

19 October 2007

World Food Day: More than fruitful thinking

World Food Day is the prime occasion of the year to throw a spotlight on global issues of malnutrition and hunger. This year's World Food Day on 16 October was no different. But among the comments with a fresh and challenging view was "World Food Day: Thinking Outside the Vegetable Box" by Sarah Murray, a British journalist and regular contributor to the Financial Times.

She reviews the broader implications behind something very common—the label on a packet of extra fine green beans from her local supermarket. This packet began life on a farm somewhere in Kenya. In-between lay a journey from one continent to another along international trade routes and confronting the reader with complex tradeoffs between sustainability, ecological concerns and the fight against hunger and poverty.

Labels such as the Food Miles Sticker in the UK "may appeal to those who highlight the cost to the planet of long-distance food, with many suggesting we stick to a '100-mile' diet of locally produced food in order to reduce the carbon emissions associated with transporting food across the world", writes Murray. Instead she calls for a broader view, especially since this year's world Food Day "is encouraging us to think about the role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty, and hastening and deepening the sustainable development process."

It is the sustainable development process that gets forgotten in the local-global food debates, says Murray. "For while we might deny ourselves the packet of beans to help cut our carbon footprint, that packet of beans is part of an industry that has created tens of thousands of jobs in the horticulture industry in African countries such as Kenya and Uganda."



Meet 'your' farmer. Ethical marketing and eco labelling do not always act together.

The latter aspect is taken up by the marketing professionals. The clever promotional label on Murray's packet of beans creates a link between the western consumer and the African producer. "Meet one of our growers who works for a small scale Kenyan farm who have grown extra fine beans in the rural highland areas of Kenya for over 15 years" reads some text next to a picture of a smiling Kenyan woman. "Eating locally produced food helps support local farmers, say proponents of the 100-mile diet. But as the picture on the packet reminds us, there are 'local' farmers in other countries whose livelihoods depend on the export of fruits and vegetables and who surely deserve at least some of our business", concludes Murray.

The original essay was published in the Huffington Post, 16 Oct 2007 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-murray/world-food-day-thinking-b-68626.html#postComment>

More on themes such as food, society and trade can be found on the author's website: Moveable Feasts: The Incredible Journeys of the Things We Eat <http://www.moveablefeasts.org/>

- Source: Communications

New SDI Bulletin (Crucifers Collection) Received by the Library

Copies of other SDI bulletins for different crops can be found on the library website

Asghari, J., Tewari, J.P. (2007). Allelopathic potentials of eight barley cultivars on *Brassica juncea* (L) Czern. and *Setaria viridis* (L) p. Beauv. JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. v.9 (2):165-176.

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De Villena, F.A., Fritz, V.A., Cohen, J.D., Hutchison, W.D. (2007). Changes in gluconasturtin concentration in Chinese cabbage with increasing cabbage looper density. HORTSCIENCE. v.42(6):1337-1340.

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Kano, Y., Nakagawa, H., Sekine, M., Goto, H., Sugiura, A. (2007). Effect of nitrogen fertilizer on cell size and sugar accumulation in the leaves of cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* L.). HORTSCIENCE. v.42(6):1490-1492.

Liu, G., Liu, L., Gong, Y., Wang, Y., Yu, F., Shen, H., Gui, W. (2007). Seed genetic purity testing of F1 hybrid cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*) with molecular marker analysis. SEED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. v.35(2):477-486.

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and linoleic acids derived from intergeneric hybrids between *B. napus* and *Orychophragmus violaceus*. EUPHYTICA. v.157(1/2):231-238.

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Potlakayala, S.D., Reed, D.W., Covello, P.S., Fobert, P.R. (2007). Systemic acquired resistance in canola is linked with pathogenesis-related gene expression and requires salicylic acid. PHYTOPATHOLOGY. v.97(7):794-802.

Wang, C.N., Feng, H., Jiang, F.Y. (2007). The establishment and application of isolated microspore culture technology system in *Brassica campestris* L. spp. *chinensis* var. *communis* Tsen et Lee. CHINA VEGETABLES. no.8:18-21.

Wu, S.C., Cheung, K.C., Luo, Y.M., Wong, M.H. (2007). Mycorrhizae-assisted phytoextraction using an intercropping system consisted of *Brassica juncea* and *Zea mays*. In: Biogeochemistry of trace elements: environmental protection, remediation and human health. Beijing: Tsinghua University Press. p.564-565.

Yu, Z.D., Zhao, S.A., He, Q.W., (2007). High level resistance to *Turnip mosaic virus* in Chinese cabbage (*Brassica campestris* ssp. *pekinensis* (Lour) Olsson) transformed with the antisense Nib gene using marker-free *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* infiltration. PLANT SCIENCE. v.172(5):920-929.

New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

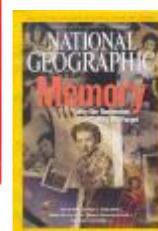
The Economist: China, beware – 13th–19th October 2007

Time: Why Breast Cancer Is Spreading Around the World –15 October 2007

National Geographic (English): Memory – November 2007

Scientific American (English) – October 2007

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications



News from Africa

Training

AVRDC-RCA conducted a two-day training course on Vegetable Production, Processing and Preservation from 27 to 28 September for 30 farmers from Songoro, Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

AVRDC-RCA also conducted another two-day training course from 18 to 19 October on Vegetable Production,

Processing and Preservation for 30 farmers from the Lushoto and Same Districts in Tanga and Kilimanjaro Regions in northern Tanzania. The participants were a group of women farmers from support groups organized by the Traditional Irrigation and Environmental Development Organization of Tanzania.

Workshop Participation



Group photo at vBSS workshop, Madagascar

Mr. Benjamin Rakotoarisoa, vBSS liaison officer for Madagascar successfully organized the stakeholder planning workshop in Antananarivo from 11 to 12 October. Around 20 participants, including the public and private sectors, took part in the planning for the NBU activities in Madagascar and its spoke countries in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe and Mozambique were represented). In addition, the vBSS team undertook a field trip to Antsirabe to appraise possible sites for establishing the seed breeding infrastructure and held discussions on related issues with representatives from the Donor Community (AfDB, FAO among others).

Vegetable Variety Release Mechanism Workshop, 25-26 October, Arusha, Tanzania

In the framework of the vBSS project, AVRDC-RCA will conduct a Vegetable Variety Release Mechanism Workshop from 25 to 26 October, which will be held at the Ngurdoto Mt. Lodge in Arusha, Tanzania. The main focus of this workshop will be: (1) to understand the prevailing mechanisms for vegetable variety release in

sub-Saharan Africa; and (2) to sensitize participants and to suggest future strategies for vegetable variety release processes and systems. Participants for this workshop are coming from many countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Visitors

The partner's Annual meeting of the ABSPII tomato project was held at Samanko from 6 to 7 September, with Dr. Frank Shotkoski, the Director of ABSPII, Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson from UC-Davis, Harry Bottenberg for the USAID-WRAP, Accra, Ghana, the NARS partners from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, and Dr. Hassan Bolkan

(special guest). The results obtained were discussed and new plans for the coming season were established. Dr. Hassan Bolkan gave a presentation on tomato breeding, production and processing at Campbell. He also contributed in the planning the activities especially in drafting the field protocols.

At the early September, AVRDC (WCA) had a two-day discussion with our national partners on experimental

techniques and data analysis.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

Molecular Biology Training Workshop Held in Mali



Jeff Gordon and Kerry Perez explaining a DNA extraction protocol to a group of trainees

AVRDC (WCA) held a training workshop in molecular biology, taught by Jeff Gordon and Kari Perez from Cornell University, at the University of Bamako, Mali in the applied molecular biology laboratory from 27 to 31 August. Twenty trainees from West Africa learned the basic molecular biology tools for the rapid detection and identification of plant pathogens. The lecture courses were followed by laboratory exercises. For most of the

participants this was their first exposure to molecular biology. At the end of the workshop trainees were awarded a certificate. The workshop was rated as highly successful by trainees.



Another group of trainees during a lab exercise on identification of a disease on eggplant

A Successful Sahelian Region Field Day



The ICRISAT Sahelian Centre, Niamey, Niger invited NGOs representatives and progressive farmers to attend its annual field day on 9 October. The participants visited the vegetable breeding field and observed the various genotypes of tomato, hot pepper, okra, African eggplant, jute mallow that were raised during the off season (rainy season).

They were briefed about the objectives of this joint breeding project that aims to serve the needs of farmers

in the Sahelian region. A small compendium including project initiatives and available vegetable varieties was published and distributed during the event.



- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

New Staff



Mr. Chang Chien-chu (Kenski) 張健助 has been appointed as Officer (Purchasing) in the Administrative Services Unit effective 15 October 2007. Mr. Chang obtained his B.S. degree from the Department of Agricultural

Economics, National Taiwan University in 1997. He also attended medical technology for three years in Yang-Ming Medical College. He can be contacted at ext. 211, <kenski.chang@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Travel

Dr. Rémi Kahane, 20-28 October, to Yaounde, Cameroon, to attend the PROFEL workshop as the GlobalHort sponsor and to participate in the RADHort technical meeting.

Drs. Madhusudan Bhattarai and Manuel C. Palada, 23-30 October, to Indonesia, to visit IVEGRI, Lembang and to discuss the progress and planning of the IDM Chili project on-farm trials for the wet season; to join in the planning and discussion meeting on conducting baseline surveys in three project sites; to visit project sites in Brebes and Magelang, to meet and discuss with project collaborators in implementing and conducting field trials during the wet season; to discuss other technical and administrative issues with project collaborators.

Dr. Paul Gniffke, 23-28 October, to Arusha, Tanzania, to participate in the Vegetable Variety Release Mechanism Workshop.

Dr. Peter Hanson, 23-26 October, to Bangalore, India, to discuss future tospovirus screening trials with seed company and UASB collaborators, and monitor progress of the DFID-Whitefly and GTZ-Tomato Projects; 27-30 October, to Delhi, to review the tomato geminivirus trial with seed companies and public institutes at Kamal.

Mr. Chih-hung Lin, 23-27 October, to PRC, to visit collaborators in the Hunan Plant Protection Institute, Hunan Agricultural Academy of Science, Changsha for the GTZ/Chilli project.

Ms. Win Win Kyi, 23 October-1 November, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to present a paper on "Processing of Leafy Vegetable in Myanmar" in the "Workshop on PHT Leafy Vegetable in GMS countries"; to participate in the

Training Workshop on post harvest experimental design and data analysis.

Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr., 23 October-1 November, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to conduct and coordinate the workshop on best practices in postharvest management of leafy vegetables in GMS countries; to coordinate the training on postharvest experimental design and data management.

Ms. Dolores R. Ledesma, 27 October-1 November, to Hanoi, Vietnam, to conduct a statistic training-workshop on "Postharvest experimental design and data management: for the RETA 6208 CLV-NARES partners.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, 18-19 October, to Bamako, Mali, to participate in the Stakeholders Meeting for West Central Africa of the vBSS Project at AVRDC (WCA).

Mr. Jan Helsen and Dr. Rémi Nono-Womdim, 13-21 October, to West Africa, to partake in the Mali Stakeholder planning workshop for the vBSS project.

Dr. Detlef Virchow, Mr. Stefan Pletziger and Mr. Hassan Mndiga, 17-18 October, to Nairobi, to participate in the final Workshop of the SLE group from Humboldt University Berlin, Germany. The group will present the preliminary findings of their research project "Market-driven development and poverty reduction: A value chain analysis of fresh vegetables in Kenya and Tanzania" which they have conducted within the last 3 months. AVRDC was (besides ICIPE) one of the host institutions for the German group.

- Source: Dr. Shilpi Saxena/AVRDC-RCA

2008 National And Special Holidays To Be Observed by AVRDC HQ

2008年國定假日一覽表

To facilitate your planning for next year's travels and activities, these are the 2008 national and special holidays to be observed at AVRDC HQ. In 2008, besides the national holidays, a Personal Holiday will be granted by the Center to the HQ staff, as this year. The Personal Holiday will be one work day of your choice. For our internal control and record purposes, the HQ staff are required to submit a Leave Request to our Human Resources Office before using the Personal Holiday, and the Leave Request needs to be approved and signed by the Unit head.

Except for the Personal Holiday, the national holidays are set and announced by the Central Personnel Administration, Executive Yuan, R.O.C.

The Chinese Lunar New Year holidays are from 7 to 9 February. As 9 February falls on a Saturday, a makeup day off on 11 February (Monday) has been granted.

No makeup day off will be granted for two festival holidays (Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival) which fall on Sundays.

For internal control and record purposes, you are required to submit a Leave Request to our Human Resources before you use the Personal Holiday and the Leave Request needs to be approved and signed by the Unit head.

除了特別假，以上放假日乃依據中華民國台灣行政院人事行政局所頒布 97 年政府行政機關辦公日曆表而訂定。農曆春節假期原為 3 天(即 2 月 7 日至 2 月 9 日)。因春節初三適逢星期六，次週星期一(即 2 月 11 日)補假一天。端午節及中秋節遇週休二日，均不予補假。特別假請依照中心請假規定於休假前填寫請假單，由單位主管核准，送交人力資源室登錄。

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

1 January 1月1日	Tuesday 星期二	Founding Day of the Republic of China 中華民國開國紀念日
6 February 2月6日	Wednesday 星期三	Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve 農曆除夕
7-11 February 2月7日至11日	Thursday to Monday 星期四至星期一	Chinese Lunar New Year 農曆春節
28 February 2月28日	Thursday 星期四	Peace Memorial Day 和平紀念日
4 April 4月4日	Friday 星期五	Tomb-sweeping Day 民族掃墓節
8 June 6月8日	Sunday 星期日	Dragon Boat Festival 端午節
14 September 9月14日	Sunday 星期日	Mid-Autumn Festival 中秋節
10 October 10月10日	Friday 星期五	National Day 國慶日
One day of your choice 特別假 (日期自訂)	Any work day 任何一個工作日	Personal Holiday granted by AVRDC – may be used for Christmas, Eid al-Fitr, Holi, Vesak, family matters, etc. 可依各人需要自訂日期，例如：宗教節日或家庭事由等