



16 February 2007

## Myanmar Farmers Enthusiastic About Mungbeans

Mungbean varieties that originated from AVRDC-ARC now dominate the landscape in parts of Myanmar in between rice crops. Farmers are enthusiastic about a crop which produces a profit that is twice that of rice.



At the suggestion of U Kyaw Win, Deputy General Manager of the Horticulture Section, Extension Service of Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS), Peter Ooi recently visited Thonegwa Township to learn about the success of mungbean cultivation in Myanmar. According to U Kyaw Win, all the varieties cultivated in Myanmar originated from AVRDC-ARC.

“As we approached, Thonegwa Township there were mungbeans as far as the eye can see – it is the predomi-

nant dry-season crop grown after rice.” Peter stated.

Meeting with farmers confirmed their enthusiasm about growing mungbean

which produces a net profit of 200,000 kyat/ha (USD31) - doubled that for rice. This year there is a high demand for mungbeans from South Asia and buyers are lining up to purchase the Myanmar crop. The success of mungbean cultivation in Myanmar testifies to the role of AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center in helping to alleviate poverty of rural farmers in Myanmar.

This positive impact story from Myanmar is one recent example of the greater success achieved through mungbean R&D at AVRDC. Fast growing and high yielding mungbean varieties have improved the livelihoods of millions of farmers in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and started a mungbean revolution: they supplement existing cropping systems and are well suited to growing between other major crops. In addition to their income producing benefits they are also a highly nutritious source of protein and vitamins, contributing to better diets.

- Source: Peter A. C. Ooi, Regional Director (RD) of Asian Regional Center (ARC) & CTO



## To Our Readers

The AVRDC Newsletter will not be published on 23 February. Our next issue will be published on 2 March. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause and wish you a prosperous and healthy Year of the Pig. Office at HQ will be closed from 19 to 22 February (Monday to Thursday).

敬告親愛的讀者們：亞蔬周刊下次出刊日為3月2日，如有不便敬祈原諒！祝福大家豬事如意，身體健康，新年行大運！



- Source: CTO



## News from Africa

### Welcome



Mrs. Marcella Maria Dionisio Torres from Peru, an Entomologist who graduated in Biology has joined RCA as an intern in the plant protection unit. Her work will focus on important pests in IVs and she will participate in development of IPM methods. She has accompanied her husband Severin Polreich, who is doing his PhD research at RCA, and will stay till mid-2008.

Mrs. Gudrun Keding, PhD student from the Institute of Nutritional Sciences, International Nutrition, Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany has returned to RCA for her third data collection from 20 February to 19 April in three different districts of Tanzania. Gudrun Keding is working within the second phase of the ProNIVA project focusing on "Linking Vegetable Diversity and Nutrition Security - the importance of traditional vegetables for nutritional health of women in rural Tanzania".



Mrs. Sabrina Bartel, student of nutritional science at the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen in Germany, is joining RCA as an intern. She will be joining Gudrun Keding on her 3rd data collection trip and will collect data on the food consumption and nutritional status of men (February 20 - May 20, 2007).

### Visitors

Dr. Richard Musebe, Socio-Economist at CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International) in Nairobi visited RCA on 9 February to meet RCA's socio-economists and discuss future collaboration. Further discussions are planned.

Dr. Dennis Depommier, Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa at CIRAD, based in Nairobi, Kenya visited RCA from 5 to 7 February to discuss future collaboration.

Mr. Geoffrey Kabakaki from the Tanzanian Ministry of Finance visited RCA on 9 February to learn about the Center and its diverse activities. His visit is part of the process of developing a new agreement between the Government of Tanzania and AVRDC.

Mr. Fritz Kramer, Chief Operating Officer from the International Development Enterprises will visit RCA on 23 February to discuss possible collaboration.

### Training

RCA completed a Training Course on Vegetable Seed Production and Marketing for Private Sector personnel and NARES on February 16th . A total of 38 participants from Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Mozambique graduated successfully from the course, and expressed their appreciation of the skills they had learned and the value of the course for their future work.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

## New Popular Magazine Now Available in the Library



*The Economist*: Next stop Iran? –  
10th-16th February 2007

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/  
Library Services Unit

## Post-harvest: Thinking Big on an Important Issue



the project with AVRDC will start this year, and funding is assured until 2010. In this second phase the range of activities will increase and the geographical coverage will expand to include Thailand, Myanmar and the Yun-nan province of China.

There is a new focal point for AVRDC activities in Southeast Asia. Having officially started operation in November 2006, the Center's program office in Lao PDR adds to the already existing long history of the Center's involvement in the region, and will be the reference point for AVRDC's post-harvest activities.

The motivation for establishing an office in the neighborhood of Vientiane, the capital of Lao PDR, grew out of and expansion of the Center's post-harvest program funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). From a one-person-office run by Antonio Acedo - and in association with his Laotian counterpart, most activities of the ADB post-harvest project are now coordinated.

While the first project funded by ADB initially focused on Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR, a second phase of

"Reducing postharvest losses will make diversification into vegetable production by farmers less risky and more attractive", says Katinka Weinberger, Head of AVRDC' Socioeconomics. So far the project team led by Katinka Weinberger has done extensive research on the potential for chili peppers and tomatoes, the major vegetable crops in the region and their postharvest handling. Three working papers and their training materials are available for download from the AVRDC website. In this new phase the team will grow along with their portfolio of activities which will increasingly focus on legumes as well as on capacity building. Post-harvest management is a huge issue since losses from field to consumer for the major crops being considered average 20-25% — a significant income loss to all involved.

*Further information:* [www.avrdc.org/postharvest](http://www.avrdc.org/postharvest)

## A Vegetable for this Time of the Year



Some vegetables are associated with different times of the year in different cultures — in North America Halloween would not be the same without

pumpkins, while in Taiwan, the lunar new year is a time often associated with the radish. In Taiwanese the words for radish and good fortune are similar, so the bright red radish is a lucky thing to associate with the new year.

Radish (*Raphanus sativus*) gets its English name, as well as similar names in French and Italian, from *radix*, the Latin word for "root."

China is believed to be the country of origin for the radish since truly wild forms have been found there. Ancient Egyptian records show that radishes were a common food in Egypt before the Pyramids were built.

There are many types of radish and they can be eaten fresh or pickled. While the leaves and seeds can be eaten it is mainly the roots which are consumed.

They come in many different shapes, colors, and sizes, from the more common small red or white forms to black or multi-colored ones, round ones as small as a cherry or as large as a basketball and long ones bigger than parsnip.

Answer of last week's Vegetable of the Week: CHILI PEPPER

## New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Nybe, E.V., Raj, N.M., Peter, K.V. (2007). Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.). In: Spices. New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency. p.251-256.

Kumar, N. (2006). Breeding of horticultural crops: principles and practices. New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency. xi, 202 pp.

Kumar, N. (2006). Principles and practices in breeding of annual horticultural crops: brinjal. In: Breeding of horticultural crops: principles and practices. New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency. p.167-169.

Kumar, N. (2006). Principles and practices in breeding of annual horticultural crops: chilies and bell pepper. In: Breeding of horticultural crops: principles and practices. New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency. p.169-173.

Lima, G.S.A., Brommonschenkel, S.H., Ventura, G.M. (2003). Broad-spectrum resistance to tospovirus in accessions of *Lycopersicon peruvianum* and *L. chilense*. SUMMA PHYTOPATHOLOGICA. v.29(4):352-354.

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

## Travel

Dr. Robert de la Peña, 15-16 February, to the Philippines, to visit IRR's genomics, biotech and drought programs; 14 and 23 February, on leave.

- Source: Arika Ho

Dr. Liwayway M. Engle, to the Philippines for personal leave (16-22 February) and official travel (23 February - 2 March).

- Source: Jim Fu

Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr., 5-8 March, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to provide advice and supervise/observe the conduct of PHT research during the tomato harvest from the large-scale variety trial; to scrutinize the results of PHT research of the chili harvest from the large-scale variety trial; to discuss other project activities and concerns.

- Source: Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr.

## Welcome



Dr. Ki-Won Oh, Visiting Scientist from National Institute of Crop Science, Rural Development Administration, Korea, arrived at AVRDC on 15 February for four months of training. Dr. Oh will work on the

generation advance and seed multiplication of Korean soybean breeding lines" under the supervision of Drs. Woo and Takahashi. He can be contacted at 374 (office) and 876 (dormitory), <[ohkw1004@rda.go.kr](mailto:ohkw1004@rda.go.kr)>.

- Source: Rose Chan

## Photos Available on the Center's FTP Site

Photos for our 2006 Lunar Year-end Party and the 2006 International Food Fair now are available to be downloaded from <<ftp://ftp.avrdc.org.tw/>>.

年終聯歡會以及國際美食節的照片可上網讀取下載：  
<<ftp://ftp.avrdc.org.tw/>>。

- Source: CTO

## Garbage Collection in Headquarters During the Lunar New Year Holidays

The garbage collections from all residences at headquarters will be changed during the holiday week to:

- (1) Tuesday, 20 February at 0700 hours
- (2) Friday, 23 February at 0900 hours

Thank you for your cooperation!

年假期間收垃圾時間為：

2月20日(星期二)早上7點，以及2月23日(星期五)早上9點。謝謝合作！

- Source: TSO