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# Fresh!



World Vegetable Center  
newsletter

Healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods through greater diversity in what we grow and eat

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the third edition of the WorldVeg Fresh! newsletter in 2024, and it has been a busy month of May... You will find our [2023 annual report](#) - a bumper edition for what was our 50th anniversary year, full of fascinating stories from around the world and facts to back up the impacts made - and a brief of WorldVeg [Priorities for research and action](#). We had the [APSA-WorldVeg seed consortium annual meeting](#) with more than 100 participants, and you can read a new [research report](#) showing that companies who responded to a survey confirmed sales of more than 60 tonnes of vegetable seed in 2023 containing WorldVeg germplasm - enough to plant more than a quarter of a million hectares and benefit almost 800,000 farm households! An important new MoU was signed between [WorldVeg and ICAR](#) in India, and the African Vegetable Biodiversity Rescue Plan was endorsed by the [African Union Commission](#) in Addis Ababa. There is also news of an exciting [new project](#) in Madagascar, a new piece of [portable equipment](#) that accurately measures greenhouse gas emissions as we strive for 'net zero' farming systems, and a further batch of seed sent from our genebank for safety duplication in [Korea](#) and [Svalbard](#). And also this month, we warmly welcome [Yun Ping Wang](#), our new Deputy Director General - Partnerships...

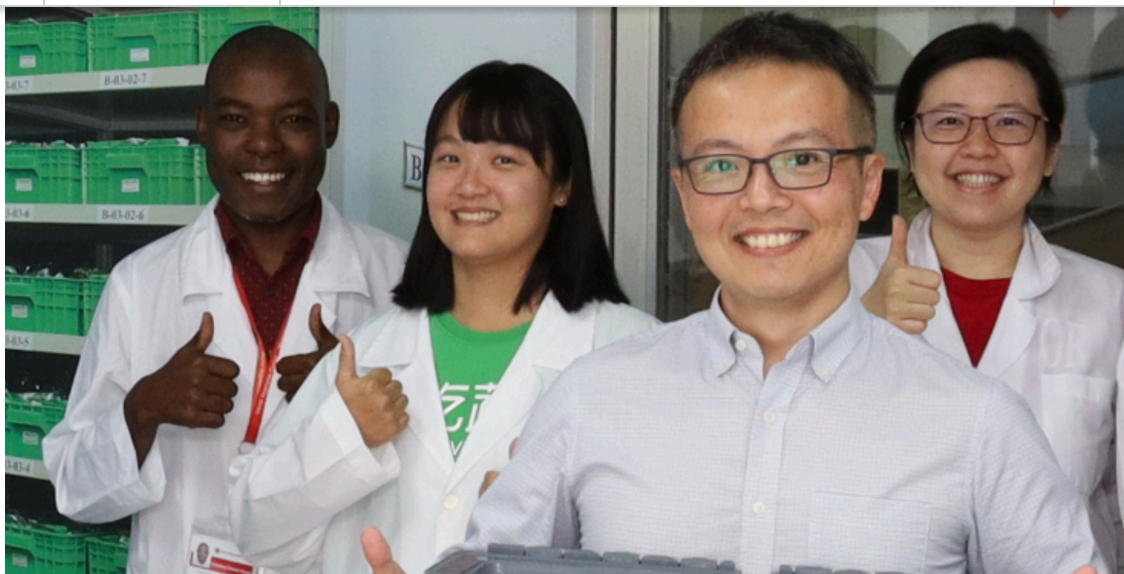
Cheers

Nick Pasiecznik

Communications Lead

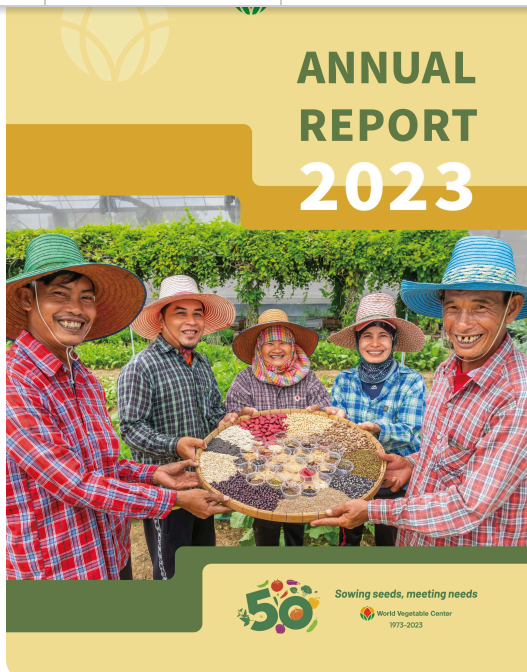
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## Top stories



### [WorldVeg welcomes Yun Ping Wang, new Deputy Director General – Partnerships](#)

In May 2024, WorldVeg welcomed Yun Ping Wang as the new Deputy Director General – Partnerships. His main focus is to facilitate the transition of WorldVeg towards an open science center and help to mobilize a much greater share of global R&D efforts for nutritious foods, in particular vegetables. He will further strengthen partnerships with Taiwan's public and private sectors, research institutions and universities and facilitate collaborative research activities focusing in particular on the development of super resilient, nutritious vegetable varieties and environment-friendly production systems. Yun Ping will also look after WorldVeg facilities at its headquarters, that have just been completely renovated and modernized thanks to generous support from the Taiwan Government.

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### [WorldVeg annual report 2023!](#)

Welcome to our 2023 annual report, truly a bumper edition as befits our 50th anniversary. The year was full of events and reflections with our partners around the world, and that gave us all phenomenal momentum. We present our revised priorities for research and action, progress made with upgrading our genebank in Tanzania and others across Africa, amongst much else. There are encouraging results across the board, updates from our seed consortiums in Asia and Africa, and introductions to new projects as well as updates and stories from our three large projects in Africa – the Taiwan Africa Vegetable Initiative, Veggies for Planet & People, and SafeVeg.



### [Priorities for research and action - a new WorldVeg brief](#)

This eight-page brief summarizes what WorldVeg does, and why. It introduces the problem, and the key role of vegetable research and development in overcoming some major global challenges. It explains what we need to do to address food system issues, and the WorldVeg push-pull-policy approach, of simultaneously tackling production, consumption and policy issues. It then outlines solutions to these food system issues, as a 'menu' of four overarching priority actions grouped under investment, nutrition, livelihoods and resilience.

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### [Validation of the African Vegetable Biodiversity Rescue Plan by the African Union Commission](#)

The African Vegetable Biodiversity Rescue Plan, developed by WorldVeg, the African Union Commission and many partners across the continent and internationally, was presented to and validated by delegates in the plenary session of the 2nd General Assembly of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform of the African Union Commission, on 22-24 April 2024 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. It was officially opened by Dr Godfrey Bahigwa, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development of the African Union Commission. In a separate discussion with WorldVeg delegates and partners, Dr Bahigwa commended the impressive work that was done, and recommended that discussions be engaged with the VACS Initiative to further explore linkages and partnerships.



### [Nurturing agricultural sustainability in India through strategic collaboration between WorldVeg and ICAR-NBPGR](#)

India's agricultural sector is vital to the nation's economy and global food production, being the world's second-largest producer of vegetables with some 210 million tonnes harvested in 2023-24. However, the sector faces significant challenges, such as resource overexploitation, environmental degradation, and the harmful effects of agrochemicals and water-intensive practices. Despite these issues, there are opportunities for growth through technological advancements, market reforms and sustainable farming practices. Embracing biotechnology, digitalization and precision farming can boost productivity, lower costs, and reduce environmental impacts.



### [Strengthening seed sector partnerships so more improved vegetable seeds get to more farmers](#)

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(APSA)-World Vegetable Center Vegetable Breeding Consortium held its 8th annual workshop on 7-8 May 2024 at WorldVeg headquarters in Shanhua, Taiwan. In attendance were 73 participants from 38 consortium companies, from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and also Brazil, two staff from APSA, and 20 WorldVeg scientists, for two days of presentations, information exchange and discussions on the Center's breeding work and field evaluations of elite breeding lines.

### Use of World Vegetable Center breeding lines among seed companies in Asia in 2023



### [New research report – WorldVeg breeding lines more widely used by seed companies in Asia in 2023](#)

This report documents the progress of the Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) – World Vegetable Center Vegetable Breeding Consortium. Results clearly show that the Consortium is enabling greater use of WorldVeg germplasm that benefits hundreds of thousands of smallholder vegetable farmers.



### [More seed is sent to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault](#)

In May 2024, another large batch of seed left World Vegetable Center



### [More vegetable seed accessions sent for safety duplication](#)

On 8 May, another batch of seeds was collected from the International

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Svalbard Global Seed Vault. This is part of ongoing safety back-up of all accessions conserved in the International Vegetable Genebank – the world’s largest collection of publicly available vegetable germplasm. By 2025, all will have been safely duplicated in Svalbard.

safety back-up in Korea at the Rural Development Administration (RDA). As part of efforts to ensure its conserved stocks in Taiwan and Tanzania meet international genebank standards, WorldVeg is ensuring that all of its genetic material is safely duplicated in different countries.



### [Measuring soil greenhouse gas emissions in WorldVeg field trials](#)

Since March 2024, new game-changing equipment – LI-COR Smart Chamber – has been allowing WorldVeg scientists to very accurately monitor the effects of different soil amendments and agronomic practices on the emissions of soil greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide). This is of huge importance for identifying ways by which agriculture can be more sustainable, and change from a net emitter to a climate change mitigation solution. WorldVeg for the first time is now able to make such assessments, and that will accelerate research efforts towards ‘net zero’ strategies in agricultural systems, which is becoming a key priority for Taiwan and many other countries.



### [Seeds4Soils – Improving climate resilience in Madagascar by regenerating soils with agrobiodiversity](#)

The new three-year project (2024-2027) aims to regenerate agricultural soils and increase climate resilience of vulnerable farming communities in Madagascar by exploiting the potential of traditional African vegetables, their wild relatives, and associated soil microorganisms. Funded by the Darwin Initiative of the UK’s Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, it will be implemented by WorldVeg in partnership with the National Center for Applied Research and Rural Development (FOFIFA), the University of Antananarivo (UA), and the Conseil Expérimentation Formation en Fruits et Légumes (CEFFEL).



## 8<sup>th</sup> Asian PGPR international conference for sustainable agriculture

📅 24-27 September  
WorldVeg HQ, Shanhua, Taiwan

## Our latest publications

(January-May 2024)

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