brassica oleracea* L.) population improvement. THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS. v.75:165-169.

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

New Popular Magazines Is Now Available in the Library



The Economist: Rich man, poor man – January 20th-26th 2007

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/
Library Services Unit

Recommended Web Link of the Week: the Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia – a multilingual, Web-based, free-content encyclopedia project. The name is a combination of the words *wiki* and *encyclopedia*. Wikipedia has more than six million articles in many languages, including more than 1.5 million in the English-language version and more than half a million articles in the German-

language version. There are 250 language editions of Wikipedia, and 21 of them have more than 50,000 articles.

Please visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia>

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

What's New in the AVRDC Websites?

Internet: <http://www.avrdc.org>

- Position Announcement for Research Assistant in Economics (Location: Tanzania) - <http://www.avrdc.org/rca.html>
- Position Announcement for Training Expert—Vegetable Production (Location: Afghanistan) - <http://www.avrdc.org/jobs.html>
- AVRDC Board Members as of 13 January 2007 - http://www.avrdc.org/contact_board.html
- AVRDC-ADB Postharvest Project Office in Lao PDR - http://www.avrdc.org/contact_regions.html

Intranet: <http://www.avrdc.org/intranet/home.html>

- Nationally Recruited Staff Regulation Manual for Headquarters October 2006
- AVRDC Newsletter January 5 and 12, 2007 issues

- Weather Record from December 1-31, 2007
- AVRDC Committees for 2007
- Revised Forms for Scientific Paper Submission and Reviewer's Report
- 2007 National Holidays of AVRDC Headquarters and Regional Centers/Offices

• **Seminar Series:** From January 2007 on you can access and download the presentations given in the Seminar Series. If you missed the presentation or are working in the regions, this will be an excellent opportunity to keep yourself up-to-date. The debut is made with the presentation given recently by Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, candidate for vegetable breeder (joint AVRDC/ICRISAT position) in Niamey, Niger.

- 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

Vegetable of the Week

Originally cultivated by the Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 AD, I am a native to the Americas. Europeans were first made aware of me when explorers brought back seed from Mexico and Central America in the 16th century. I became quickly popular in the Mediterranean countries but received resistance as they spread north. The British in particular considered me to be beautiful but poisonous. This fear was shared in the American colonies and it was years before I gained widespread acceptance. By the middle of the 19th century, I was in use across America. Today, I am generally considered to be the favorite vegetable of the American public.

More hints:

- I belong to the same family as the potato, pepper, eggplant, and petunia.

- Scientists at Cornell University have identified two cancer-fighting substances in me: coumaric and chlorogenic acids.
- A horn worm can eat an entire plant of me by itself in one day!
- In the United States, more of me are consumed than any other single fruit or vegetable!
- Actually a fruit, it took a ruling by the Supreme Court in 1893 to make me a vegetable.

Now, can you guess who I am?

- Source: CTO

The answer will be announced on the next issue.

Welcome



Mr. Vincent Chien-yih Lu (呂謙益), Internal Auditor, reported for duty on 22 January. Mr. Lu's office is located at the south-west side of the second floor of Chandler Hall, Room A118 (original

Director of Administration's office). He can be contacted at ext. 200, <vincent.lu@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.

- Source: CTO

New E-mail Addresses

Ms. Shou Lin (林收), Research Assistant, Nutrition Unit, <shou.lin@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.

Ms. Ying-chuang Chen (陳穎莊), Research Assistant, Nutrition Unit, <Doreen@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.

- Source: Shirley Chen/Computer Services Unit

Travel

Dr. Gregory Luther, 21-28 January, to Indonesia, to attend a Soil Training Workshop for tsunami-affected areas, consult with collaborators on the project and discuss subcontract issues, and make field visits.

Dr. Peter Hanson, 26 January-6 February, to India, to participate in a farmer field day at Visva Bharati in West Bengal; to visit farmers fields and markets; to Bangalore, to make preparations for the farmer field day to promote sustainable geminivirus IPM which will be held in May 2007.

Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, 1-6 February, to Tokyo, Japan, to visit the International Cooperation Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Research Planning and Coordination Division of Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) to discuss potential project funding opportunities and to explore ways to enhance Japan-AVRDC collaboration.

Dr. Yin-Fu Chang, 3-27 February, on annual leave.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

More Than A Change of Scene: Farewell to Dr. Mubarik Ali



A new challenging task in Pakistan has led Dr. Mubarik Ali, AVRDC's agriculturist economist, away from Taiwan. At the end of last week he left AVRDC on leave without pay to take over duties as Chief Executive Director (CED) of the Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB) in Pakistan. The PARB

is a newly created board responsible for managing, monitoring, and financing the research system in Punjab, a province which contributes 65% of Pakistan's agriculture GDP. The research system in Punjab consists of 21 institutes and 9 sections and employs over 1000 professional and 4000 non-professional staff. The purpose of constituting PARB is to make the research system independent from the bureaucracy by putting it under an independent Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG will be composed of representatives from farmers, agricultural business community, and provincial assembly members. There will be an International Technical Committee (ITC) consisting of international renowned scientists to advise the board on scientific issues.

We wish Mubarik all the best for the pioneering work in his home country.

- Source: CTO

is a newly created board responsible for managing, monitoring, and financing the research system in Punjab, a province which contributes 65% of Pakistan's ag-

Seminar Announcement

The Center is fortunate to have two members of the CGIAR CAS (Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property), Dr. Victoria Henson-Apollonio and Ms. Guat Hong Teh visit us next week. They will be giving a seminar next week. Everyone is welcome to attend and coffee will be served afterwards.

**Time: 0900-1000 hours, Tuesday
30 January 2007**

**Topic: What does IP management have to do
with public goods?**

**Venue: Conference Room I, 2nd floor
Chandler Hall**

- Source: Dr. Kathryn A. Hamilton/Seminar Coordinator

Off Duty at 1500 hours on Wednesday, 31 January 2007

The 2006 Lunar Year-end Party will take place at the Evergreen Plaza Hotel next Wednesday, 31 January starting 18:00. To enable you to have time to prepare for the party and enjoy a happy evening, all offices will be closed earlier on that day and everyone can go off duty at 15:00 hours (regular recreation time). The regular shuttle bus back to Tainan City will leave the Center at 15:05. For those who want to ride the bus from AVRDC to the Hotel and return, the buses will pick you up in front of the Cafeteria at 16:30. Please be on time. If you want to drive and park your car at the hotel's parking lot, please keep the parking ticket with you as the hotel staff will come and affix the hotel's seal on

your parking ticket during the party. To enjoy 3 hours free parking, you need to hand in the sealed parking ticket when you are leaving the parking lot.

元月31日(星期三)晚上6點的尾牙,將在台糖長榮酒店舉辦,為了讓全體同仁有充分的時間準備赴宴,元月31日提早至下午3點下班,開往台南的交通車3點5分開車。乘坐巴士前往飯店的同仁,請準時在4點30分至餐廳前乘車。自行開車前往的同仁,請保留停車證,長榮酒店的服務人員將會在停車證上蓋章,每部車可享有長榮酒店停車場3小時免費停車。

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

Clean-up Day – Wednesday, 7 February 2007

中心清潔日 - 2月7日(星期三)

As the Chinese Spring Festival is approaching, in order to sweep away the dust of the past year and to welcome the fresh and new spirit of the Year of the Hog, the Management requests that all staff and campus residents set aside their routine work and/or assignments to clean and tidy up their work areas and campus on Wednesday, 7 February 2007. This activity is a symbol of our "esprit de corps". Therefore, leave requests for staff on the Clean-Up Day are discouraged, unless very necessary and proper justification for such request can be made to the unit head for approval. **Guidelines for the arrangements of Clean-up Day are as follows:** Each unit will be responsible for all their own work and storage areas, including offices, laboratories, green/head houses, screen houses, farms, service building and FDS building. The disposal sites for specific materials will be set up as follows:

Metals: open area behind the Motor Pool Office; **glass:** Side gate; **Wood, bamboo, and paper:** Field #69;

organic materials and plants: Field #69; **plastics:** Field #12; and **broken clay pots and soil:** north side of Fields #29 and #30. Each unit/laboratory/office is responsible for arranging their own transportation to deliver the waste/unused materials. In case transportation is not available, requests may be made to the Motor Pool. The Technical Services Office will provide the cleaning tools, for which request can be made by calling Mr. Hu Ku-yu of the Supply Room at ext. 229 before 0830 hours; then these tools should be returned to TSO before 1500 hours. Thank you for your kind attention and cooperation on this activity.

茲訂2月7日(星期三)為本中心清潔日,全體同仁及園區眷屬於該日應將例行工作暫緩處理,全力參與環境清潔工作。為發揚中心同仁團隊精神及公平起見,清潔日當天除因特殊事故,經各直屬主管批准請假者外,以全員參與為原則。謝謝您的合作。

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