



13 April 2007



## More African Seeds and Research Needed

There is a growing political commitment across Africa to agricultural research and improving crop varieties. Mozambique recently declared the need for a green revolution in sub-Saharan Africa by using science to improve and diversify agriculture and increase food production. Similar statements also came from a recent meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) discussing agricultural biotechnology.

“Incorporating science into agriculture in Mozambique is the key to the modernization of the economy and to providing jobs in rural and urban areas”, said Venancio Massingue, Mozambique’s Minister of Science and Technology at the opening of the conference “Biotechnology, Breeding and Seed Systems for African Crops” in Maputo two weeks ago.

He said his country’s bid to bring about a green revolution would only be possible if scientists breed high-yielding varieties of crops to relieve hunger in rural areas.

Mozambique has set aside over US\$30 million dollars for seed and fertiliser distribution, and the government is looking for private sector partnerships to widen the seed programme.

According to Calisto Bias, Director of the Mozambique National Institute of Agricultural Research, research has an important role to play in the development and promotion of new agricultural products.

“The use of improved seeds is quite small in Mozambique and Africa in general. Seed companies always complain about the small market compared to the cost of production,” Bias claimed.

Through its USD 150 million “Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa” the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will be helping to improve seed production and soil health in Africa. The foundation is AVRDC’s partner in the “Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems For Poverty Reduction in Africa” project .

A focus on agricultural research and biotechnology was emphasized at the ECOWAS meeting recently held in Accra, Ghana. The 15 member countries adopted a regional action plan for biotechnology development for 2006-2010 which stresses public-private partnerships to increase investment in biotechnology, and the need to put safety measures in place at national and regional levels.

*Adapted from: [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net)*

***Thanks for your ideas for lead stories!***

*Over recent weeks a number of our staff have alerted us to articles of general interest which we have featured as lead stories. We are always very pleased to get such items. So please keep them coming! Contact Warwick Easdown ([w.easdown@avrdc.org](mailto:w.easdown@avrdc.org)), Kathy Chen ([kathy@netra.avrdc.org.tw](mailto:kathy@netra.avrdc.org.tw)) or Oliver Hanschke ([hanschke@netra.avrdc.org.tw](mailto:hanschke@netra.avrdc.org.tw))*

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

Celucia, S.U. (2007). Genetic diversity of *Brassica rapa chinensis* (Linnaeus), *B. rapa parachinensis* (L.H. Bailey) Hanelt, and *B. oleracea alboglabra* (L.H. Bailey) Hanelt using simple sequence repeat markers. Los Banos : UPLB. xi, 86 pp.

Daygon, V.D.A. (2007). Genetic relationships in the Solanum and Capsicum germplasm collection of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC), Tainan, Taiwan based on Conserved Orthologous Set II markers. Los Banos: UPLB. xi, 101 pp.

Hsu, C.L., Yen, G.C. (2007). Effects of capsaicin on induction of apoptosis and inhibition of adipogenesis in 3T3-L1 cells. JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY. v.55:1730-1736.

Lee, J.D., Shannon, J.G., Jeong, Y.S., Lee, J.M., Hwang, Y.H. (2007). A simple method for evaluation of sprout characters in soybean. EUPHYTICA. v.153(1/2):171-180.

Scarpeci, T.E., Marro, M.L., Bortolotti, S., Boggio, S.B., Valle, E.M. (2007). Plant nutritional status modulates glutamine synthetase levels in ripe tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum* cv. Micro-Tom). JOURNAL OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY. v.164(20):137-145.

Widjaja, E.S., Wang, T.C., Sheu, Z.M., Rong, C.J., Jean, C.R. (2007). Characterization of Colletotrichum species and Phytophthora capsici as pathogen on chili pepper. Shanhua, Tainan: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. 6 pp.

Roff, M.N.M., Rahman, M.T., Norowi, H.M., Green, S.K. (2006). Dynamics and spatial distribution of *Aphis gossypii* and incidence of aphid borne virus diseases on bell pepper planted under protective structure and open field. ACTA HORTICULTURAE. no.710:441-446.

Tsai, W.S., Shih, S.L., Green, S.K., Akkermans, D., Jan, F.J. (2006). Molecular characterization of a distinct tomato-infection begomovirus associated with yellow leaf curl diseased tomato in Lembang, Java Island, of Indonesia. PLANT DISEASE. v.90(6):831.

Chadha, M.L., Oluoch, M.O. (2003). Home-based vegetable gardens and other strategies to overcome micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries. FOOD, NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE. no.32:17-23.

Xu, Y.K., Liu, H.M., Dao, X.S. (2003). The nutritional contents of Coccinia grandis and its evaluation as a wild vegetable. ACTA BOTANICA YUNNANICA. v.25 (6):680-686.

## New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

*The Economist: Globalisation's offspring* – April 7th- 13th 2007

*Scientific American: The dazzling future of Plasmonics* – April 2007

*Time: Stressed out dads* – 16 April 2007



## Recommended Web Link of the Week:

### United States Agricultural Information Network

USAIN – is an organization for information professionals that provides a forum for discussion of agricultural issues and helps to take a leadership role in the formation of a national agricultural information policy.

Please visit <http://cals.arizona.edu/OALS/usain/index.html>

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

## APSA-AVRDC Workshop: Partnership to Make A Common Cause

The 4th APSA-AVRDC Workshop will be held on 18-19 April 2007 at the Sincere Hotel, Shin-Shih. The workshop marks the end of the first full year of the APSA (Asia & Pacific Seed Association) commitment of US\$450,000 to AVRDC's core budget. The meeting will bring together AVRDC staff and representatives of the 24 private sector companies that contribute to the fund. Along with exchanging information on research progress the workshop will provide a forum to discuss broader issues of vegetable research and development.

The meeting will comprise presentations of vegetable research and development issues by both AVRDC staff and the attending APSA members.

The two day Workshop will be preceded by a short meeting of the committee of AVRDC and APSA members, who help support the mutually beneficial relationship, and to assess if there are specific outcomes from the 4th APSA-AVRDC Workshop required either by AVRDC or APSA.

The program will end with a half day tour of AVRDC's research plots and other facilities which will allow free exchange of ideas between the participants.

- Source: Dr. Jackie Hughes/DDG-Research

## AVRDC New Staff – Dr. Palchamy Kadirvel Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Breeding and Entomology



Dr. Palchamy Kadirvel arrived at the Center on 10 April 2007. His initial appointment is for one year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. His family will join him later in September. Dr. Kadirvel will stay in Apartment 642. His office will be located at the

Entomology Office in the Laboratory Building (Room B3) with extension number 420.

<[kadirvel.palchamy@netra.avrdc.org.tw](mailto:kadirvel.palchamy@netra.avrdc.org.tw)>

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

## Interim Head of the Legume Unit

Dr. Jong-Gyu Woo has been assigned as the Interim Head of the Legume Unit, effective 9 April 2007. Dr. Woo will lead the unit with my support until the

Center recruits a Legume Breeder.

- Source: Dr. Jackie Hughes/DDG-Research and OIC of AVRDC

## Travel

Ms. Thuong Thi Hong Hai, 18 April, repatriation to University of Hanover, Germany for the final stage of her Ph.D. program.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

## Welcome

Four Filipino Summer Students from the University of the Philippines Los Baños arrived at the Center on 6 April 2007 for two months of training.



Ms. Rachel Ann M. Alba will work on “Effect of acyl sugars from wild species of Solanum on *Helicoverpa armigera* and/or *Bemisia tabaci* and molecular mapping of the variations in acyl sugar concentrations in segregating populations of introgression lines involving wild Solanum spp.” at the Entomology Unit under the supervision of Dr. Srinivasan Ramasamy. She can be contacted at ext 422/423 (office) and 669 (dormitory), <[rachelannalba\\_jaja@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelannalba_jaja@yahoo.com)>.



Mr. Leonardo T. Platon will work on “Association of allelic diversity in carotenoid biosynthetic genes with functional variation in pepper” at the Molecular Marker Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Robert de la Peña. He can be contacted at ext 374 (office) and ext. 662 (dormitory), <[lenard09@yahoo.com](mailto:lenard09@yahoo.com)>.



Ms. Pauline Andrea M. Muyco will work on “Association of allelic diversity in carotenoid biosynthetic genes with functional variation in tomato” at the Molecular Marker Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Robert de la Peña. She can be contacted at ext. 374 (office) and ext. 661(dormitory), <[chironex\\_88@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:chironex_88@yahoo.com.ph)>.



Ms. Pamella Marie DV Sendon will work on “Tissue culture for transformation in hot pepper” at the Pepper Unit under the supervision of Dr. Jong-Gyu Woo. She can be contacted at ext. 367 (office) and ext. 670 (dormitory), <[pmvs187@yahoo.com](mailto:pmvs187@yahoo.com)>.

- Source: Rose Chan/Communications

## Position Announcement 作物及生態系統管理組徵「田間作業員」

The Organic Vegetable Program of the Crop and Ecosystem Management Unit has an opening for a Field Laborer position. **Job Responsibilities:** 1) Under the supervision of the Field Assistant, to assist in greenhouse and field activities such as preparing growth medium for transplant production, sowing seeds, thinning, watering, and raising transplants; 2) assist in establishing and maintaining field trials including the construction of raised beds, transplanting, mulching, irrigation, weeding, fertilizer application, spraying using registered bio-pesticides, and harvest. 3) assist in collecting soil and plant samples and other field data; and 4) perform other field and greenhouse operation as needed, e.g. maintaining the field boundary and irrigation/drainage facilities of the organic fields and cultivation of organic crops for commercial purpose and for supply of AVRDC's cafeteria. **Qualifications:** The applicant should be physically capable of significant heavy labor, and should have experience in field tasks and activities. He/she should have skills in growing various types of vegetables in the farm. Skills in establishing and maintaining field trials are desired including applying fertilizers, spraying and plant care and maintenance. The candidate should be willing to irrigate transplants during the weekend and/or on

national holidays when sometimes required. Interested applicants should send curriculum vitae to Ms. Felisa Wang, Human Resources at extension No. 215, AVRDC, P.O. Box 42, Shanhua 741, Tainan, Taiwan.

作物及生態系統管理組徵「田間作業員」乙名。主要負責：協助田間助理溫室及田間的育苗工作，如準備培養土，播種，疏苗，澆水等。協助建立及維護田間試驗包括建構畦溝，移植，覆蓋，灌溉，除草，施肥，噴灑生物防治劑及採收。協助採集土壤、植物樣本及其他田間資料的調查。完成田間及溫室的工作，例如養護有機田圍籬，澆灌設施及有機作物產銷與供應中心餐廳。能從事粗重的勞動工作，熟悉各種蔬菜的栽培方式，有施肥、噴灑藥劑及農作物的栽種等田間實務經驗，如工作需要國定假日也能配合加班。應徵資格：體能佳，耐粗重工作、認真負責、具工作熱忱及田間工作經驗者。若您的親朋好友中有合適人選並有興趣者，請洽人事室王淑真（分機215），或寄履歷表至：亞洲蔬菜研究發展中心台南縣善化鎮郵政信箱42號人事室收。

- Source: Felisa Wang/ASU

## Booking the Research Building Meeting Rooms

If you wish to book the use of the meeting rooms in the research building please contact **Kathy Chen (502)** or **Hu, Jin-tien (542)** in the library. There are now two meeting rooms available: the Lab meeting room with an electronic whiteboard and capacity of about 14 people, and the new Library meeting room with a capacity of about 24 people which is equipped with a data projector.

需要使用實驗室或圖書館會議室的同仁，請預先向陳德瑛（分機502）或胡錦田（分機542）登記。

- Source: Communications

## Change of Address for Our Partners at IPM CRSP

Their office will be moving to a new location from 16 April 2007. Office phone and fax numbers will remain the same, but all correspondence should now be addressed to: Virginia Tech - Office of International Research, Education and Development IPM CRSP, 201 Price's Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA (Mail Code 0378)

There may be some delays in being able to reach them by phone, fax, or email next week, but thereafter communications should be operating normally.

- Source: Melody Ho

## Farewell

**Ms. Chen Chao Liang**, Field Laborer in the Legume Unit, will retire on 20 March 2007. Ms. Chen has served the Center for more than 33 year. We express our deep appreciation for her hard work during the past years with the Center. We wish her good health and much happiness!

任職豆科組田間工人的**陳趙涼女士**將於4月20日退休，感謝周女士33年來對亞蔬的辛勤付出，在此特別祝福退休後的她身體健康精神愉快！

- Source: Felisa Wang/ASU

## Trip To Formosan Aboriginal Village

The R&S Committee is organizing a trip to the Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village on Saturday, 28 April 2007. It is a theme park located in Nantou County renowned for showcasing Taiwan aboriginal culture with a backdrop of many entertainment attractions. Two buses (84 seats) will be arranged on a first-come first-serve basis. Exact costs per person have not been decided yet, however, it will not be over NT 500. Signing up will start on Tuesday, 17 April. Those interested please sign up with Angela at ext. 402. Details of the trip will be released in next week's Newsletter.

康委會將在4月28日(星期六)舉辦南投縣九族文化村旅遊。預定有兩輛遊覽車，共84個名額，自4月17日(星期二)開始登記，額滿為止。目前實際的費用尚未計算出來，每人預計應不會超過500元。報名專線請洽陳美洪（分機402）。旅遊細節將在下週的亞蔬週刊公布，敬請期待！

- Source: Kartini Luther/Chairperson/R&S Committee

## Happenings around AVRDC Headquarters

### Tainan Symphony Orchestra 2007 Spring Concert 「2007 臺南市交響樂團春季音樂會」

Conductor Tu Huei-ming will lead the Tainan Symphony Orchestra to perform the 2007 Spring concert featuring the world-famous pianist Chen Bi-Shyen.

- Time: Sunday, 15 April, 1930 hours
- Venue: Tainan City Cultural Center
- Ticket: NT500/400/300/200/100

由指揮家涂惠民領銜的台南市交響樂團，今年度特別邀約國際級的知名鋼琴家陳必先，以「布拉姆斯第一號鋼琴協奏曲」首度合作演出春季音樂會。

- 時間: 4月15日(星期日) 晚間7點30分
- 地點: 台南市立文化中心

### Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra 「旋風俄羅斯」

A Russian conductor and pianist will be the guests of honor with the Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra for performance of Tchaikovsky: "Polonaise" from Opera "Eugen Onegin"; Tchaikovsky: Concerto for Piano No.1 in b-flat minor Op.23 and Symphony No.4 in f minor, Op.

- Time: Sunday, 15 April, at 1930 hours
- Venue: Kaohsiung City Cultural Center, Chih-The Hall
- Ticket: NT800/500/300

高雄市交響樂團特別邀請俄籍指揮家維畢斯基與鋼琴家塔拉索夫來台共同演出俄國作曲家柴可夫斯基三首作品。作品曲目：柴可夫斯基：波蘭舞曲，選自歌劇「尤金·奧尼根」；降b小調第一號鋼琴協奏曲—作品23；f小調第四號交響曲—作品36。

- 時間: 4月15日(星期日) 晚間7點30分
- 地點: 高雄市立文化中心至德堂
- 票價: 800/500/300元

### Cloud Gate 2-Oculus Spring 2007 雲門舞集2 春季公演「斷章」

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan will make Spring 2007 presentation of Oculus, the posthumous work of Wu Kuo-Chu. In his creation, he draws the image of the perpetual human striving for higher aims and happiness.

- Time: Friday, 20 April, at 1945 hours  
Saturday, 21 April, at 1445 hours
- Venue: Kaohsiung City Cultural Center, Chih-The Hall
- Ticket: NT 1200/900/700/500/300

雲門舞集2 春季公演—斷章。「斷章」是旅德天才編舞家伍國柱遺作。

- 時間: 4月20日(星期五) 晚間7點45分  
4月21日(星期六) 下午2點45分
- 地點: 高雄市立文化中心至德堂
- 票價: 1200/900/700/500/300元

### Romeo and Juliet: French Pop Opera 羅密歐與茱麗葉—法國流行歌劇

This French-language mega musical adapts Shakespeare's classic romance. Main performers: Damien Sargue and Cyril Niccolai.

- Time: 12-15, 18-21 April, at 1930 hours
- Venue: Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, Taipei
- Ticket: NT 6000/4800/4200/3600/3000/2500/2000
- Sold at: [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)

「羅密歐與茱麗葉」號稱最成功的法國流行歌劇。製作人皮斯葛維克成功的為大文豪莎士比亞的經典名著，創作出包含30餘首動聽歌曲的唯一音樂劇版本，由達米安及希瑞領銜演出。

- 時間: 4月12-15以及18-21日晚間7點30分
- 地點: 台北國父紀念館
- 票價: 6000/4800/4200/3600/3000/2500/2000元
- 售票請洽: [www.artsticket.com.tw](http://www.artsticket.com.tw)