

12 October 2007

African Alliance Provides New Funding For Crop Breeders



The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is to fund a new initiative to train the next generation of African crop scientists, aiming to improve agricultural productivity and food security in the region.

Founded in 2006 by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the funding that AGRA recently announced will support African PhD students.

AGRA will provide US\$8.1 million to the African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and US\$4.9 million to the West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) at the University of Ghana.

ACCI's programme, started in 2002, currently has 46 students from southern and eastern Africa studying 13 crops. "Students focus on different crops, depending on what is more pressing in their countries," says Pangirayi Tongoona, deputy-director of ACCI.

From January WACCI will admit eight students a year from western and central Africa. Eric Danquah, director of WACCI, said they were in the process of making the final selection for this first intake.

Students will spend the first two years of their five-year programme studying at one of the universities, before returning to their local research institutions to complete their thesis.

"AGRA has committed itself to continued funding of the research programmes of our graduates after they get a PhD. So they are not abandoned after graduating, but instead get the funding they need to continue their plant breeding projects," says Mark Laing, director of ACCI.

AGRA will also give US\$1.7 million to the US-based Cornell University, which will provide services and resources such as assessing students' doctoral proposals, distance learning opportunities and library access.

Based on an article by Sharon Davis, SciDev.Net 19 September
<http://www.scidev.net/content/news/eng/african-alliance-funds-next-cohort-of-crop-breeders.cfm>

More information:

Science and Development Network
<http://www.scidev.net/>

- Source: Communications

New SDI Bulletin (Allium Collections) Received by the Library

Targeted publication collections like this are available on the library web pages for a wide range of crops

Boyhan, G.E., Torrance, R.L., Hill, C.R. (2007). Effects of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium rates and fertilizer sources on yield and leaf nutrient status of short-day onions. *HORTSCIENCE*. v.42(3):653-660.

Chen, Z., Miao, M., Xue, P. (2007). A new onion variety - 'Liancong no.7'. *CHINA VEGETABLES*. no.7:30-31.

Choi, S.Y., Chung, M.J., Lee, S.J., Shin, J.H., Sung, N.J. (2007). N-nitrosamine inhibition by strawberry, garlic, kale, and the effects of nitrite-scavenging and N-nitrosamine formation by functional compounds in strawberry and garlic. *FOOD CONTROL*. v.18:485-491.

Ipek, M., Ipek, A., Senalik, D., Simon, P.W. (2007). Characterization of an unusual cytoplasmic chimera detected in bolting garlic clones. *AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE, JOURNAL*. v.132(5):664-669.

Meihua, M., Ping, X., Zhentai, C. (2007). A new yellow hull onion variety. *CHINA VEGETABLES*. no.6:37.

Miao, M.H., Xue, P., Chen, Z.T. (2007). A new purple peel onion variety - 'Liancong no.8'. *CHINA VEGETABLES*. no.8:37-38.

Northover, P.R., Elliott, B.G., Desjardins, M. (2007). Incidence levels of botrytis neck rot of onions from the

2005 growing season in Manitoba. *CANADIAN PLANT DISEASE SURVEY*. v.87:135-136.

Romano, R.T., Zhang, R. (2007). Co-digestion of onion juice and wastewater sludge using an anaerobic mixed biofilm reactor. *BIORESOURCE TECHNOLOGY*.

Shiraiwa, N., Tanabe, K., Kashima, Y., Itai, A., Inoue, H., Fukumoto, A. (2007). Effect of soil warming by electrically heated wire on bolting and growth in welsh onion (*Allium fistulosum* L.). *HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH (JAPAN)*. v.6(3):459-464.

Sivritepe, H.O., Sivritepe, N. (2007). NaCl priming affects salt tolerance of onion (*Allium cepa* L.) seedlings. *ACTA HORTICULTURAE*. no 729:157-161.

Xu, N., Xu, K., Zhao, K. (2007). Effects of different onion bulb cultivating dates on the growth and development, seed yield and quality in seed plants. *CHINA VEGETABLES*. no.7:19-22.

Xu, Q.J., Cui, C.R. (2007). Genetic transformation of OSISAPI gene to onion (*Allium cepa* L.) mediated by microprojectile bombardment. *JOURNAL OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*. v.33(3):188-196.

New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

The Economist: The Comeback Kids – 6th–12th October 2007

National Geographic (Chinese) – October 2007

Scientific American (English) – October 2007



Recommended Web Link of the Week: Google Maps

“Google Maps” is a Google service offering powerful, user-friendly mapping technology and local business information—including business locations, contact information, and driving directions. With Google Maps, you’ll enjoy several unique features such as draggable

maps, satellite imagery, street views, detailed directions, keyboard shortcuts, double-click to zoom functionality and scroll wheel zooming.

Please visit <http://maps.google.com/>

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications

Position Announcement – Greenhouse Aide, Cucurbit Unit

瓜類組徵「溫室助手」乙名

Job description: Conduct labor-intensive work in the greenhouse, nethouse, and open field which includes (1) sowing, transplanting, managing plants (e.g., pruning, staking, manual watering, fertilizing and spraying), hand pollination, collecting data (e.g., plant characters or disease indexing); (2) maintain cleanliness and orderliness in the greenhouse, nethouse and other experimental facilities; under the supervision of the Field Assistant, conduct fruit harvesting, seed extraction, treatment, drying, packaging, weighing (counting), inventory and storage; (3) assist in executing seed requests and shipments; (4) cooperate with other units regarding interdisciplinary activities; (5) collaborate with the Research Assistant and Field Assistant to layout experiments. **Qualification:** Sr. high school or equivalent; physically fit to work outdoors; hardworking; ability to communicate in English is an advantage; experience in greenhouse operations of cucurbit crops is desirable. **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.

Review of Applications: The review of applications will begin 31 October 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

主要負責：在溫室、網室以及田間從事耗體力的工作。包括：播種、栽種幼苗、植株管理（整枝、綁蔓、手動操作灌溉、施肥及噴藥等）、人工授粉、協助收集試驗資料（果實與植株性狀以及抗病性等調查）、溫室/網室等試驗設施之維護；在田間助理督導下採收種瓜、剝種子、處理、乾燥、包裝、稱重、盤點、儲藏、種子裝運、種子庫存管理等；與其他單位合作參與學科間之研究；協同研究助理及田間助理做試驗設計。**應徵資格：**高中畢業或同等學歷；喜歡田間作業；肯吃苦；會說英文、國語及台語；有瓜類溫室工作經驗者優先。**應徵方式：**請將自傳、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，人事室或電子郵件信箱：

jobapply@netra.avrdc.org.tw

截止收件日期：2007 年 10 月 31 日

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Travel

Ms. Li-ju Lin, 7-16 October, to attend the 2nd International Symposium on the Health Benefits of Fruits and Vegetables and to give an oral presentation entitled “Evaluation of indigenous vegetables as new vegetable crops for alleviating micronutrient deficiency”.

Dr. Liwayway M. Engle, 15-19 October, on leave.

Dr. Jaw-Fen Wang, 13-19 October, to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend XVI International Plant Protection Congress.

Mr. Vincent Lu, 15-19 October, to Manila Philippines, to visit IRRI to interview with the persons in charge of various functions and to learn more of their operations.

Dr. Kathryn Hamilton, 19-23 October, to Aleppo, Syria, to attend a seminar on contract negotiation and drafting at ICARDA; 24-27 October, to New Delhi, India, to organize and attend CIMBAA regulatory workshop.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

Mr. Christophe N’Guessan Kouame’s Cameroon contact information

The contact address of Mr. Christophe N’Guessan Kouame, vBSS Project NBU Liaison Officer for Cameroon effective 15 October 2007 will be ICRAF Cameroon, PO Box: 16 317 Yaoundé, Cameroon; phone:

22 21 50 84; cell phone: 77 93 33 01; fax number: 22 21 50 89. e-mail: ckouame_mbri@yahoo.fr; Icraf-aht@cgiar.org

- Source: Melody Ho/DGO

What's New on the AVRDC Websites?

APSA Workshop Website:

<http://www.avrdc.org/APSA/2007/index.html>

∇ Proceedings, 15 Presentations, and 165 Photos

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

∇ Calendar for February to May 2008, GlobalHort Core Activities Flyer, Paper on Ramifications of New Technologies in Horticulture: Risks and Opportunities for the Poor by Rémi Kahane

Postharvest Website:

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

∇ Program for the Training on Experimental Design and Data Management and the Workshop on Best

Practices in Postharvest Management of Leafy Vegetables in GMS Countries including final details for workshop participants

Chili Anthracnose Symposium Website:

<http://www.avrdc.org/anthracnose/proceedings.html>

∇ 32 Presentations and abstracts available

- Source: Communications

Drive Slowly and Carefully around the Campus!

Recently, we have noticed some of our staff are driving fast in the campus. I am here reiterating this - **Slow down your speed while driving inside the campus** - especially as we have more little kids in the campus now. In the early morning and after office hours in the evening kids are coming out to play more often, so, please drive very carefully. Thank you for your cooperation!

近來，發現有同仁在園區內開車速度很快，在此重申—請大家在園區內開車速度放慢，因為園區內有幼童，早晨及下班後小朋友常在戶外玩耍，請降低車速小心駕駛！謝謝大家的合作！

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

Family Fun and Games in the Southern Taiwan Science Park

The Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration is organizing a Family Fun Games event to be held on the 28 October 2007. The activities will include parent-children fun games, running contests, a pet show, children make-up show, basketball shooting contest, etc. You need to register by 15 October 2007 to join any game. Please call Angela (ext. 402) to register (registration is free).

台南科學園區管理局10月28日(星期日)將舉辦「96年南科盃路跑暨家庭日活動」，內容有路跑、親子園遊會、寵物秀、可愛寶貝化裝秀、投籃大賽、重型機車及單車展示、牛車趴趴走等項目。想要參加比賽的同仁請在10月15日(星期一)以前向陳美洪報名(分機402)，本次活動是免費的喔！

- Source: R&S Committee

Organic Banana for Sale

The Center's organic bananas will be sold starting next Monday, 15 October. The price will be NT\$12 per kilo (NT\$7.2 per catty). Interested people can purchase bananas at the Farm Office (ext. 505). As the Farm Office will not provide plastic bags, please bring your own bags.

亞蔬的有機香蕉將於下星期一(10月15日)開賣。價格是一公斤12元(一台斤7.2元)。有興趣同仁可向農場購買(分機505)。農場將不提供塑膠袋，請自備。

- Source: Janice Chou/TSO