

28 September 2007

Chili Anthracnose Is Not What It Used To Be



The first ever international symposium on chili anthracnose proved to be a resounding success according to Dr Paul Gniffke, AVRDC Pepper breeder - and has stimulated worldwide interest in further collaboration to deal with the disease.

Globally, anthracnose is one of the most serious economic constraints on chili and sweet pepper production. Spoiling fruit as it matures, the disease can devastate marketable yields, particularly in hot, humid areas. In much of the tropical lowlands it is almost impossible to profitably grow peppers because of it.

Held in Seoul, South Korea for three days last week and co-sponsored by AVRDC, the symposium brought together more than 60 experts from around the world, from as far afield as Brazil, Australia and the Netherlands. A wide range of scientific papers and posters were presented including several from AVRDC scientists.

AVRDC has been a leader in helping farmers to deal with this disease without fungicides. As Dr Gniffke stated, "AVRDC has been central to understanding the characteristics of the pathogen, the identification and

distribution of resistant germplasm, and the development of resistant varieties. The PBC80 line of *Capsicum baccatum* we identified has been showing stable resistance in many different parts of the world."

The symposium also revealed that anthracnose isn't what everyone had thought it was. Using new molecular identification techniques, plant pathologists have recently identified new species causing crop damage such as *Colletotrichum accutatum*, which appear to have been misdiagnosed in the past. It has been linked with severe damage to green fruit, and the growing incidence of this pattern of damage around the world was noted with concern.

Initiated by AVRDC, the Rural Development Administration of Korea, Seoul National University and several private companies, this symposium generated a lot of interest, and representatives from both India and China both offered to host the next one to be held in 2009.

- Source: Communications

Latest Publications from the Center's Staff

Congratulations to Dr. S.K. Green, Ms. Su-ling Shih, Mr. Wen-shi Tsai and Ms. Li-mei Lee for their latest publications, recently received by the library.

Jan, F.J., Green, S.K., Shih, S.L., Lee, L.M., Ito, H., Kimbara, J., Kosoi, K., Tasi, W.S., (2007). First report of Tomato yellow leaf curl Thailand virus in Taiwan. *PLANT DISEASE*. v.91(10):1363.

Zhang, D.Y., Liu, Y., Zhuang, C.R., Tasi, W.S., Shih, S.L., Lee, L.M., Wang, J.T., Green, S.K., (2006). Survey for viruses-particularly begomoviruses-infecting pepper crops in China. *AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY*. v.7(4):24.

New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Ahn, Y.K., Choi, G.L., Choi, H.S., Yoon, M.K., Suh, H.D., (2007). Effect of planting depth and angle of non-cloved bulb garlic on garlic growth and yield. *KOREAN JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY*. v.25(2):82-88.

Bang, H.J., Kim, S.G., Leskovar, D., King, S., (2007). Development of a codominant CAPS marker for allelic selection between canary yellow and red watermelon based on SNP in lycopene beta-cyclase (LCYB) gene. *MOLECULAR BREEDING*. v.20(1):63-72.

Barua, J., Hossain, M.M., Hossain, I., Rahman, A.A.M.S., Sahel, M.A.T., (2007). Control of mycoflora of farmers' stored seeds of mungbean. *ASIAN JOURNAL OF PLANT SCIENCES*. v.6(1):115-121.

Bolandnazar, S., Aliasgarzad, N., Neishabury, M.R., Chaparzadeh, N., (2007). Mycorrhizal colonization improves onion (*Allium cepa* L.) yield and water use efficiency under water deficit conditions. *SCIENTIA HORTICULTURAE*. v.114(1):11-15.

Bonde, M.R., Berner, D.K., Nester, S.E., Frederick, R.D., (2007). Effects of temperature on urediniospore germination, germ tube growth, and initiation of infection in soybean by *Phakopsora* isolates. *PHYTOPATHOLOGY*. v.97(8):997-1010.

AVRDC— The World Vegetable Center, (2006). Inception and planning workshop: integrated crop management package for sustainable smallholder gardens in Solomon Islands. Shanhua, Tainan: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. 26 pp.

World Intellectual Property Organization, (2005). Exchanging value, negotiating technology licensing agreements: A training manual. Geneva: WIPO. 178 pp.

Ozakman, M., Schaad, N.W., (2003). A real-time BIO-PCR assay for detection of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2, in asymptomatic potato tubers. *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF PLANT PATHOLOGY*. v.25:232-239.

New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

The Economist: Will the credit crisis trigger a downturn? - 22nd–28th September 2007

Time: After Abe – 24 September 2007

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications



News from Africa

Training

AVRDC-RCA conducted a two day training course on Vegetable Production, Processing and Preservation for

30 farmers from Mamba, Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region, 13–14 September.

Workshop Participation

Dr. Shilpi Saxena participated at the 6th IndigenoVeg Meeting from 17 to 21 September organized by AVRDC-RCA and presented on “Overview of the market sector for organic vegetables in Sub-Saharan Africa”.

The Stakeholder Workshop for the Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems Program (vBSS)-Liaison Office for Tanzania will take place at The World Vegetable Center's Regional Center for Africa from 27 to 28 September. The workshop purpose is to: 1) assess the current status and constraints on vegetable breeding, seed production and marketing in the sub-region; 2)

prioritize research needs and present future strategies for vegetable breeding and seed distribution systems; and, 3) prepare a work plan for the period of October 2007 to September 2008 and identify areas where capacity building would be required to implement this plan. Workshop participants include scientists and policy makers from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Visitors

Three members of the ICRISAT CCER committee, namely, Drs. Santiago R Obien, former Executive Director, Philippines Rice Research Institute (a national institute), Edward Sulzberger, Consultant, ICRAF and Sunil Maheshwari, Professor, Indian Institute of Management visited ICRISAT-Niamey from 7 to 11 September. Besides visiting research units and the ICRISAT farm they also visited vegetable seed production fields and discussed collaborations between AVRDC and ICRISAT and the operation of a joint Vegetable Breeding Project in Niger.

Dr. Hubert de Bon, Head, Horticultural Research Unit, CIRAD, Montpellier, France visited RCA and GlobalHort from 20 to 21 September to discuss collaboration opportunities and a draft project outline between RCA, ICIPE and CIRAD.

Dr. Yvonne Pinto, the BMGF Program Manager for the vBSS visited the Center together with Dr. David Bergvinson, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Dr. Joseph DeVries, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), funded by the Rockefeller Foundation on 25 September. In addition to holding discussions with the vBSS management, Dr. Pinto participated in two field trips to private companies engaged in vegetable processing and seed extraction, and to seed production contract farmers. The visitors gave a presentation at RCA on the work of the BMGF and AGRA, as well as PASS (Program for Africa's Seed Systems).

Scientific Papers Being Reviewed

Dr. Drissa Silué reviewed a research paper for Plant Pathology (18-19 September) and another research paper for the International Journal for Agricultural Research (20 September).

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

Highlights of the Monthly Meeting of the A-team AVRDC-ARC, Thailand, 24 September 2007

The monthly meeting was held at the ARC Research and Training Center and discussed at length the final preparations for the 26th Regional Training Course. About 15 participants, mainly from ASEAN, are expected to attend the training course which will be held from 5 November 2007 to 31 January 2008. The much needed renovation of the ARC Training and Research Center is completed and ready to receive participants for the 26th RTC. On the AVRDC-ARC/IFAD project in

Vietnam, the RD reported that the project activities have already started with a Refresher Courses for FFS Facilitators in Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh Provinces. The meeting was also informed that AVRDC-ARC is prepared for the arrival of the EPMP team who will visit Bangkok and Kamphaeng Saen.

- Source: Steve Kebasen/AVRDC-ARC

The World Vegetable Center's Work Featured in the Tanzanian Media

THE CITIZEN

DAR ES SALAAM • ISSN 0958-4751 No. 917 • Monday, 27 August 2007 • Price TSh1,500 Kenya KSh11.40

Ruling Authority orders Tanesco to compensate two security companies — Page 8



Hard Questions

If Non-Governmental Organisations were a newspaper — Page 8

Tanzania to benefit from Sh47bn vegetable project

By Zephania Ubwami, Arusha

The World Vegetable Centre here has launched a \$38 million (about Sh47.5 billion) project for vegetables.

The objective is to boost the production, marketing and consumption of vegetables in Africa.

The five-year project will initially target Tanzania, Madagascar, Cameroon and Mali, says Dr Detlef Virchow, the centre's regional director for Africa.

He told *The Citizen* that the project is an attempt to tap the economic potential of vegetables in sub-Saharan Africa.

One of its main interventions would be to introduce high yielding and

disease/pest-resistant species, he said.

He said national breeding units for vegetables would be developed in the four countries. The project would later be extended to other countries in the continent, depending on the success attained in the initial countries.

Dr Virchow said the 'Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems for Poverty Reduction in Africa' has also been initiated to strive to reduce poverty and improve the livelihood of vulnerable groups. In particular, those are women and children, he explained.

He said vegetable consumption in Africa was 50 per cent lower than that recommended by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

He said a large proportion of people in Africa, especially rural dwellers, concentrated on kushkush with plenty of calories and protein at the expense of vegetables, which have "vita-micro-nutrients for good health."

According to him, the project would be implemented under a public-private sector partnership. For the case of Tanzania, it would involve agricultural research centres and small farmers from the private sector.

"The whole range of the national agricultural research system would be involved in partnership with the private seed sector," he stated.

The International research Institute at Tanga near Arusha would be the lead agency in the government sector.

The Institute, commonly known as Hort Tanga, is located a stone's throw from Arusha's regional centre of the World Vegetable Centre. This is located about 25 kilometres from Arusha on the Morogoro highway.

The project would aim to increase the seed and vegetable production with improved varieties by at least 20 per cent in the four countries. If successful, it could increase vegetable farmers' incomes by between 15 and 20 per cent.

The World Vegetable Centre is among international agricultural research centres in the world conducting research on agricultural crops and livestock. They aim to fight poverty and malnutrition.

Established in Taiwan more than 20 years ago, its regional centre for Africa started in 1992. Other centres are in Bangkok (for East Asia), Daejeon (South Asia) and two subsidiaries at Bamako (for West Africa) and South Korea (for the Far East).

A recent interview by a journalist from one of the largest English language newspapers in Tanzania resulted in a front page story about the Center's work. The interview with Dr Detlef Virchow highlighted both the vBSS project and other work of the Center.

"Although it takes time to develop relationships with local journalists, and their stories may not always include everything we would like, they are valuable allies for us in raising our profile with national and international decision makers" said Dr Warwick Easdown, head of Communications.

Much of our work does have interest for national, and even international media, and often local stories can be picked up and reused by the international media. If we become known as a reliable source of information and commentary on vegetable issues the media will begin to rely on us more, and coverage is easier to get. This story is a good start for future coverage of our expanding work in Tanzania.

- Source: Communications

Travel

Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr., 3-6 October, to Cambodia, to provide support and advice to the Cambodia team's RETA 6376 survey of leafy vegetable value chains and market opportunities in poverty-stricken upland areas; to discuss and firm up project activities including necessary preparations for the workshop on best practices in postharvest management of leafy vegetables in GMS countries and training on postharvest experimental design and data management.

Dr. Thomas Lumpkin, 5-16 October, to USA, to visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison; to attend the Second International Symposium on Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV Health 2007) held at the OMNI Houston Hotel, Houston, Texas, and to give a presentation on "A perspective from the World Vegetable Center", and to serve as co-chair for the session on Food and Drug Interaction.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

Drs. Detlef Virchow and Shilpi Saxena, 3-5 October, to Bonn, Germany, to attend the Center for Development Research (ZEF) 10-year anniversary conference "Global Change and Human Development: Research and Action". Dr. Saxena received a donation by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to cover travel expenses, after submitting an article for the ZEF Newsletter Book, which will be given to the ZEF donors.

Dr. Detlef Virchow, Dr. Shilpi Saxena and Mr.

Stefan Pletziger, 9-11 October, to Kassel-Witzenhausen, Germany, to participate in the German Tropentag conference on "Utilization of diversity in land use systems: Sustainable and organic approaches to meet human needs". Drs. Virchow and Saxena will each present a poster ("Increasing Vegetable Production and Consumption in Africa: Averting the Downward Trend in Malnutrition and Poverty"; and "Organic vegetables: Domestic and regional marketing opportunities and constraints for small-scale farmers in East Africa"). Mr. Pletziger and Dr. Saxena will each present a paper ("Linking African vegetable smallholders to high value markets: Potentials and constraints in smallholders integration into EurepGAP-certified and/or domestic African high-value supply-chains"; and "Understanding Postharvest Losses in Vegetables Using an Upstream Supply Chain Approach in South East Asia"). The latter presentation by Dr. Saxena has been requested by AVRDC colleagues in Taiwan.

Mr. Jan Helsen and Dr. Rémi Nono-Wondim, 5-21 October, to Madagascar and Mali, to facilitate the process of stakeholder planning in both countries, to discuss with the liaison officers managerial issues pertaining to the Hub and to assess prevailing vegetable production and seed systems in the areas.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

New Staff in the Cucurbit Unit

The Center expresses warmly welcome to two workers in the Cucurbit Unit effective 17 September 2007. Mr. Che

n and Ms. Shen can be contacted at ext. 392.

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR



Mr. Chen Chin-ching 陳金卿
Field Helper



Ms. Shen C. Chun-lan 沈陳春蘭
Field Laborer

Farewell

Ms. Chiu H. Chueh, Field Laborer in the Mycology Unit, will retire on 1 October 2007. Ms. Chiu joined the Center on 22 April 1975. We express our deep appreciation for her hard work during the past 32 years with the Center. We wish her good health and much happiness!

植物真菌組邱侯雀女士即將在10月1日退休，感謝她對亞蔬32年來的辛勤付出，在此特別祝福邱女士身體健康精神愉快！

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Special Dish Menu for Lunch

Starting October 2007, the international cuisine prepared by Ms. Elsa Lago, Special Aide of the Cafeteria will be provided every Wednesday with a limited amount of 20 portions available. The following menu is for October and November. Please make your reservations with the Cafeteria (Ext. 242). Thank you!

自十月份起，由餐廳特別助手 Ms. Elsa Lago 所準備之西式餐食，改在每星期三中午推出（以二十份為限）。十月份及十一月份預定之菜單如下；有興趣者請即早向餐廳（分機 242）預訂，以免向隅。謝謝大家！

Date 日期	Day 星期	Menu 菜名	Country 國家	Remark 備註
10 / 03	Wed. 三	Penne pasta with creamy seafood 海鮮義大利麵	Italian 義大利	Fish, clam, shrimp, etc.
10 / 10	Wed. 三	Holiday 國慶日		
10 / 17	Wed. 三	Spaghetti with Bechamel sauce 白醬培根蘑菇義大利麵	Italian 義大利	White sauce w/ bacon & mushroom
10 / 31	Wed. 三	Pasta salad 雞肉義大利麵沙拉	American 美國	Shredded chicken
11 / 07	Wed. 三	Macaroni soup with vegetable 雞肉通心麵湯	Philippines 菲律賓	w / shredded chicken
11 / 14	Wed. 三	Tandoori lamb with bok choy 咖哩羊肉	Indian 印度	Spicy 微辣
11 / 21	Wed. 三	Shepherds' pie 馬鈴薯牛肉派	Western food 西式	Ground beef w/ mashed potato on top
11 / 28	Wed. 三	Lentil soup with Tubetti & bacon 扁豆培根湯麵	Western food 西式	Small noodle 細麵條

- Source: Lydia Wu/Food and Dormitory Services

What's New on the AVRDC Websites?

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

- ✦ New Publication: AVRDC MTP 2007-2009 and AVRDC-APSA Workshop 2007
- ✦ Jobs: International Variety Development Coordinator, Director Regional Center for Africa, Editor
- ✦ New Board Member Contact Info: Dr. Guy Riba, France
- ✦ Training: Revised application form

GlobalHort Website: <http://www.globalhort.org>

- ✦ Paper – Global Horticulture Strategic Plan Version 3, 2007

Grants Development Website:

<http://www.avrdc.org/intranet/gdo.html>

- ✦ Funding News September 2007

Intranet:

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

- ✦ Forms: Center's official outgoing Chinese letter
- ✦ Meeting Notes: Senior Staff Meeting 14 September 2007
- ✦ A/C Control Panel English Translation

- Source: Communications