



**AVRDC**  
The World Vegetable Center

# Newsletter

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## Fueling Science in Africa, But How?

Both Africans and the international development community discuss whether developing new focal points for science or investing in existing infrastructure are more appropriate to help science and technology in Africa excel. Sub-Saharan Africa must improve its scientific and technological capacity if it is to boost social and economic development. That statement finds consensus among many. According to UNESCO, there is less than one scientist or engineer for every ten thousand people in Africa - compared with two to five per thousand in Europe and the U.S.A. Within the continent as well as among development experts it is undisputed that sub-Saharan Africa requires more than simply nice words of encouragement. However, there is disagreement on how this capacity could be improved.

Some suggest investing in select institutes as centers of excellence; others argue that efforts should focus on strengthening existing infrastructure. Some think policy makers should support capabilities within individual firms, while many believe that informal research and development activities, or cross-sector networks best encourage economic activities.

As often, perhaps the answer to those questions lies the middle. The African Ministerial Council on Science and

Technology (AMCOST) clearly opts for a stronger role for science and technology on the continent. Last year, AMCOST proposed the African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF), that is meant to implement Africa's consolidated plan of action for science and technology and related African Union (AU) programs. This is now being supported by NEPAD and several models for implementing that plan are currently under discussion.

Scientific progress made in Africa is often undertaken in arduous working environments. Lacking access to up-to-date equipment or working with meager and unpredictable budgets mostly provided by external donors are severe constraints. However, not all are supportive of the concept of creating new centers of excellence. "New centers of excellence are expensive and can become white elephants", says Narciso Mayos, chair of the International Development Program at the Carnegie Corporation. "African decision-makers often assume there is little, if any, capacity in their own countries - a mistake that leads them to create new centers rather than empowering existing ones."

More background articles and controversial opinions on found at [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net) - [Spotlight on R&D in sub-Saharan Africa](#).

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

Adkins, S., Webb, S.E., Achor, D., Roberts, P.D., Baker, C.A. (2007). Identification and characterization of a novel whitefly-transmitted member of the family Potyviridae isolated from cucurbits in Florida. *PHYTOPATHOLOGY*. v.97(2):145-154.

Carrillo Tripp, J., Lozoya Gloria, E., Rivera Bustamante, R.F. (2007). Symptom remission and specific resistance of pepper plants after infection by pepper golden mosaic virus. *PHYTOPATHOLOGY*. v.97(1):51-59.

Hirama, N., Mizusawa, H., Azuhata, F., Matsuura, S. (2007). Culture methods to reduce the occurrence of the bottle-gourd-shaped fruits in the greenhouse of autumn-cropped cucumber plants. *HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH (JAPAN)*. v.6(1):65-70.

Kahlon, T.S., Chapman, M.H., Smith, G.E. (2007). In vitro binding of bile acids by spinach, kale, brussels sprouts, broccoli, mustard greens, green bell pepper, cabbage and collards.. *FOOD CHEMISTRY*. v.100:1531-1536.

Khokhar, K.M., Hadley, P., Pearson, S. (2007). Effect of cold temperature durations of onion sets in store on the incidence of bolting, bulbing and seed yield. *SCIENTIA HORTICULTURAE*. v.112(1):16-22.

Purcell, L.C., Edwards, J.T., Brye, K.R. (2007). Soybean yield and biomass responses to cumulative transpiration: Questioning widely held beliefs. *FIELD CROPS RESEARCH*. v.101(1):10-18.

Yang, W., Francis, D.M. (2007). Genetics and breeding for resistance to bacterial diseases in tomato: prospects for marker-assisted selection. In: Genetic improvement of Solanaceous crops; volume 2: tomato. Enfield, NH: Science Publishers. p.379-419

Abdoellah, O.S., Hadikusumali, H.Y., Takeuchi, K., Okubo, S. (2006).

Commercialization of homegardens in an Indonesian village: vegetation composition and functional changes. In: Tropical homegardens: A time-tested example of sustainable agroforestry. p.233-250

Dimitrov, D.M., Rumrill, P.D. (2003). Pretest-posttest designs and measurement of change. *WORK*. v.20(2):159-165.

Rana, T.S. (1999). Studies on indigenous herbal remedies for diabetes mellitus in India. *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC AND TAXONOMIC BOTANY*. v.23(1):115-120.

## New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

*The Economist*: When everything connects – 28th April–4th May 2007

*Photo Techniques*: May/June 2007

*Scientific American* (Chinese): May 2007

*Time*: Best of Asia – 7 May 2007



## Recommended Web Link of the Week: UC IPM Online

*UC IPM*—Established in 1979, the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) develops and promotes the use of integrated, ecologically sound pest management programs in California. IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques

such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

Please visit <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Library Services Unit

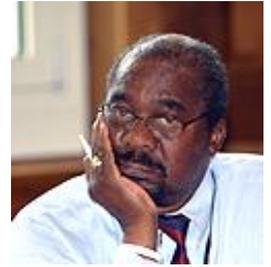
## New Board Members

Two new members have been appointed to the Center's Board:



On April 15, Dr. **Wen-Deh Chen**, took over his duties as a scientific Board member. Dr. Chen is the current Director General of the Department of International Affairs of Taiwan's Council of Agriculture (COA). He brings the expertise gained from over 25 years in agricultural science and science management to the Board. Previously Dr. Chen held the position of Deputy Director General of the Agriculture and Food Agency of COA.

AVRDC's latest Board member is Dr. **Eugene Terry**, whose term became effective on 1 May 2007. A plant pathologist by training, he has 40 years of professional experience in research management, technology generation and dissemination. Among his many functions in leadership positions are as the Africa Rice Center's first Director General, former chair of the Board of the World Agroforestry Center and Implementing Director of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF). Currently Dr. Terry is an independent consultant for agricultural research and institution development based in Washington D.C.



- Source: Dr. Thomas Lumpkin/Director General

## New Staff



The Center extends a warm welcome to Ms. **Hsu Shen Kuei-hsiang** (徐沈桂香), Field Laborer, Crop and Ecosystem Management Unit.

Ms. Hsu reported for duty on 1 May 2007. She can be contacted at ext. 536.

- Source: Felisa Wang/Human Resources

## Welcome



JT Garcia



MCI Amat

Ms. **Josephine T. Garcia** and Ms. **Maria Concepcion I. Amat**, Research Interns, arrived at AVRDC on 1 May 2007 for 15 days of training. Ms. Amat is from the Department of Agriculture in the Philippines while Ms. Garcia is from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture in the Philippines. During this period, they will participate in research work on indigenous vegetables at AVRDC and discuss plans for research activities to be conducted in the Philippines under the supervision of Dr. Engle. They can be contacted at 534 (office) and 858 (guest room).

They can also be contacted via:

Ms. Amat: <[da\\_qaes@yahoo.com](mailto:da_qaes@yahoo.com)> and

Ms. Garcia: <[jotolgar\\_04@yahoo.com](mailto:jotolgar_04@yahoo.com)>.



Ms. **Ji-eun Hwang**, Research Intern from Youngyang Pepper Experiment Station, Kyungbuk Provincial ATA, Korea, arrived at AVRDC on 1 May 2007 for three months of training. Ms. Hwang will work on the multiplication and characterization of pepper germplasm under the guidance of Dr. Engle; with particular focus on diagnosis for pepper viruses. She can be contacted at 534 (office) and 871 (dormitory), <[snail0315@gba.go.kr](mailto:snail0315@gba.go.kr)>.

- Source: Rose Chan/Communications

## Travel

**Dr. Liwayway M. Engle**, 6-9 May, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to attend a workshop on enhancing the safe production, promotion and utilization of indigenous vegetables by women.

**Dr. Jackie Hughes**, 7-9 May, to Singapore, to represent the Center's Management at the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) & AVRDC regional Network for Vegetable Research and Development (AARNET); to make presentations on AVRDC's research and development activities in the ASEAN region.

**Dr. Kathryn Hamilton**, 12-23 May, to Rome, Italy, to attend IP Managers/Focal Points meeting organized by the Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property.

- Source: *Yvonne Ting/ASU*

**Dr. Detlef Virchow**, 7-9 May, to Ouarzazate, Morocco, to participate in the 1st First African Congress of Nutrition (FANUS) meeting on "Nutrition, Health and Human Development in Africa: Breaking the downward trend".

- Source: *Dr. Detlef Virchow/AVRDC-RCA*

**Dr. Peter A.C. Ooi**, 8-9 May, to Singapore, to attend the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the ASEAN-AVRDC Regional Network for Vegetable Research and Development (AARNET).

- Source: *Piak Eiumnoh/AVRDC-ARC*

## What's New in the AVRDC Websites?

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

- **Jobs:** Research Assistant (Training) and Junior Scientist (Plant Pathology) in RCA
- **New Board Members:** Dr. Wen-Deh Chen and Dr. Eugene Terry
- **Coming Events:** International Symposium "Underutilized Plant Species for Food, Nutrition, Income, and Sustainable Development," March 3-7, 2008, Arusha, Tanzania

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

- **Seminar Series Presentations:**
  - Horticulture Development Means for Livelihood Support by **Sudha Mysore**
  - Does Agriculture Matter? Transforming the Rural Economy into an Engine of Growth by **Roehlano Briones**

- Facilitating International Agricultural Research and Development by **Annabelle Waruhiu**
- A True Global Concern: How Business Administration and Political Sciences Can Serve Issues of Development and Research Based Initiatives by **Juan Cabrera-Clerget**

**Anthraco-nose Website:** <http://www.avrdc.org/anthracnose/index.html>

- **New Pages:** Accommodation, Transportation, Tour and General Information

**SUSPER Website:** <http://www.avrdc.org/susper/>

- **Research Report:** Baseline Characterization of Urban and Peri-Urban Vegetable Production in Phnom Penh (updated)

- Source: *Christie Clavero/Communications*

## Water Tower Clean-up on Saturday, 19 May

The annual clean-up of the Center's water tower at headquarters will be scheduled on Saturday, 19 May. It will take around 8 hours starting from 0830 hours. During this period the city water will come directly from the main pipe of the Taiwan Water Company and will not go through the Center's water tower as usual. The water pressure will be lower at that time.

5月19日(星期六)上午8點半開始清洗中心水塔，約需要8個小時完成。屆時自來水將不經過中心水塔而直接供應，故水壓較低。

- Source: *Janice Chou/TSO*