



AVRDC

The World Vegetable Center

Newsletter

Published by Communications

27 July 2007



Evaluation de nouvelles variétés de tomate sur sols sableux et humides

Objectif:

Evaluer la performance agronomique des différentes variétés de tomate

Quelques variétés de tomate testées:



African Agriculture: Kofi Annan urges stronger links between farmers and researchers

Yielding from Stronger Commitment

While still being in his well-known position of heading the United Nations, Kofi Annan kept on calling for a new green revolution in Africa. Now, after his second term as U.N. Secretary-General ended, the top diplomat is working on the goal to boost African agriculture stronger than ever. Since June 2007 Annan is the chairman of the "Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa", set up last year with a \$150 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

"Africa needs a green revolution to double agricultural output and end chronic food insecurity in the world's poorest continent. We are the only continent that has not gone through a green revolution and we are the only continent that cannot feed itself and this is not sustainable", Annan told media representatives at a news conference in Nairobi last Monday.

Annan said the Nairobi-based Alliance hoped to replicate farm changes that boosted agricultural productivity in countries like India in the 1970s. "I hope that in 10 to 20 years or so we will be able to double Africa's agricultural productivity," Annan is quoted by Reuters.

Food insecurity in Africa is worsened by weak institutions, insufficient investment in agriculture by governments and donors, and a harsh environment made worse by climate change, corruption and

mismanagement. The Alliance puts the focus on helping Africa's millions of small-scale farmers fight poverty and boost productivity by providing higher performing and more stress resistant crop varieties, and improving access to farm inputs and markets. Annan said the group would not seek to spearhead the use of genetically modified seeds, which have been a controversial subject in some African countries, but would use traditional methods to boost productivity of existing varieties. "The decisions on using genetically modified technology are a decisions for African governments", he said.

The Alliance's plans envision a future of food security and a thriving agricultural sector in Africa, that is supposed to end of the continent's stereotypical branding as a lost continent. It formulates a broader scheme, and there are clear synergies with AVRDC's research and development activities in Africa, especially with the project on "Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems (vBSS) in sub-Saharan Africa", that is also funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. If agriculture starts with a seed, a productive and sustainable seed sector in sub-Saharan Africa is not only important, it is vital.

Further Reading: (1) Alliance for A Green Revolution in Africa (<http://www.agra-alliance.org/>), (2) Reuters, 16 July 2007: Annan to lead green revolution for Africa (Intranet)

- Communications

New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Azevedo, L., Alves de Lima, P.L., Gomes, J.C., Stringheta, P.C., Ribeiro, D.A., Salvadori, D.M.F. (2007). Differential response related to genotoxicity between eggplant (*Solanum melanogena*) skin aqueous extract and its main purified anthocyanin (delphinidin) in vivo. *FOOD AND CHEMICAL TOXICOLOGY*. v.45 (5):852-858.

Chattha, M.R., Muhammad, J., Mahmood, T.Z. (2007). Yield and yield components of mungbean as affected by various weed control methods under rain-fed conditions of Pakistan. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOLOGY*. v.9(1):114-119.

Chen, Q.B., Hou, X.L., Wang, J.J., Han, J.M. (2007). Physiological and biochemical changes of onion with different maturities during the dormancy stage. *ACTA HORTICULTURAE SINICA*. v.34(1):221-224.

Hsieh, L.L., Liu, M.W., Hsiao, C.H., Lin, T.S., Yang, W.J. (2007). Genetic diversity among the lines and cultivars of *Luffa* species. *TAIWAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE, JOURNAL*. v.53(1):99-110.

Kim, D.H., Kang, J.G., Kim, B.D. (2007). Isolation and characterization of the cytoplasmic male sterility-associated orf456 gene of chili pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.). *PLANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*. v.63 (4):519-532.

Lunello, P., Rienzo, J.D., Conci, V.C. (2007). Yield loss in garlic caused by Leek yellow stripe virus Argentinean isolate. *PLANT DISEASE*. v.91(2):153-158.

Oracz, K., Bailly, C., Gniazdowska, A., Come, D., Corbineau, F., Bogatek, R. (2007). Induction of oxidative stress by sunflower phytotoxins in germinating mustard seeds. *JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL ECOLOGY*. v.33(2):251-264.

Shanmugasundaram, S., Kalb, T. (2007). AVRDC training guide: suggested cultural practices for onion. Shanhua, Tainan: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. 6 pp.

Takeuchi, Y., Inoue, T., Takemura, K., Hada, M., Takahashi, S., Ioki, M., Nakajima, N., Kondo, N. (2007). Induction and inhibition of cyclobutane pyrimidine dimer photolyase in etiolated cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) cotyledons after ultraviolet irradiation depends on wavelength. *JOURNAL OF PLANT RESEARCH*. v.120(3):365-374.

Liao, L.S. 廖龍盛 (2005). Practical pesticide (實用農藥). Taipei: Harvest Farm Magazine. 1311 pp.

New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

The Economist: The riddle of Iran – 21–27 July 2007

Time: What will happen when the U.S. leaves Iraq – 30 July 2007



Recommended Web Link: AFRICANCROPS.NET

“Africancrops - A Website on Improvement of African Crops and Seed Systems”, is a news platform and entry point to vast number of sources and databanks on diverse crops in Africa. The comprehensive website is hosted by the Forum for Organic Resource Management and Agricultural Technologies (FORMAT), based in Nairobi, Kenya. Among the features we miss is an on site search

function, however Africacrops makes up for it by the abundance of information it holds. Besides, it offers links to scientific search engines such as Scirus and Google Scholar, and - no surprise - lives and grows with input from its users.

URL: <http://www.africancrops.net/index.htm>

- Source: Fang-Chin Chen/Communications

News from Africa

Visitors

A group of researchers from the “Centre for Advanced Training in Rural Development (SLE)” is coming to AVRDC (27 July - 24 August 2007). SLE is an organisation unit of the Agricultural-Horticultural Faculty at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. SLE is implementing a one-year training programme. A three months overseas research stay is an essential

feature of the programme. Groups of 4-5 university graduates with a master degree are carrying out consultancies for projects / organisations and have the opportunity of applying their acquired knowledge and abilities. AVRDC-RCA is the Host Institute for the current research group.

Workshop Participation

The Start-up Workshop for the SLE research project will take place at RCA (01 August 2007; see: Visitors). The researcher group will present their project “Market-driven development and poverty reduction: A value chain analysis of fresh vegetables in Kenya and Tanzania”. Participating stakeholders are ICIPE, the host institute in Kenya as well as GTZ-Kenya as Associate Partner. Together with other stakeholders from the private sector and the administration, the concept of the research group will be discussed.

AVRDC-RCA will participate in this year's national agricultural fair Nane Nane, held in Arusha (01 – 08 August 2007). The topic is on indigenous vegetables, where AVRDC-RCA will have demonstration plots on AIVs, homegarden plots, herbs and spices, as well as information material on RCA and AIVs.

Training

AVRDC-RCA conducted a two-day training course from 19 to 20 July on Vegetable Production, Processing and Preservation for 30 farmers from Mbunda, Arusha District, Arusha Region.

Other Issues in Tanzania

Dr. Drissa Silué reviewed two publications for the Asian Journal of Plant Pathology.

Dr. Rémi Nono-Womdim started his work as Liaison Officer Tanzania and Research Manager for the vBSS project on 18 July 2007.

- *Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA*

Highlights of Monthly Meeting of A-team ARC Thailand

The meeting was held in Kamphaengsaen on 24 July 2007. The successful implementation and completion of the “Human Resource Development Project for the Mekong Region Phase IV” (HRDP IV) which was jointly undertaken by SDC and AVRDC-ARC will be marked by the publication of a book to highlight the achievements of the project. Entitled “Promoting Sustainability: Beyond Capacity Building”, the illustrated book will focus on the results of the project and its overall impact in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. This publication

will complement individual books prepared by each of the five participating NARES.

With agreement of Headquarters the much needed repair to the facilities of AVRDC-ARC Regional Training Center started today. The ceiling and roofing drainage of the RTC facilities are targeted for improvement. With funds from HQ, the renovation project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2007.

- *Source: Dr. Peter Ooi/Director/AVRDC-ARC*



Participants of Inception Workshop – Smallholder Vegetable Gardens Project, Honiara, Solomon Islands, 23-26 July 2007

The Solomon Islands is one of the poorest island nations in the Pacific. Smallholder vegetable gardens in the island are important sources of food and income for the population, however, the area under vegetable cultivation is small compared to major staples, and the horticultural potential is not fully deployed due to technical and socio-economic constraints. The AVRDC led project "HORT/2005/077 Integrated Crop

Management Package for Sustainable Smallholder Gardens in Solomon Island" is going to change that. The project (2007–2011) focuses on improving livelihoods through strengthening the vegetable based horticultural sector and is being funded by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR). This week a group of project partners and collaborators met in the city of Honaria to attend an inception and planning workshop organized by AVRDC.

Photo (left to right): Joseph Aaron (Don Bosco), Brother Thomas Kikama (Don Bosco), Josephine Teakeni (Voice Blong Mere Solomon), Anastacia Taghanepari (Australian Volunteers International), Doreen Alfred (Kastom Gaden Association), Manny Palada (AVRDC), Permanent Secretary for Agriculture Edward Kingmele (Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, MAL), Ellen Iramu (MAL) and Father Ambrose Pereira, Don Bosco

What's New on the AVRDC Websites?

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

- ## Publications: Managing Metals in Vietnamese Agriculture (in Vietnamese)

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

- ## Proposed Templates:

- **PowerPoint Presentations**
 - **Training Workshop, Inception and Planning Workshop, Internal Review and Planning Workshop – Working Documents**

Y Posters

- ## Style Guide for AVRDC Staff (1991 ed.)

- ◆ Abbreviations
 - ◆ Abstracts
 - ◆ Acronyms and official names
 - ◆ Capitalization
 - ◆ Footnotes
 - ◆ Headings
 - ◆ Illustrations and captions
 - ◆ Italics

- *Source: Communications*

Travel

Dr. Peter Ooi, 29 July-1 August, to Manila, Philippines for discussion with Dr. Rodel Garcia Maghirang at DA on matters relating to fruit fly management for the AARNET group and meet with Mr. Mulong for preparation of the SDC-AVRDC partnership; 3-10 August, to Indonesia, to attend the IPM CRSP project workshop.

- Source: Dr. Peter Ooi/Director/AVRDC-ARC

Dr. Germain Pichop, 3-19 August, on annual leave.

Dr. Drissa Silué and Mr. Stefan Pletziger, 5-8 August, to Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in a stakeholder meeting for the Kilimo Trust Project.

Dr. Detlef Virchow, 7-8 August, to Johannesburg, South Africa, to attend the Horticulture Network Awareness Workshop.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

New Staff



Ms. Chen Wen-yu 陳玟諭, project-based Principal Research Assistant at Mycology Unit reported for duty on 23 July 2007. Ms. Chen obtained her M.S. degree in June 2007 from Graduate

Institute of Biotechnology, College of Life Science, National Chiayi University. She can be contacted at ext. 342, <wenyu.chen@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Position Announcement – Field Laborer, Mycology Unit

植物真菌組徵「田間作業員」

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is seeking a Field Laborer who will be working at Mycology Unit.

Key Responsibilities: (1) conduct routine activities for the field experiments such as sowing, land preparation, mulching, thinning, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, staking, fertilizer and pesticides application, harvesting, install net cage and disease sample collection, etc. (2) conduct routine activities for the greenhouse and screenhouse experiments such as preparing soil or cultural media, sterilize trays/pots/benches, sowing, thinning, watering, fertilizer & pesticides application, artificial inoculation, post-experiment cleanup, and sterilize the inoculated seedlings/fruits, etc.

Qualifications: Junior high school education or equivalent; Physically capable of significant heavy labor; Experience in field tasks and activities. **Application:** Submit a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, with names, and contact addresses (phone number and e-mail) of three referees. **Send to:** Ms. Felisa Wang, Human Resources, AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center,

P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, Taiwan;

e-mail: (jobapply@netra.avrdc.org.tw)

Closing Date: 30 August 2007

植物真菌組 徵「田間作業員」。主要負責：(1)田間試驗工作：播種、整地、覆蓋、疏苗、移植、除草、灌溉、立支架、施肥、噴藥、收穫、架設尼龍網室及病害樣本之採集等。(2)溫室及網室之試驗工作：準備培養土、消毒育苗箱、鉢及台面、播種、疏苗、澆水、施肥、噴藥、人工接種病原菌、試驗結束之清理以及消毒接種過病害之材料等等。應徵資格：國中畢業或相當學歷，耐粗重工作，具田間工作經驗者。應徵方式：請將履歷表以及三位介紹人姓名、聯絡地址(包括電話、電子郵件信箱)寄到：亞蔬－世界蔬菜中心，台南縣善化鎮郵政信箱 42 號，人事室。電子郵件信箱：jobapply@netra.avrdc.org.tw

截止收件日期：2007年8月30日

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Special Lunch Menu at Headquarters on Friday, 3 August

During the hot summer, how about come to enjoy a special lunch “Japanese buckwheat cold noodles” in the Cafeteria on Friday, 3 August? The ordering price is NT\$45 per person (maximum of 50 people). Please call the cafeteria at ext. 242 for reservations before the evening of Wednesday, 1 August. Thank you.

炎炎夏日，請於八月三日（星期五）中午至餐廳享用「日式蕎麥涼麵」，每份定價 45 元（以五十名為限）。欲訂從速，請於八月一日（星期三）下班前，向餐廳（分機 242）預訂。謝謝大家！

- Source: Lydia Wu/FDS