



# APAARI

## Newsletter

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

VOL. 15, No. 2

December 2006

ISSN 0858-6063

### Executive Committee

Chairman:	<b>Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena</b>
Vice-Chairman:	<b>Dr. T. Mennesson</b>
Members:	<b>Dr. Shinobu Inanaga</b> <b>Dr. M.E. Tusneem</b> <b>Mr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar</b> <b>Mr. Luke Ratuvuki</b>
Executive Secretary:	<b>Dr. R.S. Paroda</b>

### Editorial Committee

- ◆ R.S. Paroda
- ◆ R.D. Ghodake
- ◆ Betty P. del Rosario
- ◆ R.K. Arora

### Contents

● Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Markets .....	2
● APAARI 9 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting Held .....	4
● India-GFAR-APAARI Day Held .....	5
● Farmer and Entrepreneur Shared Best Practices in Linking Farmers to Markets .....	5
● E-Choupal in India Empowering Small Farmers .....	6
● Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines: A Profile .....	7
● Armenia Awards Gold Medal to Dr. Paroda .....	10
● Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) Launched .....	10
● YPARD – ANGOC – APAARI Coordination Meeting Held .....	11
● Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium Proposed .....	11
● APAARI Regional Priorities Redefined: 2007-2017 .....	12
● New Initiative on Livestock Knowledge Resource in Asia .....	13
● GPP on Linking Farmers to Markets Proposal .....	13
● APAARI Constitution Amended .....	13
● IPM Traveling Workshop in Syria .....	14
● Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for Harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific Region .....	14
● Human Resource Development Program Intensified at AIT .....	15
● APAARI Members .....	16
● Upcoming Meetings/Events .....	16
● Recent Publications .....	16

### Editorial

As the agricultural scenario changes worldwide and particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, the role of APAARI in fostering agricultural development in the region becomes enormously widened. Lately, APAARI has been debating actively on several emerging issues that have relevance with regard to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by involving key stakeholders such as farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and the youth beside FAO, GFAR, CGIAR/IARCs etc. APAARI has especially been trailblazing in the areas of information and communication management, biotechnology, and linking small farmers to markets. It has geared up its activities towards more inter-regional collaboration mainly through sharing the region's best practices for the benefit of small farmers in other regions. APAARI's achievements as a self-sustaining, neutral platform for the last 15 years are chronicled in its latest publication: "Fifteen Years of APAARI- A Retrospective" which was launched during the 9<sup>th</sup> APAARI General Assembly held in New Delhi, India on 6-7 November 2006. The document conveys the message that agricultural research for development, capitalizing on advances made in science and technology, must play an important role in meeting the major MDGs relating to alleviating poverty, ensuring food security and agricultural sustainability.

To date, APAARI has made a significant progress of involving the civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the NGOs, farmers' organization (FOs), private sector and the young professionals group (YPARD) in its priority setting exercises and expert consultations, and documentation of "success stories" in ARD. During its 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, three significant milestones were achieved; namely, (1) inclusion of GFAR, CGIAR and CSO in its decision making-process; (2) plan for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Consortium of NGOs in ARD; and (3) collaboration among the youth (YPARD) and ANGOC. APAARI wishes to grow and become more vibrant regional organization, with diverse membership allowing the participation of smaller NARS/NARIs in the region, and gaining the full support and confidence of international organizations such as FAO, CGIAR, GFAR, donors and other stakeholders.

Amidst various challenges and opportunities in ARD, APAARI remains steadfast and looks forward to the future with great optimism in meeting the MDGs. APAARI gratefully acknowledges the contributions and support of its members and the organizations such as ACIAR, FAO, GFAR, JIRCAS, and the private sector for its activities in the region.

*Editors*

## Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Markets

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), a neutral forum, recently held an “Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Market (LFM)” and its 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on 6-7 November 2006 in NASC Complex, ICAR, New Delhi, India. The events, which were hosted by Honorable Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public



*Ceremonial Opening of the APAARI Expert Consultation and General Assembly 2006*

Distribution, Government of India, were attended by 100 participants representing the APAARI members (from more than 20 national agricultural research systems (NARS), and 15 CGIAR and International Centers, and other regional and international organizations); and its stakeholders such as the NGOs, farmers/farmer organizations, the youth, private sector and donor agencies. Several APAARI publications on CD and in print, including the book entitled “Fifteen Years of APAARI- A Retrospective” were launched in the Inaugural Session.

The two-day expert consultation acknowledged that as countries in the Asia-Pacific diversify their agricultural economy, they do address marketing issues invariably. The issue is not just finding the markets but also looking at the entire value chain, and making farming a remunerative business. Recommendations were made addressing the policy makers and the governments, APAARI and GFAR, in the areas of enabling policy environment to promote and accelerate LFM, partnership building, and upscaling/outscaling of agricultural innovations. There were:

### **I. Enabling Policy Environment:**

*For Policy makers and Governments, there was a strong call for:*

1. Legislative review and refinement of policies for formation of effective and innovative groups for efficient horizontal and vertical integration to cover production, processing, trading and consumption areas.
2. Development of policies and legal aspects to encourage producer companies, preferred to the producer co-operatives so as to have effective involvement and ownership by smallholder producers.
3. Governments to negotiate effectively with the developed countries in the on-going WTO debates to streamline subsidies to agricultural producers so as to create level field competitive environment for the smallholder farmers in the developing countries.

4. Government policies to encourage and provide free exchange and access to market and marketing information to various stakeholders involved in making the smallholder sector more efficient.

5. Favourable policies to help extension agencies and have them more effective.

6. Appropriate policies needed on credit, risks, and insurance, as well as agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers) and incentive systems.

7. Consider global health, energy, and land use issues for policy framework.

8. Enhance regional cooperation and trade to expand market access to small farmers.

*The NARS will have to be retooled, or reorganized for them to become much more efficient and effective in conducting and applying innovative research for development. They will have to adopt innovative and creative approach and strategies to develop and implement appropriate training and educational programme for youths and women, and others so that they can effectively contribute to agricultural development. The youths can be provided with suitable job-training in agri-business areas, and the women farmers must be provided opportunities so that they are better intergrated into the value chain system.*

In collaboration with NARS, the regional organization like APAARI and international organizations such as GFAR need to assess different models of successes in various regions, countries and settings so as to create knowledge banks for sharing pertinent information to others.

It was recommended that the *CSOs and the Private sector Stakeholders* (i) Consolidate at all levels i.e. at production, processing, retailing and consumers in an innovative way so as to integrate vertically all those involved; (ii) Make special efforts to specify value attributes for the products coming from smallholders and fragmented sectors such as organic producers, underprivileged people, etc. for niche markets so as to attract better prices from consumers for competitive and comparative advantages.

### **II. Partnership Building:**

In the area of *partnership building*, the participants recommended to (i) develop partnership of LFM either with a contractual or legal framework which is binding on both parties, (ii) demonstrate the interest and commitment by bringing appropriate contributions based on the guiding principle of equity, and (iii) Adopt participatory value/

*Continued on page 3* ➔

chain management with strong involvement of all stakeholders. Facilitating market linkages may need retooling both public and private extension services.

The priority areas for inter-regional collaboration are in knowledge and information sharing, and Capacity building. Specifically, the participants recommended knowledge and information sharing on good agricultural practices (GAP) such as SPS, food safety and quality improvement. Capacity building on GAP for all actors in the value chain including women, will have to be supported. APAARI was recommended to share “best practices” in technological and institutional innovations, put up knowledge bank on case studies of value-chain, good agricultural practices and, evidence-based policy relevant “best practices”. It was also felt that APAARI and GFAR will jointly convene expert consultation on GAP and policy relevant “best practices”. They also recommended that APAARI and GFAR should consider expert consultation on emerging areas such as biofuels with required focus on LFM and how farmers will benefit from these new initiatives.

### III. Upscaling/Outscaling of Innovations:

In the area of *Upscaling/Outscaling*, the participants opined that as farmers have lost confidence in the existing extension system, there is need for exploring alternative institutional arrangements (involving Private Sector, Corporates, NGO's, CSO's etc.) to disseminate technological innovations to the farming community. The LFM process should be holistic and include a continuum of 'before, during and after production' so that farmers are involved in the whole chain of production to consumers. It was recognized that the following areas are critical when considering the entire market-processing-consumption continuum:

1. Capacity building of stakeholders in technologies,
2. Supply of appropriate inputs for production,
3. Infrastructural and policy support in marketing.

Specific areas were recommended for up-scaling, namely:

1. Self help group (SHG) approach, with micro credit,
2. Use of ICT to disseminate information and to help networking of farmers (including radio, newspapers, T.V., mobile phones, internet based systems such as e-choupal, village information centers, etc.),
3. Providing timely technical services to farmers (based on several models such as BAIF, Iran wheat revolution etc.),
4. Enabled infrastructure and policy support to ease restriction and enable marketing.



Participants of APAARI Expert Consultation and General Assembly

Some areas will have to be strengthened in developing countries, namely:

1. Farmer – participatory research and development (the term farmer should include all stockholders, farmers, traders, processors and consumers),
2. Product standards to be agreed and followed to encourage market access to poor farmers,
3. Match demand and supply to avoid wide fluctuations in prices and ensure profitability to producers,
4. Enhance farmer outlets (retail market) and linking them with Corporate Super markets (ITC, Shri Ram, Reliance, etc. in India),
5. Effective and efficient “Seed Production and Delivery System” to ensure that farmers get the quality seed at right time and at reasonable price.

Finally, it was recommended that APAARI and the NARS should:

- Document and disseminate success stories of innovations in technology that has enhanced LFM.
- Involve youth in technology transfer and also vocational training to young farmers, school/collage pass outs with an aim of making agriculture an attractive enterprise for enhanced income and livelihood for resource poor farmers.

For more details visit <http://www.apaari.org>



## APAARI 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting Held

The Ninth General Assembly Meeting of APAARI was held on 7 November 2006, at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi, India. In all there were 50 participants, who attended the meeting.

Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Chairman, APAARI cordially welcomed the participants and extended thanks to the members for their excellent cooperation extended to him during his two year tenure as Chairman.

Dr. Paroda, Executive Secretary, briefly presented the progress report on APAARI activities carried out during the period 2005-2006, as per approved workplan by the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting held in 2004 and the subsequent directives of the Executive Committee. Beside the regular activities, the biennial progress report highlighted the status of progress in three major areas addressing the APAARI mission: (i) research networks and research need assessment in active partnership with CG Centers and other international organizations as well as regional forum; (ii) Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS for ICT/ICM); and (iii) Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB). During the last biennium, special efforts were made towards building strong partnership with CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region. APAARI has also been working towards establishing functional linkages with other regional organizations such as APSA, APAFRI, ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, and international bodies such as FAO, GFAR, etc. Efforts had also been made towards enhancement of APAARI membership of NARS, CGIAR and other international institutions, as well as reciprocal membership of other Regional Fora. Emphasis also continued on organization of various important Expert Consultations on thematic issues, important publications, information dissemination and need based capacity building in the region.

The APAARI Accounts for the period January – December 2005, and January – September 2006, duly audited by Royal Government of Thailand Registered Auditor, were approved unanimously. Members expressed their satisfaction over the judicious use of funds within specified limits of the approved budget and were appreciative of the effective control and matured guidance provided by the Executive Secretary.

Members also discussed in detail the proposed program and the budget for the biennium 2007-2008. It was agreed that the activities in 2007 should include, beside publication of Newsletter, Success Stories, Proceedings, the holding of Expert Consultations on Research Networks and Consortia, as well as on Biofuels during 2007. In addition, emphasis be also laid on implementation of recommendations of recently held Expert Consultation on Linking Farmers to Markets (LFM).



*Participants of APAARI General Assembly*

The General Assembly unanimously elected the following Executive Committee for the biennium 2007-2008.

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>: Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, NARI, Papua New Guinea</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>: Dr. Abdul Shukor Abdur Rahman, MARDI, Malaysia</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>: Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, CARP, Sri Lanka Mr. Albert Peters, MAFFM, Samoa Dr. Mangala Rai, ICAR, India Dr. Wen-Deh Chen, CoA, Taipei</b>
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	<b>: Dr. Raj Paroda</b>

In recognition of the outstanding services to APAARI by some of the out-going members, special plaques of honor were presented to the following:

- Dr. H.P.M. Gunasena, Outgoing Chairman
- Dr. Thierry Mennesson, Outgoing Vice-Chairman
- Dr. R.B. Singh, Ex-Executive Secretary, APAARI
- Dr. Masa Iwanga, Director General, CIMMYT
- Dr. W.G. Padolina, Deputy Director General, IRRI
- Dr. Jay Kumar, Director of Research, Fiji

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Gunasena thanked all the APAARI members for their valuable support and active participation in APAARI related events. He also wished that their support would continue in strengthening this vibrant Regional Forum in future as well. At the end, members appreciated the contributions of out-going Executive Committee members and also congratulated the members of the new Executive Committee.



## India-GFAR-APAARI Day Held

The India-APAARI-GFAR Day was jointly organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and APAARI on 8 November 2006, following the APAARI meetings and prior to the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference. It was held in the Auditorium of National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi, India. The event was attended by about 300 participants from the NARS, CGIAR centers, NGOs, farmer organizations, public and private sectors, donors, the youth, and the media.



*Release of New APAARI Publications*

Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, ICAR, and many senior scientists of ICAR presented the technological achievements made by ICAR, the largest NARS in the world. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Chair of GFAR, highlighted the milestones of GFAR since the Dresden meeting in 2000, particularly in the areas of inter-regional collaboration, collaborative research partnerships, advocacy, public awareness and

strategic thinking, and management information systems. Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI, gave an overview of the fifteen years of achievements by APAARI, including the ICAR-APAARI collaboration in various areas such as genetic resource conservation and management, priority setting, research management, technology transfer, information sharing and networking, scientists' exchange, and human resource development, among others.

A tour of ICAR facilities was also organized in the afternoon. Participants were impressed to see various modern facilities such as the gene bank, laboratories on cutting edge science such as biotechnology, Indo-Israel project on protected cultivation etc.

*For details, please visit <http://www.egfar.org>*



## Farmer and Entrepreneur Shared Best Practices in Linking Farmers to Markets

In June 2006, the Regional *Ad hoc* Working group on Linking Farmers to Markets (LFM) recommended information sharing on best practices and lessons learned among research and development practitioners. APAARI has started documenting cases (India and Philippines) and will soon publish them. During the recently concluded APAARI Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations held in New Delhi, India on 6-7 November 2006, farmers and entrepreneurs shared best practices including the lessons learned. Following are some selected technological and institutional innovations, details of which are available in <http://www.apaari.org>.

### **Farmer Leader (Thailand):**

Mr. Phongsak Thamrongatanasilp, Farmer leader and Secretary of Thailand Nature Farming Association, Sa-kaeo Province, Thailand traced the success story of organic farming of asparagus which beginning with two villages in year 2000 (38 acres) got expanded to 12 villages (526 acres) in 2006. The case is a classic example of how farmers could be linked to the markets by grouping them together and providing appropriate technology, skills and access to markets (including the export market). The farmers group follows the principles of good quality, good quantity, and regular frequency of delivery, faithfulness and discipline. The group follows the approach of organic farming with good marketing leading to economic and social upliftment of the farmers and protection of environment. The group has been assisted by a private company (Swift Company Ltd.) on the technical and marketing aspects. The company exports both white and green asparagus to Europe and Japan. Products are duly certified as organic asparagus and command premium price. This kind of linkage has benefited all associated with production to market to consumption chain

### **Coconut Entrepreneur (Philippines):**

Mr. Justin Arboleda, a researcher/agricultural engineer- turned-entrepreneur, received a global award for his innovation on coconut, an environment friendly innovation that can be used for erosion



*Mr. Phongsak Thamrongatanasilp talking to the farmers about benefits of organic farming*

control. He heads Juboken Enterprises, a multi- awarded company operating in the coconut producing areas of the Philippines, mostly comprised of the poorest 20 provinces of the country. It is now helping more than 3,000 farmers to earn money through processing of coconut fibers in their households. Coconut fibers are now used in bio-engineering construction in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. The success of this project is a combination of technologies developed in a local university, marketing assistance from the government Department of Trade and Industry for export, Presidential support for directing the Department of Public Works and government agencies to use the material, and a very persevering entrepreneur, Mr. Arboleda himself who has the passion and strong belief in making real success of the project, despite all odds in the initial stage.



## E-Choupal in India Empowering Small Farmers

The term “Choupal” is a Hindi word, which means the meeting point in a village. The Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) is a multi-billion dollar private corporation with business interests in tobacco, hotels, consumer products and more relevantly, in agricultural inputs and commodities. In 2000 through its International Business. Division, ITC embarked upon a path-breaking idea to directly reach smallholder farmers with an aim to develop a unique business relationship with them using ICT. The project was named e-Choupal to signify its use of ICT as a communication medium and was based on the knowledge sharing found in the traditional “Choupal” model, but it took the concept one step further. It eliminated the intermediaries such as local intermediaries who purchased the produce from farmers in the local ‘mandi’ (local agriculture marketplace). Initially, a few soybean growing villages of Madhya Pradesh state of India were selected for the pilot phase of the project. ITC supplied an e-Choupal kit to each village with the following components:

1. A standard personal computer (PC) with an operating system, multimedia kit, and connectivity interface.
2. Connection lines via either telephone or VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal).
3. A power supply consisting of UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) and solar-powered battery backup.
4. A dot-matrix printer.

Through this set up a dedicated ITC website ([www.soyachoupal.com](http://www.soyachoupal.com)) was accessible to the farmers introducing them to the World Wide Web and available information resources on Internet. The site and the data uplink are maintained by ITC Infotech India Ltd., an ITC subsidiary. The e-Choupal site provides links to following critical information and knowledge resources:

- Weather Information: local weather forecasts to help farmers decide agricultural operations.
- Best Agricultural Practices: Information for farmers to increase their productivity.
- Market Information: Options to explore world demand, world production, ‘mandi’ trading volume, and ‘mandi’ price lists.
- Q&A forum (FAQs): The website provided an interactive feature, which allowed the farmer to ask a question and have it answered by the appropriate panel of experts.
- News page: This website held excerpts of relevant news items, including government decisions on subsidies or minimum support prices (MSP’s) and innovation in other countries. Local news pertaining to farmers successes were also posted.
- Place for suggestions: The website was fluid, continually tailored to meet the farmers’ needs. ITC relied on the farmers’ participation to keep the site relevant and in a constant improvement mode.

The ‘e-Choupals’ or village internet kiosks managed by farmers – called “sanchalaks” (coordinators) – themselves, enable the agricultural community access ready information in their local language on the weather and market prices, disseminate knowledge on scientific farm practices and risk management, facilitate the sale

of farm inputs (now with embedded knowledge) and purchase farm produce from the farmers’ doorsteps. Thus, decision making by farmers becomes information-based. Real-time information and customized knowledge provided by e-Choupal enhance the ability of farmers to take decisions and align their farm output with market demand and secure quality and productivity. The aggregation of the demand for farm inputs from individual farmers gives them access to high quality inputs from established and reputed manufacturers at fair prices. As a direct marketing channel, virtually linked to the ‘mandi’ system for price discovery, e-Choupal eliminates wasteful intermediation and multiple handling. Thereby it significantly reduces transaction costs. Using e-Choupal as an additional trading way for the soybean farmers with following benefits:

- Farmers have better knowledge of prices and could have a much better control over the timing of making its trade.
- Reduce the monopoly power of intermediaries, which cut the costs for both the farmers and soybeans processors.
- Save time and efforts for soybean farmers.
- The transparency of the e-Choupal – the fact that the website was accessible to anyone, including the government, to cross-check ITC’s prices at any time – helped to convince the government to legalize the purchases of beans (and other agricultural commodities) outside the ‘mandi’ as it was the only place to do the purchase before.
- Farmers could use e-Choupal to buy the supplies they need.

Launched in June 2000, e-Choupal, has already become the largest initiative among all Internet-based interventions in rural India. e-Choupal services today reach out to more than 3.5 million farmers growing a range of crops – soyabean, coffee, wheat, rice, pulses, shrimp – in over 31,000 villages through 5372 kiosks across seven states (Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala). Besides being nominated to the prestigious Stockholm Challenge 2006, ITC’s e-Choupal has won numerous other awards as follows:

- The Development Gateway Award 2005 (previously known as the Petersberg Prize) for its trailblazing e-Choupal initiative. ITC is the first Indian company and the second in the world to win this prestigious award.
- The ‘Golden Peacock Global Award for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Emerging Economies for 2005’.
- The Company received this award for its e-Choupal and social and farm forestry initiatives that are transforming lives and landscapes in rural India.
- The Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2004 from the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for its e-Choupal initiative. The Award provides impetus to sustainable development and encourages ongoing social responsibility processes within the corporate sector.
- The inaugural ‘World Business Award’, instituted jointly by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the HRH Prince of Wales International Business Leader’s Forum (IBLF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This award recognizes companies who have made

*Continued on page 12* ➔

## Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines: A Profile

The agriculture and fishery research and development (R&D) plays a crucial role in promoting a nation's economic growth, improving environmental quality, and assuring innovative scientific research. The role that R&D plays affects the lives of people across the country. Far from simply transforming a theoretical idea into adoptable technologies, R&D has taken the lead in helping people improve the way they live.

In the Philippines, this is the role tasked in full responsibility to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), one of the staff bureaus of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

### Mandate, Mission and Vision

BAR was created in 1987 through Executive Order (EO) 116 to ensure that all agricultural research is coordinated and undertaken for maximum utility to agriculture. It is mandated to tap farmers, farmers' organizations and research institutions, especially the State Colleges and Universities (SUCs), in the conduct of research for the use of DA and its clientele particularly the farmers and fisherfolk.

In 1997, role of BAR in agriculture and fisheries R&D management was strengthened and affirmed through the enactment of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 or AFMA (Republic Act 8435), a landmark law that tasked BAR to orchestrate the National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) and to develop new modalities in R&D. NaRDSAF is aimed at a system that is strengthened through an organized partnership and collaboration among government agencies, state colleges and universities, the private sector and industry. Further, Executive Orders 127 (1999) and 338 (2000) reinforced and expanded the functions of BAR in the central coordination and management of agriculture and fisheries R&D programs. The objective is to help bring about an optimized R&D system, manned by adequate and trained scientists that will enable the agriculture and fisheries sectors to compete in the global market.

As the lead government agency for agriculture and fisheries R&D, the Bureau is committed to consolidate, strengthen and develop the agriculture and fisheries R&D system for the purpose of improving its effectiveness and efficiency by ensuring customer satisfaction and continuous improvement through work excellence, teamwork and networking, accountability and innovation.

BAR envisions a stable and progressive future for the Filipinos through excellence in research and development in agriculture and fisheries, specifically, to transform the agriculture and fishery industries from a resource-based to a technology-based industry. In doing so, BAR must be able to develop knowledge, methods and technologies that can make the sector competitive and efficient.

### R&D Thrusts and Strategies

BAR adopts the following R&D thrusts:

#### 1. Expand the production base and enhance productivity and profitability in agriculture and fisheries

The Bureau shall enhance productivity and profitability in agriculture and fisheries through research and development,



*Facade of the BAR building*

particularly in the generation of information and technologies on genetic improvements in crops, livestock, and fisheries as well as better production and management practices, market accessibility, and marketing efficiency.

#### 2. Resource sustainability and protecting biodiversity

The Bureau shall support innovative agricultural and fisheries research programs on tapping the full potential of the natural resources while promoting sustainability from these environmental gains. The Bureau shall work for the conservation and protection of the country's plant and animal germplasms, biodiversity, and other natural resources in agriculture and fisheries.

#### 3. Global competitiveness

The Bureau shall support research and development programs on export crops and products from agriculture and fisheries while at the same time improving on existing products for global markets. Such programs shall include establishing and improving quality standards.

#### 4. Poverty alleviation and people empowerment

The Bureau shall support R&D programs that will generate investments for agribusiness ventures, thereby generating employment in the rural areas. The Bureau shall also support programs on improving agricultural and fisheries supply chains to assure lower costs and lower prices. Moreover, the Bureau shall nurture a knowledge and information system to promote people empowerment through accelerating the use of productivity-enhancing and sustainable technologies in agriculture and fisheries and providing easy access to technology and information on agribusiness, and at the same time encouraging utmost participation of stakeholders.

In the pursuit of its vision, mission, and mandate, BAR is guided by an eight-point strategy, to wit:

1. Allocate resources for the conduct of applied and on-farm researches (OFRs) following the farming systems perspective to fast track technology promotion and adoption creating immediate impact on the lives of farmers and fisherfolk. Collaborative researches will be enhanced between DA research implementing units and agricultural colleges and universities.
2. Foster cooperation with other government line agencies and active partnership with the LGUs, NGOs, POs and other concerned institutions in the regional level specifically on the planning and implementation of Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) and technology commercialization activities.
3. Support research and development projects with direct bearing on the development of small and medium enterprises; more importantly focusing on the income-generating capabilities of resource-poor farmers and fisherfolk. Further, rural-urban linkage on agriculture will be studied.

*Continued on page 8* ➔

4. Develop and strengthen collaboration among existing R&D systems at the national and local levels to enhance sustained growth in agriculture, strengthening the convergence initiative.
5. Develop and strengthen the DA R&D's capability on human resource and infrastructure.
6. Strengthen planning and implementation of an integrated and unified agriculture and fisheries R&D agenda and program for increased effectiveness and efficiency.
7. Develop mechanisms using information and communication technology (ICT), and conventional means to enhance sharing and exchange of relevant information and technologies to fast track decision-making and technology adoption and commercialization.
8. Advocate policies that promote sustained growth in agriculture and fisheries including strategies on increasing R&D investments.

#### Priority Areas in R&D

##### 1. Conduct of basic and strategic research (upstream research)

Basic research is implemented by DA national research centers and state universities and colleges to address emerging issues on agriculture and fishery R&D.

##### 2. Commercialization of appropriate technologies

To close the gap between technology R&D and commercialization, DA-BAR is fully implementing its technology commercialization program to facilitate the commercialization of newly developed technologies and their utilization. This is done through DA-BAR's National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP), which is envisioned that technologies are strategically placed and transferred to areas and communities that need them the most. Through this program, technology transfer is enhanced and realized the impact of the research results. The farmers and fisherfolk, on the other hand, would enjoy the impact of those researches.

The NTCP highlights research and development breakthroughs and mature technologies generated and developed by R&D institutions. It serves as a vital tool for the development of enterprises and the improvement of agriculture and fisheries related industries anchored on appropriate activities emphasizing technology transfer, promotion, adoption, utilization, and commercialization. Moreover, NTCP covers the transformation of agriculture and fisheries from a resource-based to technology-based interventions. The market-driven approach for a more holistic and integrated development is also strengthened, thus the sectors demand technologies that encourage total farm or community development with the support of the government, non-government organizations, private sectors, and commodity specific industries.

##### 3. Intensification of Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR)

This priority area addresses the weak link between research and extension. As a priority area in R&D, it has the ultimate goal

of increasing total farm productivity and income within the context of a sustainable production system following the farming system approach. The marriage of the On-Farm Research (OFR) and the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) paved way to CPAR. It gives technology transfer a local face where a farming community finds their local farming issues addressed through site-specific farming solutions.

CPAR is a platform for technology assessment that involves the participation of the community together with the experts and researchers in identifying the most appropriate technologies that would eventually meet the community's priority needs. It tackles farmers' priorities, strategies, resource allocation, and the biophysical and socioeconomic environments under which the farm household operates.

##### 4. Establishment of agribusiness development projects in the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) and other R&D stations

This priority is in support to the Department of Agriculture's Goal 1 which is to develop at least 2M hectares of new land for agribusiness to contribute 2M out of 10M jobs by 2010. Agribusiness development projects are established in vacant, underutilized, and unutilized areas of R&D stations to showcase new technologies and farming systems for agribusiness enterprises. This would eventually lead to generation of employment and income for the DA stations and to the clientele, farmers, and fisherfolk.

##### 5. Intellectual Property (IP) management

The IP management applies to all directly assisted and contracted agricultural research and development activities. The IP Management System encourages agricultural innovation and creativity by promoting a healthy and conducive environment for the generation and creation of intellectual property and technology.

The IP Management System ensures the management and protection of intellectual properties (IPs) generated through the NaRDSAF agencies. Direct assistance to the scientists and researchers in the preparation and submission of papers to the Intellectual Property Office is done through prior art search and documentation, claim drafting, legal counsel and coordination. Through BAR's advocacy, all researchers will be fully aware of the benefits provided by IP protection.

##### 6. Implementation of Human Resource Development Program (HRDP)

The HRDP as a priority concern in R&D includes degree and non-degree programs aim to develop a critical mass of researchers in agriculture and fisheries. This program focuses on major activities such as the administration of the DA-NaRDSAF scholarship program and thesis and dissertation assistance. It also includes non-degree programs and merit and incentive system. The DA-BAR NaRDSAF Scholarship Program is a facility tapped by R&D agency employees in pursuing higher studies. The program has four major aspects: 1) Degree Scholarship Program, 2) Thesis/Dissertation Assistance Program, 3) Non-Degree Assistance Program, and 4) Education Program for DA Conferred Scientists.

Continued on page 9 ⇨

The *Degree Scholarship Program* aims to develop a cadre of highly competent researchers and research technical staff equipped with a graduate degree in agriculture, fisheries and other related fields relevant to the attainment of a more efficient and effective R&D system.

The *Thesis/Dissertation Assistance Program*, on the other hand, has been extending thesis and dissertation support since 1993 out of its Grants-in-Aid fund. This is part of DA-BAR's effort to strengthen the DA's research system. The thesis or dissertation should address major problems and issues in agriculture, fisheries, and related fields.

The *Non-Degree Assistance Program* extends funding support for attendance/participation in agriculture- and fisheries-related R&D short-term trainings, conferences, symposia, seminars and study tours. This is in support to the overall HRD plan to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sectors, and to strengthen the National R&D System.

The *Education Program for DA Conferred Scientists* was created by BAR to increase productivity as career scientists. It aims to provide supplementary financial support for scientists to enhance their technical capabilities towards excellence in service to Philippine agriculture and fisheries. This is in support to the implementation of the Scientific Career System under the Department of Agriculture of which BAR serves as Secretariat, which is an Educational Program for DA Conferred Scientists.

#### **7. Implementation of R&D facilities development program**

Under this program is the Institutional Development Grant (IDG) Program, which is a funding facility for the acquisition of scientific equipment, renovation and construction of research facilities, and other critical needs of R&D centers under the NaRDSAF. BAR's IDG Program aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of member agencies of the national, regional, and provincial RD&E networks through the upgrading and acquisition of priority facilities and equipment.

The DA is tasked to approve policies for the operationalization and continued strengthening of the institutional capacities, efficiency, effectiveness, and integration of the RD&E system including the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system (M&E) of its various components. It is also tasked to give priority and to facilitate the funding of the facilities necessary for research such as farm laboratories and development of agricultural machineries/mechanization technologies in the countryside.

#### **8. Knowledge products and services program**

The program focuses on the dissemination of information gathered as well as the development of scientific information into multimedia R&D information packages. It provides support to

scientific societies and universities in the areas of scientific publication, meetings and trainings as well as in the development of scientific libraries and web pages. In this program, BAR has concentrated in producing information packages such as BAR publications, all print materials from newsletters to R&D digests and annual reports, and setting up of exhibits to different scientific fairs and conferences are also part of this program. It also conducts seminar series in coordination and partnership with state universities and colleges and other R&D agencies.

One of its components is the Scientific Publication Grant (SPG), which aims to support scientific and professional societies and agencies in publication of their research outputs through multimedia packages. The program centers on technology updates disseminated to farmers and fisherfolk as well as to other program stakeholders.

#### **9. Information Communication and Technology (ICT) program**

This program aims to support the needed information in the fulfillment of BAR's mission of making agriculture useful to farmers and fisherfolk. As per AFMA, BAR coordinates the establishment and maintenance of a strong and responsive R&D information system for agriculture and fishery. Part of the program is to provide interconnectivity among agencies and clientele. This is done through the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS), which provides IT facilities and equipment as well as technical assistance to R&D agencies.

DA-BAR also provides trainings on GIS among DA staff and bureaus and other R&D agencies. Likewise, BAR established the *Agritech Online* and *BAR Online* that utilize the Internet in providing the interconnectivity among the different clients.

(Source: N. Eleazar. BAR-DA. 2006)

#### **BAR's Contact Information**

Postal and street address:  
Bureau of Agricultural Research  
RDMIC Building, Visayas Ave., cor. Elliptical Road, Diliman  
Quezon City, PHILIPPINES 1104

Trunklines: +63 (02) 928-8505; +63 (02) 928-8624  
Fax: +63 927-5691  
E-mail: [rd@bar.gov.ph](mailto:rd@bar.gov.ph)  
Website: [www.bar.gov.ph](http://www.bar.gov.ph)



---

## Armenia Awards Gold Medal to Dr. Paroda

H.E. Mr. David Lokyan, Minister of Agriculture, Armenia, presented a gold medal and a certificate to Dr. Raj Paroda, ICARDA-CAC Regional Coordinator and Head of PFU on 22 September, in recognition of “the outstanding contribution of the CGIAR Consortium in CAC towards the development of sustainable agriculture in Armenia.” The medal was presented to Dr. Paroda at the opening session of the Second International Agroforum, held in Armenia, 22-23 September.



*Dr. Raj Paroda receiving a gold medal from H.E. Mr. David Lokyan Minister of Agriculture, Armenia*

Dr. Mahmoud Solh, Director General of ICARDA, in his message to Dr. Paroda, said: “I would like to extend to you on behalf of ICARDA family our warm congratulations for a well-deserved recognition.”

Dr. Paroda was in Armenia to participate in the Agroforum on behalf of the CGIAR centers. “The award came to me as a pleasant surprise,”

he said. Over 1000 participants from Armenia and elsewhere in the CAC region attended the meeting. Dr. Paroda gave a keynote presentation entitled “A Decade of Partnership between International Centers and Armenia” at the Agroforum.

The Minister commended the support of ICARDA and other CG Centers to Armenia in genetic resources conservation, germplasm enhancement, soil and water management, and capacity building. He was particularly impressed with the achievements of the collaborative programs on breeding new varieties of cereals, which has resulted in the release of one winter wheat variety, ‘ARMCIM’, and one spring barley variety, ‘Mamaluk’. It was agreed to further strengthen the collaboration between Armenia and ICARDA.



---

## Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) Launched

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) officially launched the Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) on 8 November 2006, during the GFAR2006 Conference in New Delhi, India. In his opening statement, GFAR Executive Secretary Ola Smith traced the beginnings of YPARD in 2005 and was very pleased that it has attracted the attention of many stakeholders including the donors. Dr. Lennart Page of Sweden University affirmed his own institutional commitment to support the platform. Dr. Balasubramanian Ramani, Coordinator of YPARD based in University of Hannover, Germany, reported the progress of YPARD activities and introduced the Steering Committee and the Senior Advisory Group.

YPARD is composed of more than 50 young professionals in ARD, those below 40 years old. YPARD had its beginnings during the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) Conference in Zurich, Switzerland in April 2005. Succeeding meetings in Italy, Morocco, Switzerland, and the Netherlands crystallized YPARD’s vision, mission, objectives, and plan of action. YPARD is a global multi-stakeholder initiative by and for the young professionals in ARD. It recognizes the young people as key elements to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to go beyond 2015. Young professionals have potentials to contribute to ARD because of their creativity, openness, enthusiasm, and willingness to work in partnership with field agents and farmers. They have common problems in ARD regardless of their origin, discipline or employment. YPARD is a platform where they can advocate and voice their needs and beliefs.

YPARD’s vision is “Sustainably improved livelihoods, worldwide, through dynamic agricultural research for development”. Its mission is to serve as a global platform through which young professionals can express their ideas and realize their full potential towards a dynamic agricultural research for development.

Its guiding principles are: Multi-stakeholder; Transparency; Participatory; Global- local (subsidiary); Equality; Inclusiveness; Representation; Accountability; Comparative advantage.

YPARD has four objectives where they wish to make the following contributions to ARD, as follows:

- To facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge among young professionals (YP) across disciplines, professions, age, and regions- results of successful ARD shall be shared among peers; YPARD will give a platform to minor players alongside with major ones.
- To broaden opportunities for young professionals to contribute to strategic ARD policy debates- YPARD will give support and experience to YP in policy dialogue, participate in international bodies, and exchange such experiences.
- To promote agriculture among young people- this will be addressed at appropriate levels, for example, in curricula enhancement or change, in Agriculture Open University, job opportunities, market boards, etc.
- To facilitate access to resources and capacity building opportunities- YPARD will be a service platform to provide access to training materials and experts in ARD, organize or list/advertise events, create and link – up opportunities.

As a global platform, YPARD shall foster South-South and South-North collaboration. It shall be strongly associated with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and its unique quality of multi-stakeholder values.

To date, YPARD’s coordination unit has been officially opened in the University of Hannover, Germany, its organizational structure finalized, and its website prototype launched [www.ypard.org](http://www.ypard.org). Major funding and support are provided by GFAR, University of Hannover, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD).

*For more details, please visit <http://www.ypard.org>*

## YPARD – ANGOC – APAARI Coordination Meeting Held

A meeting of YPARD and ANGOC was facilitated by APAARI on 5 November 2006 in New Delhi, India.

The objectives of the meeting were to assess possibilities for collaboration among YPARD, ANGOC, and APAARI based on topics/issues of common interest and to identify concrete steps and YPARD contact persons for the APAARI sub-regions.

Two presentations on YPARD and ANGOC gave the participants a better appreciation of their respective mandates, goals, mission and areas of common interests.

They reaffirmed that agriculture is instrumental in poverty reduction and in realizing the MDGs. Yet, investment in agriculture and research is declining. The role of the youth in reversing these trends was duly recognized. ANGOC's response to poverty alleviation and food security encompasses (i) agrarian reform and resource rights, (ii) participatory local governance, and (iii) sustainable agriculture and resource development. The strategies include capacity building, strategic networking, and policy advocacy. There is great potential for collaboration between NGOs/ANGOC and YPARD. The details however will have to be further defined.

The following recommendations were made to which YPARD, ANGOC, and APAARI are committed to carry forward:

### Policy advocacy:

- APAARI and ANGOC will facilitate the mainstreaming of a new stakeholder group, young professionals, in the ARD bodies of Southeast Asia, in particular NARS.



### Structural assistance:

- YPARD will receive mentoring from ANGOC on policy advocacy and negotiations with national government and universities.
- APAARI and ANGOC will assist YPARD in identifying, coaching, and guiding its Regional Focal Point (RFP) and partner organizations in Asia-Pacific and eventually branch out in sub-regions.
- Specific partnerships will be developed (biofuels, Argentina meeting).

### Capacity building

- Carry out and present pilot/case studies on youth in agriculture, young professionals in ARD, and on curriculum development studies –initially in India and Philippines.
- Documentation of success studies (of YPARD process).

YPARD is expected to clarify its membership structure and assess the adhesion of NGOs. This will greatly facilitate the definition of YPARD's engagement and accountability with other organizations.

It is envisioned that after 5 years, YPARD will have significant milestones which should be documented and shared with its stakeholders. Dr. Kumar of Fiji, a resource person, has kindly agreed to convey the outcome of this meeting to the Fiji NARS and follow up accordingly.

New Delhi, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006

(Source: YPARD, 2006)

## Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium Proposed

Following the establishment of the African NGO Consortium facilitated by GFAR in 2005 in Entebbe, Uganda, APAARI strongly endorsed to GFAR the establishment of an Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium being spearheaded by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC). ANGOC is a regional association of 24 national and regional networks of NGOs from 10 Asian countries actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture and rural development activities. Its member- networks have an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs throughout the region.

A small group of NGOs was convened by ANGOC on 6 November 2006 in New Delhi, India to discuss the rationale and the process which will lead to the launching of an Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium. Mr. Roel Ravanera, former Executive Director of ANGOC and currently its Adviser, and Dean of College of Agriculture, Xavier University, Philippines, reported the outcome of the meeting to the APAARI General Assembly (GA) on November 7, 2006.

Mr. Ravanera informed the GA that the group acknowledged the need for the NGOs/CSOs who are users, facilitators and providers of innovations to be coordinated. Moreover, they need to build partnerships with other stakeholders particularly research institutions who are similarly working towards sustainable development and poverty reduction. The group will follow a process, namely (i) consultation with interested NGOs, (ii) regional workshop to define mandate, goals, and governance mechanism, (iii) developing thematic programs, and (iv) launching the NGO Consortium in 2007. There is a need for them to link the initiative with other regions, build partnership with GFAR, APAARI and NARS.

The APAARI General Assembly expressed appreciation and welcome this new initiative which is likely to be established in 2007.



## APAARI Regional Priorities Redefined: 2007-2017

APAARI provides a platform for regional priority setting based on the needs identified by the different stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. During the last decade APAARI has done its best to bring together all stakeholders to collectively decide on regional research priorities, its strategic plan, the networks it is associated with, and some new initiatives such as on ICT/ICM and biotechnology. While it has taken time to bring in NGOs and FOs, they are now more actively engaged and involved in the process.

In 2001, sub-regional priority setting exercises were conducted by APAARI member institutions. The synthesized regional priorities have helped shape global perspectives and priorities of the CGIAR system to maximize its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Two regional programs have been initiated and supported by APAARI and other donors, namely, the Asia-Pacific Consortium for Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Information System (APARIS). A new initiative in post harvest and linking farmers to market (LFM) is being facilitated by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research under the Global Partnership Program (GPP-LFM).

In 2004 and 2005, APAARI conducted research needs assessment for the three sub-regions, taking into consideration new development and challenges. One of the major challenges the Asia-Pacific region faces is the on-going shift from a focus on increased production to meet national food security targets, to increased farm productivity that factors in environmental concerns and profitability. Since majority of the producers in the region are small scale farmers, moving them beyond the subsistence level to market – oriented and environmentally sound production systems will not be easy. This therefore constitutes a major paradigm shift for ARD. In South and West Asia for instance, new research areas deserving additional emphasis include agro-enterprise development (focus on legumes, post-harvest technology for value adding products), and policy and institutional reforms with special emphasis on strategies to encourage higher investments in infrastructure, and enabling policies on marketing, credit and commodity pricing. In the Pacific, serious gaps have been identified in important research areas such as value adding and post-harvest management, markets and marketing. In Southeast Asia (SEA), main priority areas include (1) food safety and security, specifically agriculture and fisheries product quality, value adding of products for competitiveness, productivity and profitability, export/import

competitiveness, policy researches related to food safety, market changes, biotechnology and other emerging issues; and (2) farmers/ fisher folks capability enhancement including value chain analysis and improve market access, entrepreneurial development of farmers and fisher folks, provision of access to credit, and intra/inter-household production access. There is growing recognition that research must transform subsistence farming into agro-entrepreneurship.

With support from GFAR, the Regional Synthesis of Research Needs in Asia-Pacific was conducted on 18-19 August 2006 in Bangkok. It brought together key stakeholders in the three sub-regions, namely, the NARS, CGIAR centers, NGOs, farmers' and Private Sector organizations, donor representatives, regional and international organizations, and the youth sector. The workshop synthesized regional research needs and identified regional priorities in the short and medium term, and suggested anticipatory researches, and the roles of APAARI and GFAR. To the extent possible, the workshop addressed concerns for inter-sector imbalance, harmonization with priorities of the CGIAR and GFAR, and building new partnership based on complementation and subsidiarity principles. It identified six regional research themes: Natural resource management, Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Enterprise Improvement, Post harvest and Value addition, Policy and Institutions, and Capacity building. Anticipatory research in the areas of climate change, risk management and biofuels were recommended. A number of follow-up actions by different stakeholders were generated.

APAARI and GFAR are expected to continue to play the role of honest brokers and facilitators in the areas of information and knowledge sharing, capacity building, partnership and networking, resource mobilization and policy advocacy. A new role in Monitoring and Evaluation of these collaborative activities was suggested. NARS leaders are expected to address the priorities and recommendations from this synthesis workshop and donors will hopefully be more supportive of ARD.

*For details, please visit <http://www.apaari.org>*



*From page 6 ...  
e-Choupal ...*

- significant efforts to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and enduring wealth in developing countries.
- The 'Enterprise Business Transformation Award' for Asia Pacific, instituted by Infosys Technologies and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
  - PC Quest's IT Implementation Award in the 'Best Project' category.
  - The Golden Peacock Innovation Award 2004.
  - The NASSCOM award for 'Best IT User in FMCG' in 2003. The Award is a recognition of ITC's successful integration of its IT usage with its business processes.

- The Seagate Intelligent Enterprise of the Year 2003 Award, for the most innovative usage of Information Technology.

According to ITC, the problems encountered while setting up and managing e-Choupals are primarily of infrastructural inadequacies, including power supply, telecom connectivity and bandwidth, apart from the challenge of imparting skills to the first time internet users in remote and inaccessible areas of rural India. As new e-Choupals are being continuously added, further information is available on [www.e-Choupal.com](http://www.e-Choupal.com).



---

## New Initiative on Livestock Knowledge Resource in Asia

Livestock are crucial to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people in Asia, yet the importance of livestock as a potential pathway out of poverty is poorly understood by many development agencies. Knowledge about livestock systems in Asia is created and disseminated by a vast range of people and institutions. Despite modern communication tools, there are many barriers to the effective linkage of research and development programs. Often, new technologies, production systems and R&D methods, tools and approaches are developed but are not well known beyond their project area. Others have been developed by researchers and promise good results but have not yet been proven to deliver livelihood benefits. Development practitioners are searching for technologies and methods they can use in their projects and often resort to those they are familiar with from previous projects, and these may not provide the most appropriate and effective solutions. The challenge is to design and implement new pathways and new mechanisms that accelerate the rate of knowledge generation and flow, in a way that is both cost-effective and increases the beneficial impacts of livestock and of livestock R&D on the livelihoods of the poor. To initiate this process ILRI and CIAT in Southeast Asia and ILRI and CALPI in South Asia are proposing to work with APHCA and APAARI to develop a knowledge resource

to support existing R4D initiatives and stimulate new ways of connecting research to livelihood benefits.

The Livestock Knowledge Resource (LKR-Asia) is envisioned to be a knowledge resource that satisfies the requirement for knowledge and information of the stakeholder groups, facilitates interaction and information exchange between them, and which ultimately leads to more effective research and development to improve the livelihoods of the poor. The overall outcome will be increased effectiveness of livestock R4D in achieving national and regional development objectives.

LKR-Asia will build on the existing networking activities of APAARI and APHCA. To ensure that LKR-Asia is developed in a way that is demand-led, ILRI, APHCA and APAARI will co-organize a workshop in June 2007 to initially determine the livestock information needs and providers in the region. A Steering Committee from key stakeholder groups shall be convened in February 2007 to discuss the details of the proposed workshop and operation mode of the LKR-Asia collaboration.

(Source: I. Wright. ILRI. 2006)

---

## GPP on Linking Farmers to Markets Proposal

GFAR convened an inter-regional design workshop on Linking Small Farmers to Growth Markets, 11-15 September 2006 in Cairo, Egypt. It was hosted by AARINENA, and attended by 22 participants. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the elements of a common inter-regional agenda and prepare a Global Partnership Program (GPP) concept note for presentation to GFAR's programming and decision-making bodies in December 2006.

Prior to this workshop, the Regional ARD Forums of West Asia and North Africa, Asia-Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have been engaged in a process for the preparation of concrete regional proposals on which the GPP will be based. In each region a multi-stakeholder *ad hoc* working group has been established to discuss and identify the respective contributions to and demands on an inter-regional partnership program on the theme of Linking Farmers to Markets. The regional proposals are available at <http://www.egfar.org/lfm/home.shtml>.

A consensus was reached on the identification of three main areas or components around which the GPP might be developed. These were: Policy and institutions, understanding markets and integration of farmers into the value chains, and capacity building.

The vision for the GPP was tentatively phrased as "*The potential of smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs is fully realized and they are effectively and profitably integrated into dynamic market chains*". The mission was tentatively stated as "*To foster mutual learning and sharing of experiences among partners by building on and adding value to market oriented research, development and investment programs that link farmers to markets*". A governance structure at the global and regional levels was suggested and an interim Steering Committee was designated to formulate the final Concept Note and present the proposal to the GFAR decision making bodies in December 2006.

(Source: <http://www.egfar.org/lfm/home.shtml>)

---

## APAARI Constitution Amended

As APAARI aims for more inclusiveness in its membership and in its decision-making process, the General Assembly during its meeting on 7 November 2006 in New Delhi, India approved an amendment in its Constitution, specifically Article X relating to the Executive Committee, as follows:

"There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association composed of three officers, namely Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Secretary of APAARI, and seven other members. The following three will be the ex-officio members: the Executive Secretary, who shall be appointed according to Article XII under paragraph 22, the Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and one CGIAR Center Director General from among associate members. The outgoing Chairman will be a member for the next term, whereas three members would represent the Pacific, Southeast Asia and Southwest Asia sub-regions. The remaining one member will be from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the seven other members shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the member institutions at the biennial meeting and shall hold office until the next biennial session and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office. No country will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee."

APAARI shall approach the CGIAR, GFAR and CSOs regarding representation in the Executive Committee for the year 2007-2008. The CSOs composed of the NGOs (initially represented by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and Farmers organizations represented by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers-Asia (IFAP-Asia), shall be requested to choose their representative on a two year rotation basis.

Representation of these different stakeholders in the APAARI Executive Committee will strengthen decision making and greater ownership of regional programs initiated in future by this Regional Forum.

---

## IPM Traveling Workshop in Syria

Interregional Network on Cotton in Asia and North Africa (INCANA) organized a Traveling IPM workshop on cotton with the support of APAARI, AARINENA, GFAR and ICARDA in Syria from 16-21 August 2006. Seven INCANA country representatives viz., India, Pakistan, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan participated and led by INCANA Secretary Dr. Heydari. The full itinerary included visit to biological control laboratory in Aleppo University, roundtable discussion among cotton scientists, meeting with the local government officials, and field visits. All throughout the visits, two farmers' representatives accompanied the group. These farmers participate in the cotton IPM program, and have full trust and confidence in the efficacy of the biocontrol agents. APAARI supported the participation of delegates from Pakistan and India in this workshop.

Although language was a major barrier, this was effectively overcome through friendly and leisurely interactions with translation support from Dr. Majid Jamal, Director General, General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, Damascus, Syria, Aleppo University Staff, Dr. Ahmed Hassan Mohamed of Sudan and Dr. Asghar Heydari.

The participants took note and understood the reasons for success of IPM in Syria, as follows:

- Syria has many pest problems. The major being *Verticillium* wilt, bollworms, sucking pests and heat stress.
- A systematic approach in breeding programs and deployment of appropriate varieties in different provinces has overcome *Verticillium* wilt and temperature stress problems to a great extent.
- The IPM principles are rigorously implemented in respect of time of sowing and balanced use of fertilizers.

- A dedicated team of extension units monitors the pest problems and gives feed back to the Cotton Research Administration. Timely action with regard to pest management is taken and bioagents are reached to the required locations for release.
- The three *Bracon* and *Trichogramma* production laboratories at Aleppo, Al Hassakh and Deir EZ-Zor were well maintained and buzzing with activities. Every step is being followed in the production of these bioagents, a highly economically viable entrepreneurship.
- *Trichogramma* release method is novel and gentle for enhancing the effectiveness of the parasitoid.
- Farmers visited at four locations were satisfied with the State machinery's IPM efforts and wanted more bioagents.
- The Govt. machinery controls all the cotton production system. The staff is highly dedicated .
- Out of 237,769 ha under cotton crop in 2005, 99.88 % area was without the use of any pesticides, a remarkable achievement.
- Of each country's experiences in IPM. A thorough orientation was given by Dr. Majid Jamal, and was subsequently supported with the presentation by Dr. M.N. Al-Salti, Director of the Cotton Research Administration, Syria.

Since the interaction with scientists from other participating INCANA countries was immensely useful, the group felt that the next venue could be Uzbekistan which also has done an exemplary effort in utilization of biocontrol options.

(Source: O.M. Bambawale. ICAR. 2006)

---

## Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for Harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific Region

Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), a program of APAARI, organized a three-day regional workshop on "Biosafety regulations for transgenic crops and the need for harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific region" in collaboration with ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India from 31 July to 2 August 2006. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize the national stakeholders with developments in agricultural biotechnology and biosafety regulations in the Asia-Pacific countries and to jointly identify areas of harmonization to facilitate exchange and trade in transgenic crops.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants and observers including crop biotechnology experts and representatives of CBD National Focal Points on Biosafety from 12 countries; Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The program comprised keynote lectures on crop biotechnology and biosafety, presentation of country reports on biosafety regulations, and group discussion on harmonization of biosafety regulations in the Asia-Pacific region.

In its recommendations, the workshop expressed a general consensus that the countries should move towards identifying issues that need

harmonization at the regional level while recognizing that every country would have their own regulations and stand on the subject. A strong need was felt for capacity building in areas such as, risk assessment and management, sampling and GMO detection, communication of science based information and developing mechanisms for information sharing. Both national and regional initiative, the latter through collaborative projects, and bilateral and multilateral agreements would be required to operationalise the recommended actions. It was also recommended that APCoAB should play a leading role in networking and dissemination of information on agricultural biotechnology and biosafety in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Highlights and Recommendations of the workshop have been published. The same along with complete set of presentations is available on APCoAB website ([www.apcoab.org](http://www.apcoab.org)). A record for the workshop has also been created in the CBD database on Capacity Building (<https://bch.biodiv.org/database/record.shtml?id=15796>).

(Source: J. Karihaloo. APCoAB. 2006. [www.apcoab.org](http://www.apcoab.org))

## Human Resource Development Program Intensified at AIT



*AIT Training Workshop on Management of Modern Biotechnology, 9-13 October 2006*

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Extension works with a mandate to contribute towards the development of the region through continuing education, training and consultancy services. AIT Extension adds an exciting dimension to AIT and its work in the region by developing highly qualified and committed professionals who plays a leading role in the sustainable development of the region and its integration into the global economy. AIT is an active member of APAARI and has a joint MoU for APARIS related activities in the region.

AIT Extension's operating programs include:

- Agriculture, Resources and Development (ARD)
- Development Management (DM)
- Education and Information Technology (EIT)

### MISSION AND VISION

AIT Extension identifies and responds to regional opportunities for continuing education, training and consultancy, and thus helps realize AIT's mission to develop highly qualified and committed professionals who will play a leading role in the sustainable development of the region and its integration into the global economy. AIT Extension is an innovative and responsive provider of a broad array of capacity building programs and services.

### WHAT WE DO

We organize on-campus and off-campus short-term education and training courses, study visits and consultancy services that respond to clients' continuing professional development needs. We also provide services for organization of

conferences, seminars and workshops. Our training courses usually last from one to twelve weeks.

We design, develop and implement training courses customized to the specifications of the requesting client organization and also offer professional development programs designed for individual participants according to their specific needs.

### WHO WE WORK WITH

AIT Extension works with professionals in national governments, overseas development agencies, multilateral agencies, development institutions, the private sector, investment banks, consultants and NGOs. To respond to the diverse needs of the above groups, entry requirements are flexible. Ordinarily, participants will be mid-career and senior level professionals with at least two years of experience working for client organizations. Programs and services are delivered in English and in some cases through participants' national languages as well as through translation.

### WHY CHOOSE AIT EXTENSION

- AIT Extension is a well-known and highly respected international institution in the region, with 25 years of experience in training and continuing education.
- Multicultural staff and resource persons, and multicultural participants.
- Personalized care for participants.
- Synergy among groups with distinct, complementary areas of competence.
- A strong IT base to all network.
- Well-known and well-established catalog of products and services.
- Beautiful, peaceful environment, superb on-campus training facilities and superb on-campus accommodation and recreation facilities.
- A global and regional database of professional Resource Persons complementing AIT's 150+ faculty, and strong client base for continuing education.



*Workshop on Capacity Building for Developing National Agricultural Information Systems (NAIS) 9-19 August 2004*



*APAARI-GFAR-AIT Training Workshop on Integrating National Agricultural Information Systems, 1-5 November 2005*

## APAARI Members

### MEMBERS

- ACIAR-Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (Australia)
- AREO-Agricultural Research and Education Organization (Iran)
- BAR-Bureau of Agricultural Research (Philippines)
- BARC-Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Bangladesh)
- CARP-Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (Sri Lanka)
- COA-Council of Agriculture (Chinese Taipei)
- DOA-Department of Agriculture (Thailand)
- IAC-Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien (New Caledonia)
- ICAR-Indian Council of Agricultural Research (India)
- JIRCAS-Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (Japan)
- MAFF-Koroniva Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (Fiji)
- MARD-Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
- MARDI-Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Malaysia)
- MCFF-Ministry of Commerce, Forests and Fisheries (Western Samoa)
- NARC-Nepal Agricultural Research Council (Nepal)
- NARI-National Agricultural Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
- PARC-Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Pakistan)
- PCARRD-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (Philippines)
- PNG UniTech-Papua New Guinea University of Technology (Papua New Guinea)
- RDA-Rural Development Administration (Republic of Korea)

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AVRDC-World Vegetable Center (Chinese Taipei)
- CIMMYT-International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Mexico)
- ICARDA-International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Syria)
- ICBA-International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (United Arab Emirates)
- ICIMOD-International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (Nepal)
- ICRISAT-International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (India)
- IFPRI-International Food Policy Research Institute (U.S.A.)
- ILRI-International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya)
- IPGRI-International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (Italy)
- IRRI-International Rice Research Institute (Philippines)
- IWMI-International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka)
- UNESCAP-CAPSA-Center for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia)
- The World Fish Center (Malaysia)

## APAARI Members (continuation)

### RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

- AARINENA-Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (Jordan)
- AIT-Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- APAFRI-Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions (Malaysia)
- APSA-The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (Thailand)
- NACA-Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (Thailand)

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

**APAARI and DFID** plan to co-organize a planning workshop during early 2007 to design the Research in Use Program for South Asia.

An expert consultation on “Biofuels: Opportunities and Challenges” will jointly be co-organized by **APAARI, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IRRI and JIRCAS** during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007.

**ILRI, APHCA, APAARI** will co-organize a workshop on Livestock Knowledge Resource – Asia Network sometime in June 2007. A Steering/Organizing Committee will be formed and will meet in February, 2007 to discuss details of the planned workshop.

**APAARI** will conduct an Annual Review Meeting on Strengthening the ARD Networks and Consortia in the Asia-Pacific Region during the second quarter of 2007.

## Recent Publications

- Fifteen Years of APAARI – A Retrospective.
- Selected Success Stories on Agricultural Information Systems.
- Commercialization of Bt Corn in the Philippines: A Status Report.
- Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for Harmonizing Them in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Proceedings of Regional *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Linking Farmers to Markets.
- Proceedings of Regional Synthesis of Research Needs.
- APAARI and APARIS Posters.
- APAARI on CD 2006.
- NARS on CD: Directory of Agricultural Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific.

All queries relating to APAARI Newsletter be addressed to:

**APAARI Secretariat**  
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road  
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND

Tel: +662-697-4371  
Fax: +662-697-4408

e-mail: [apaari@apaari.org](mailto:apaari@apaari.org); <http://www.apaari.org>