



APAARI

Newsletter



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Editorial

Linking Farmers with Researchers and Markets

A subtle but steady paradigm shift is taking place in the ARD landscape. It is about the wider recognition of the urgent need for greater stakeholder participation in the value chain of agricultural production – a 'Golden Triangle' from research labs to farmers' fields to markets. The first link, from research labs to farmer's fields, offers a win-win situation for all involved. The farmers will be able to contribute towards faster adoption of improved technologies and also contribute towards participatory research process, whereas researchers will be able to have effective feedback with regard to the problems they are supposed to solve to make ARD successful. However, the second link is not so straight-forward as it involves larger socio-economic and political issues prevailing at the local, national, regional and even international levels besides the technological aspects of post-harvest system.

Since beginning, APAARI has laid considerable emphasis on modernizing ARD by promoting faster adoption of new technologies and concepts. In strengthening the first link, APAARI fully recognizes that information and communication technologies (ICT) can play a major role by providing a two-way communication between researchers and farmers. On the contrary, adopting ICT calls for change in organizational culture of NARS, which are usually structured around some traditional and hierarchical communication system, which often results into communication losses. ICTs offer great opportunities to replace these old communication models. In order to reap their full benefits, the NARS need to change their functioning more like Corporations that are answerable to their ultimate stakeholders – the farmers. APAARI's three expert consultations in the last five years on improving information and communication systems by the NARS have signified the importance of building an open and transparent communication mechanism among the ARD stakeholders. In this context, establishment of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) by APAARI can be seen as an important step in right direction.

To strengthen the second link, *i.e.*, farmers to markets, APAARI being a technical and non-political forum, can facilitate the process of linking ICT options with market intelligence and access to available information on Post-Harvest Technology (PHT). Other ARD organizations such as FAO and GFAR have also recognized this issue to be highly relevant and rewarding. Here too, the ICTs can facilitate real-time delivery of market information to farmers for better decision-making at the farm level. The upcoming APAARI expert consultation from 1-4 December 2004 is, therefore, aptly entitled *Post-harvest Technologies for Ensuring Food Security and Value Addition for Enhanced Income*. It plans to bring together experts from the region as well as international agencies to discuss the current status and propose new solutions in order to empower farmers with better options to generate income and reduce post-harvest losses, while ensuring value added products to the consumers at affordable price.

We all do recognize the fact that a well-informed and knowledgeable farmer can bring about many more green revolutions in future.

Editors

First Steering Committee Meeting of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)

An expert consultation was organized in March, 2002 by FAO-RAP and Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) to discuss on the status of biotechnology in the region, its potential & analyzing factors restricting their adaptation. This was followed by an Expert Consultation on 'Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks & Consortia' organized by APAARI in December 2002. Both these meetings endorsed the need to establish the consortium to promote adoption of agricultural biotechnologies in the region. As a follow up of these consultations and general assembly FAO-RAP and APAARI organized a meeting on establishment of **ASIA PACIFIC CONSORTIUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (APCoAB)** on April 4, 2004 at Bangkok.



The APAARI Executive Secretary, in close consultation with the APCoAB steering committee members, developed a road map and work plan for 2004. The steering committee members also decided to have its first meeting to deliberate on issues such as the composition of steering committee; location of APCoAB Secretariat; finalization of work plan and means to operationalize this initiative. Accordingly, the steering committee members held a day long meeting on 8th April 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand under the chairmanship of Dr. Mutsuo Iwamoto. Dr. Iwamoto delivered the Chairman's address and welcomed all the participants to the meeting. Dr. R.S. Paroda presented a brief account of the earlier APCoAB related expert consultations and meetings.

As per the decisions of the seventh APAARI Executive Committee, the composition of the steering committee was modified to increase NARS representation. Suggestions were also made to include representations from NGOs such as ANGOC and farmer's organizations to ensure involvement of all stakeholders.

1. Chairperson – Chairman, APAARI (Dr. Mutsuo Iwamoto)
2. Southeast NARS – DOA, Thailand (Dr. Somchai Charnnarongkul)
3. South Asia NARS – ICAR, India (Dr. Mangala Rai)
4. FAO – Dr. Malcolm Hazelman
5. CG Centers – ICRISAT and IRRI (by rotation) – Dr. William Dar



6. GFAR – Dr. Ola Smith
7. ISAAA – Dr. Rendy Hautea
8. Private Sector – Monsanto (initially) – Dr. Eric Johnson
9. NGOs – ANGOC – Mr. Roel Ravanera
10. Farmers Organizations – (To be decided)
11. Member Secretary – APCoAB Coordinator (To be represented by Executive Secretary, APAARI till appointment)

Based on the draft work plan, APCoAB activities were grouped into two categories: immediate and regular activities. The immediate activities are those that will be taken up within the current calendar year so that APCoAB starts functioning and becomes visible to a wider group of stakeholders. These activities include:

1. Establishment of the Secretariat
2. Organizing National Workshops on biotechnology related important initiatives in selected NARS
3. Building of NARS biotechnology related database
4. Establishment of APCoAB Website
5. Preparation of a marketable project proposal and approaching NARS and donors for resource generation and support
6. Popularizing APCoAB among all Stakeholders – Flyer, Newsletter and circulars
7. Planning process for the Ministerial level dialogue
8. Developing MoUs with concerned partners

The second group of activities defines the regular work program of APCoAB as proposed in the draft work plan prepared by APAARI Executive Secretary in close consultation with the steering committee members. It was agreed that these activities can be categorized under the three main thrust areas namely (see figure 1):

- i. Policy Advocacy by organizing Minister Level Dialogue – to be organized by mid 2005 in partnership with FAO-RAP, GFAR, CGIAR etc.
- ii. Public Awareness and Capacity Building. This will be achieved by dissemination of success stories; Translation of Public Awareness Documents; Scientific awareness and

Continued on page 3 ➔

capacity building programs; Curriculum development for biosafety; & Organizing Public Fora Meetings for Better Awareness;

- iii. Research Partnership and Information Dissemination through Public – Private Partnership Consultations & developing Research Partnerships among Institutions.

While formal offers from ICRISAT, India and ABRII, Iran to host the APCoAB secretariat were received, it was decided that ICRISAT, being in close cooperation with several of APAARI members NARS, be the host. Dr. William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, who is also member of the steering committee, very kindly agreed to provide the support for hosting APCoAB's secretariat at New Delhi. The secretariat is operational since 1 May 2004 and a full time coordinator will be joining APCoAB soon. The vacancy announcement for the coordinator has already been circulated through APAARI contacts. Details available at www.apaari.org

(vacancy announcement). In the meantime a senior biotechnology scientist Dr. Vibha Dhawan (Director, Bioresources & Biotechnology Division at The Energy & Resources Institutes) has joined as a consultant since 1st May 2004.

The next APCoAB steering committee meeting will be held on the sidelines of the Eight General Assembly of APAARI, which is planned to be organized from 1-4 December 2004 along with an expert consultation on post harvest technologies in the Asia-Pacific region.

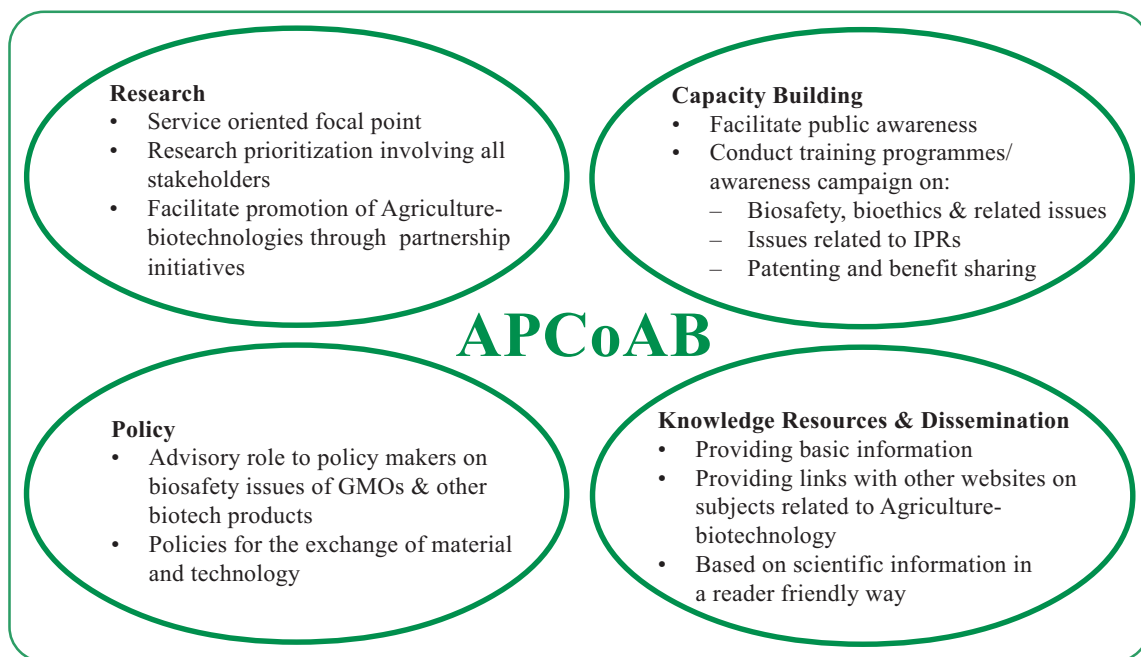


figure 1

Scaling-up: How to Reach a Billion Resource-poor Farmers in Developing Countries

A Plenary Paper by Dr. R.S. Paroda, APAARI Executive Secretary, to be presented in the 4th International Crop Science Congress.

Crop science research has made tremendous contributions over the second half of the twentieth century and provided enormous economic, social and environmental benefits to the global community. It not only helped in attaining food security through path-breaking new technologies but also ensured enough food at much lower price, since world food prices declined in real terms by over 70 percent during last three decades. All this could be possible through breakthroughs in crop improvement work that received wide adoption by millions of resource poor farmers in China, India, Indonesia and other developing countries. The key to these successes had been the faster adoption of new crops, modern varieties and hybrids. Research as conducted both independently by the developing country National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and in partnership with International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs), backed appropriately by right policies and the innovative mechanisms for technology transfer were the catalytic factors for these successes. This paper highlights some major success stories that have made significant impact and which underline the importance of research for international public goods to meet the challenges relating to poverty reduction, food security and sustainability. In order to address these concerns, it would require scaling up of technologies using new science and more dynamic systems for technology transfer. Crop scientists would also have to promote good science practices through an inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional approach for improving productivity and would also require a paradigm shift in their research approach for affecting change in the farming practices for attaining sustainability.

GFAR Organizes the 2nd Regional Fora Executive Secretaries Meeting

On May 15th and 16th 2004, GFAR organized its 2nd meeting of the Executive Secretaries. The first point of discussion was the new GFAR Business Plan for 2004-2006. Dr. Ola Smith, Executive Secretary of GFAR, presented an outline of the plan, focusing on the process followed by the Secretariat in formulating it, highlighting that the elements contained therein are the result of a long, careful consultative and participatory process among all GFAR stakeholders. The document presented comprises of three main sections: (i) a Strategic Document, (ii) a Three-Year Rolling Business Plan (BP) and (iii) a Secretariat Plan of Work. Concerning the Three-Year Rolling Business Plan, this will be characterized by four main components or pillars: Inter Regional Collaboration, Research Partnerships, Policy-Advocacy, and Management Information Systems. Two other key components were also identified: Engagement with the Private Sector and CSO's participation in GFAR's activities.

The discussion on the Inter-Regional Collaboration component highlight how the main objective in designing this component was to put the Regional Fora (RF) in the "driving seat," enabling them to guide GFAR's activities through a stronger bottom up approach. The BP will be circulated for final approval to the GFAR Steering Committee later this year.

Concerning Inter-Regional collaboration, some RF presented their on-going activities and put forwarded suggestion to better coordinate efforts and create a real network.

The second point in the agenda was an update on on-going GFAR activities.

Projects and initiatives coordinated by GFAR are:

- ◆ The GLOBAL.RAIS project, funded by the EC, which ended on June 10th-11th, with the Inter-Regional Workshop aiming at defining a Global Agenda for ICM in ARD, in collaboration with representatives of all Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) (*see the related article in this issue*);
- ◆ The Post Harvest Systems Initiative, that is being advanced in collaboration with the AGS division of FAO and the PhAction network;
- ◆ The Civil Society Organizations project;
- ◆ The DURAS project, which is being financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming at developing and enhancing the scientific potential of southern stakeholders in agricultural research for sustainable development (ARSD), will have a duration of three years. The geographic coverage include the French ZSP countries (French Priority Countries) in the Near East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Indochina Peninsula. DURAS is characterized by three main components: (i) support to RF/SRF, (ii) development and reinforcement of a functional information communication

management system, and (iii) launch competitive grants. The total Funding for the Project, 4 million Euro, is being provided by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of which 2 million Euro is allocated for component (iii).



Other initiatives presented were:

- ◆ The Global Facilitation Unit on Underutilized Species (GFU), presented by Mr. Paul Bordoni, pointing out the importance of such species in contributing to food security and poverty alleviation of the rural and urban poor;
- ◆ The GFAR Stakeholders group for Generation Challenge Program (GCP), which GFAR is facilitating;
- ◆ The Global Crop Diversity Trust (GTF – IPGRI), an independent fund established under international law as a result of a joint initiative of FAO and IPGRI acting for the Future Harvest Centers of the CGIAR.

Last two point of discussion were related to (a) GFAR Annual Report 2003, presented by Dr. Giovannetti explaining that the rationale for this report, the first of its kind for GFAR, was to overcome the lack of reporting to donors and to upgrade the awareness material on GFAR activities. The Report will feature a section on the Regional Fora activities, one on the on-going GPPs, and (b) The GFAR Charter Review. Concerning this last point, Dr. Alain Derevier and Dr. John Russell, both members of the task force in charge of reviewing the GFAR Charter were invited to the meeting to present an outline and update on this important process. Dr. Derevier stressed the importance of such review, which responds directly to the need of reflecting more precisely the view of the NARS in GFAR's business. The main issues which are being considered are GFAR's mission and the Steering Committee composition, terms of membership, stakeholder representation and the relation with the NARS Programme Committee.

Next meeting of the Executive Secretaries will be held in October 2004 in Mexico, back to back with CGIAR AGM meeting.



RDA Reorganization

This February, the Rural Development Organization (RDA), Republic of Korea reorganized its structure to strengthen the extension system, which is directly connected to agricultural competitiveness, and to focus more on bigger research disciplines. RDA consolidated the overlapping systems, and transferred some of its functions and even headquarters' personnel to its institutes to strengthen research.

For the RDA headquarters, changes in administrative functions aim to simplify and improve office procedures. To strengthen evaluation of research results and coordination of research programs, the Evaluation and Coordination Office was newly created under the Planning and Management Office.

The International Technical Cooperation Center, from the Planning and Management Office, is now transferred to the Research Management Bureau. As such, the international affairs of two offices are now combined under ITCC functions.

For the institutes, RDA introduced the following major changes:

The research structure of National Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (NIAB) was reorganized from a division to a research team system, based on research programs, for more research elasticity.

The three crop experiment stations (National Crop Experiment Station, National Honam Agricultural Experiment Station, and National Yeongnam Agricultural Experiment Station) were unified into the National Institute of Crop Science (NICS). NICS reorganized its structure by the nature of its functions.

Under the National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (NIAST), the National Rural Living Science Institute was reorganized into the Rural Resources Development Institute. Now, this extends the research function to rural amenity, beneficial resources, and welfare of rural community. Consolidating agricultural biology under the newly organized Department of Agricultural Biology, the Weed Management Division was formed, and the sericulture research function was reduced. Sustainable agriculture and safety field was reinforced, so under the Department of Crop Life Safety, the Hazardous Substances Division and the Organic Farming Technology Division were created.


Other research institutes were also reorganized. The National Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute, National Alpine Agricultural Experiment Station, and National Jeju Agricultural Experiment Station were renamed as the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, National Institute of Highland Agriculture, and National Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, respectively.

ICRISAT Hosts APCoAB and ISAAA

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) will host two important programs at its premises in India – the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), a nascent program of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA).

Both ISAAA and APAARI-APCoAB have common concerns in agricultural biotechnology. APCoAB is one of the newest programs of APAARI, and was established early this year. ICRISAT is an associate member of APAARI, and Director General Dr. William Dar is a member of the Steering Committee of APCoAB, which had its first meeting in April 2004 in Thailand.

Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director of the Biotechnology Program at the Tata Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, has joined as a Consultant for APCoAB, at the ICRISAT New Delhi Office. She will help to accelerate the search for a full time APCoAB Coordinator and also initiate priority activities including establishment of Secretariat.

The ISAAA Liaison Office will be located in ICRISAT's New Delhi office and will be known as the ISAAA South Asia Office. ISAAA and ICRISAT signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 12 May 2004. 

ICRISAT Signs MoU With NAS

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US National Academy of Sciences on 5 March 2004, to facilitate free sharing of electronic publications, especially for the Virtual Academy for the Semi-Arid Tropics (VASAT) project.

Dr. William Dar, Director General of ICRISAT, and Prof. Bruce Alberts, President of NAS, signed the MoU.

NAS is a premier science academy of the world, and has nearly 80 Nobel Laureates on its membership. It is also a leading e-publisher in the academic world and has placed over 3000 NAS reports online. These reports are known for their scientific excellence and for their considerable insight into contemporary scientific developments.

The MoU allows ICRISAT to make use of the e-published reports of the Academy to generate information and instruction materials for the VASAT coalition without copyright restrictions. Thus a major asset has been created in terms of knowledge and information. ICRISAT is the only CGIAR center to have an MoU with NAS.



The Ninth AARINENA General Assembly

The AARINENA 9th General Conference was held at Sultanate of Oman from 11 to 13 April, 2004 and was inaugurated by H.E. the Special Advisor to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sayed who welcomed the participants. About 25 persons from 18 members participated in this biannual meeting.



Representatives from regional and International Organizations, other Regional Fora and Regional Networks participated in this conference and shared information on policies and future activities and programmes which they will implement to strengthen AARINENA. The RAIS and GLOBAL.RAIS initiative was extensively discussed during the meeting. The new version of AARINENA website developed with strong support from the GFAR Secretariat, was presented to the Conference. With regards to on-going activities on databases development, the Conference was informed that the AARINENA-RAIS Steering Committee will lead and drive the development of NARIs database.

Finally, the Conference was informed that the following activities will be carried out by AARINENA during the period 2004-2005:

1. AARINENA-RAIS will be strengthened
2. Current and on-going regional networks will be strengthened, these are:
 - i. Global Date palm Network, and
 - ii. INCANA
3. New regional networks will be established, including:
 - i. Biotechnology Network in close relationship with AGERI (Egypt), and
 - ii. Medicinal and Herbal Plants Network.

All of these activities are consistent with GFAR business plan for 2004-2006, which identified inter-regional collaboration as one of its main pillars. A new Executive Committee was elected at the end of the Conference which comprises the following members:

- Dr. Abdel Nabi Fardous (Mashreq, President)
- Dr. A. Al Bakri (Arabian Peninsula, Vice President)
- Dr. Hamid Narjisse (Maghreb, Member)
- Dr. Ismael Muharam (Nile Valley and Red Sea, Member)
- Dr. Mohammad Roozitalab (Western Asian, Member)

The 10th General Conference of AARINENA will be held in Yemen in April 2006.

For more information related to the Conference and documents and representations, please refer to the AARINENA web site (<http://www.aarinena.org/>).

Taraneh Ebrahimi, AARINENA-RAIS Secretaria

Dr. Seishi Ninomiya, the New APARIS Steering Committee Chairperson

Dr. Seishi Ninomiya was born in Tokyo. Immediately after he obtained BAg from the University of Tokyo in 1977, he entered the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo. At that time, his major was applied plant genetics and received a doctorate in agriculture in 1982 for a study on analysis of circadian rhythm of soybean and its genetic background. In 1983, he was appointed as an assistant professor in the same university and conducted several studies, combining agricultural science and computer science. In 1991, he moved to National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences located in Tsukuba-city of Japan as a laboratory head and continued the similar studies. When a new department for IT



namely Department of Information Science and Technology was set up in National Agricultural Research Center in 1996, he moved there as the Associate Director. Since 1997, he has been serving as the leader of a long term national IT RD project for agriculture conducted by MAFF, Japan. In 1998, he was concurrently appointed as a full time Professor of the University of Tsukuba and has been conducting studies in phytosystem metrics until now.

In 1998, he started participating in APAN (Asia-Pacific Advanced Network Consortium) and now serves as the Director of the Natural Resource Area after having been the Chairman of the Agricultural Working Group for 3 years. He is also an initiator of AFITA (Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture) and has been serving as its Secretary-General since it was founded in 1998.

e-mail: snino@affrc.go.jp

URL: <http://zoushoku.narc.affrc.go.jp/ADR/>




ICBA: Workshop on Agricultural Production in Saline Arid and Semi-Arid Regions, Babolsar, Iran

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and the Bank of Keshavarzi, Islamic Republic of Iran co-sponsored a workshop on 'Principles and Application of Biosaline Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions with Reference to Iran' in Babolsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 14-15 April 2004.

The objective of the workshop was to exchange information on research and development in biosaline agriculture and problems of salinity and to discuss the directions for future collaborative work. Over 60 participants from the Agricultural Research and Education Organization (AREO) for Education and Manpower Development, Iran, the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Iran, the Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center of Mazandaran, Iran, the Bank of Keshavarzi, Iran, and ICBA attended the workshop.



Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar, Chairman, Board of Directors and Director General, ICBA, expressed the hope that the workshop would be the first of many collaborative activities between ICBA and Iranian research and development organizations. Iranian research and development organizations have undertaken extensive work on salt-tolerance of crop species, management of saline water and rehabilitation of saline soils. ICBA's role is not to repeat such work but to be a resource center for developing, coordinating and disseminating information on biosaline agricultural technology.

ICBA was set up in 1999 to address the opportunities in biosaline agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions. The Center's objectives are to develop sustainable management systems for the irrigation of forage and food crops with saline water, and to identify salt-tolerant plant species. 

PCARRD Receives ISO 9001:2000 Certification

LOS BANOS, LAGUNA – In an effort to institutionalize the culture of quality within the whole organization, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), a sectoral council of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), took on the challenge of becoming an "ISO 9001:2000 certified agency." Before the year 2003 ended, the feat was accomplished.

The PCARRD was finally awarded with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2000 certification on 26 February 2004. PCARRD is the first NARS in South-East Asia and among the 21 agencies of the Department of Science and Technology to get ISO certification in terms of QMS. In the formal ceremony, Science Secretary, Ms. Estrella F. Alabastro

received the certificate from David Robertson, Managing Director of Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS), which audited PCARRD for QMS.

The ISO certification aims to develop PCARRD's capacity to formulate, implement, and maintain quality management systems (QMS) that conform to international standards, with a view to increase its organizational efficiency and effectiveness in delivering its mandates. According to PCARRD Executive Director, Patricio S. Faylon, the process of getting certified is "a very tedious but fulfilling experience."



New Director General of the International Potato Center (CIP)

Lima, March 8- Dr. Jim Godfrey, Chair, CIP board, has announced the appointment of Dr. Pamela Anderson as the next Director General of the International Potato Center (CIP). Dr. Anderson will succeed Dr. Hubert Zandstra, who has led the Center successfully since 1991.

Dr. Anderson, a national of the United States of America, is a highly regarded entomologist and ecologist. She joined the International Potato Center in June 2002 as Deputy Director General for Research.

A leading expert on emerging plant diseases, Dr. Anderson has also done extensive research in virology, ecology, food production, human health and agricultural development for resource-poor farmers. She has worked in Latin America for more than 25 years, including over a decade in national agricultural research systems.

APAARI members wish Dr. Pamela Anderson all the success in her new assignment.



IFPRI Launches New ISNAR Program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On March 31, 2004, the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), based in The Hague, officially ceased operations, and a new ISNAR program began within IFPRI on April 1. The new program is based at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. IFPRI has engaged Dr. Jim Ryan (former director general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and study director for the InterAcademy Council Report on science and technology strategies for African agriculture) to serve as the interim director for the ISNAR Division from April to July 2004.

Offices are currently being established at ILRI. The ISNAR library and a portion of the publications stock was shipped to the ILRI campus in early March 2004 and, together with IFPRI publications, will provide an important knowledge base for African researchers. ILRI offers an excellent location with the necessary infrastructure and services to permit a quick start for the ISNAR program. Moreover, the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa are headquartered in Addis Ababa, making the city a major policy hub. The decision to locate the program in Africa reflects IFPRI's increasing interest in decentralization, and supports the organization's goal of establishing a global network of synergistic facilities and programs.

As agreed by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) at its Annual General Meeting in October 2003, the ISNAR program will be guided by a Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The Committee was established at the beginning of April 2004 for a three-year term. It is composed of one IFPRI Board member (Mandi Rukuni, Chair), one former ISNAR Board member (Julio Berdegue), the IFPRI director general (Joachim von Braun), the ISNAR interim director general (Jacques Ekebil; to rotate off the PAC once the director of the ISNAR Division at IFPRI is appointed), one leader from a national agricultural research system/national agricultural research organization (NARS/NARO) (Seyfu Ketema), one institutions specialist (Uraivan Tan-Kim-Yong), and one organizations specialist (Ruth Haug).

As interim division director, Dr. Ryan will oversee the implementation of the ISNAR program and assume management responsibilities. He will work closely with the PAC, especially on stakeholder dialogues, as well as with ILRI management and staff, and the Ethiopian government.

The ISNAR program will be managed as a research and outreach division of IFPRI. Although it is too early to determine precise staffing needs, it is expected that the program will recruit seven to ten new international staff members and an equal number of local employees during 2004/05. At present, seven former ISNAR staff have accepted employment at IFPRI. Three of these are located in Costa Rica, two in Washington DC, and two in Addis Ababa. The international search for the director of the division is on-going and the appointment is expected by July.

Drawing upon the External Program and Management Review, the report of the ISNAR-Restructuring Team (IRT), established by the CGIAR, and the ensuing discussions in the CGIAR, IFPRI has defined three broad strategic themes on which the new ISNAR

Program is expected to focus:

Institutional Change

This area of focus strives to produce new knowledge, with strong international public goods characteristics, that contributes to institutional change in agricultural innovation systems for enhancing the impact of agricultural research on all elements of the food system.

Organization and Management

By strengthening organization and management of agricultural research programs, ISNAR will enable innovations that benefit the poor, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.

Science Policy

The agricultural science policy theme will examine factors in the underlying socio-economic and political environments that inhibit or enhance the performance of food and agricultural science and technology, in order to suggest policies for improved effectiveness.

Research involving a range of disciplines is envisaged on these themes, in collaboration with stakeholders and partners. This will include case studies, action research and syntheses that will distill lessons for adding value to the **training and capacity building** activities of the ISNAR Division. The division will continue to provide support to NARS and other agricultural R&D institutions.

IFPRI's stated strategic goals are to be a trusted global research center that provides the knowledge needed for food and nutrition policy serving poor people; to boldly and independently communicate findings based on sound analysis, even when they are controversial; to be a source of in-depth understanding of the linkages between research and policy change; to respond quickly to changing conditions and opportunities for designing improved food policy serving low-income countries; and to be a valued strategic participant within the CGIAR system and within an enlarged community of partners and stakeholders, with a strong presence in developing countries through cooperative networks and decentralized operation. With its three-part focus outlined above, the new ISNAR program meshes perfectly with IFPRI's mission, new strategic direction, and long standing research focus.

IFPRI plans to have ISNAR program closely associated with Regional Fora of NARS in different parts of the world. It is expected that APAARI and ISNAR program of IFPRI would have much closer partnership future.



Asian Center for Underutilized Crops Established at CARP, Sri Lanka

The Asian Center for Underutilized Crops (ACUC), a Regional Centre of the International Center for Underutilized Crops (ICUC), based at the University of Southampton, UK was inaugurated on 22nd March 2004 at the CARP Secretariat by Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Sri Lanka. Dr. Nazmul Haq, Director, ICUC and Mr. R.W. Smith, Chair of the ICUC were present at the inauguration. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Sri Lankan Government approved the establishment of this center.

The ACUC with a membership of five other countries will form the focal point in the Asian region for the development of underutilized crops. The membership constitutes Bangladesh, Nepal, The Philippines, Pakistan and Vietnam. The center plans to expand the membership to other Asian countries in the future. The center will be managed by a Governing Board with representatives of the member countries. The current Chairman of the Center is Prof. H P M Gunasena, Executive Director, CARP.



Inauguration ceremony

Lighting the Traditional Lamp by Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Sri Lanka

The underutilized crops are those presently unexploited plant species or crops of local, regional and international importance. They may be wild or semi domesticated but are amenable to improvement and further agriculture, horticulture, forestry and commercial development. These crops can be assigned to a range of commodity groups, such as fruits and nuts, vegetables and pulses, cereals and pseudocereals, oilseed and industrial crops, forage, fodder and energy crops.

Particularly the species such as *Aegle marmelos*(L) *Corr* (beli), *Limonia acidissima* L. (divul), *Annona spp.* (anonas), *Garcinia mangostana* L. (mangosteen), *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam. (jackfruit), *Durio zibethinus* Murray (durian), *Psidium guajava* L. (guava), *Nephelium lappaceum* L. (rabuttan), *Persea aericana* Miller (avocado), *Citrus maxima* (Burm) Merrill (pumello), *garcina*, *Citrus spp.* (Citrus), and an array of medicinal plants remain unutilized or underutilized in the Asian region. Most of them are unattended, but produce a large quantity of fruits in the season.

Governing Board Decided Future Plans

The goal of this center is to achieve socio-economic development and poverty alleviation of people in Asia through increased production, processing, marketing and utilization of underutilized crops. Going in line with this goal, the centre has developed the following set of clear and comprehensive objectives, which will guide the future activities and ensures it's efficiency and effectiveness:

- a. To develop an effective Centre which facilitates collaborative research partnerships between countries in the region on priority species of different commodity groups, in order to make more efficient use of expertise, technologies and focus on production, products and marketing of underutilized crop species for the benefits of the rural population,
- b. To assemble, collate and distribute relevant information to scientists, farmers, the agricultural community and policy makers, and to encourage national governments to develop appropriate policies and establish the required enabling environment against which progress can be rapidly made,
- c. To strengthen the existing regional networks on underutilized crops (such as UTFANET, UTVAPNET),
- d. To undertake and/or foster research for the improvement of various species, develop propagation technologies, production and management practices including seed and planting material production,
- e. To reduce losses and enhance quality through new and/or improved postproduction technologies,
- f. To facilitate rural development through efficient farming systems research, development and extension services and improved nutrition, particularly of women and children,
- g. To assemble and disseminate market intelligence, and through public/private sector collaboration stimulate the establishment of marketing chains, and
- h. To strengthen the capabilities of local and national institutions, with a particular focus on human resource development.



*Welcome address by Prof. Gunasena
Chairman, ACUC*



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Social Republic of Vietnam – A Profile

The governmental restructuring at the end of 1995 has brought together several former Ministries, and created the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), one of the major and multi-sectoral Ministries in Vietnam.

According to the Decree No. 86/2003/ND-CP dated 18th July 2003 by the Government of Vietnam on promulgation of the functions, tasks, authorities and organizational structure of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry is a governmental agency that performs the state management functions over agriculture, forestry, salt industry, water resources and rural development nationwide; state management over public services and acts as representative of state ownership in enterprises under the management of the ministry that have state share of capital.



MARD tasks and authorities

1. Submit to the Government, Prime Minister drafts of laws, ordinances and other legal documents of the Government, Prime Minister on such domains being put under its management.
2. Submit to the Government, Prime Minister strategies, master plans of development, long-term and five-year-term and annual plans and key programs, projects on the domains being put under its management.
3. Issue decision, directives, and circulars on the domains being put under its management.
4. Organize implementation, deliver guideline, supervise and being responsible the implementation legal documents, strategies, master plans, plans, programs, projects, standards, techno-economic criterions on agriculture, forestry, salt industry, water resources and rural development which have been approved; disseminate, raise awareness of regulations on the domains being put under its management.
5. On agriculture (cultivation and animal breeding):
 - a. Carry out state management over cultivation, harvesting and preservation agricultural products;
 - b. Unify the management of agricultural processing;
 - c. Carry out state management on agricultural seeding of plants and animal;
 - d. Unify the management of agriculture inputs, fertilizers and food for animal; and
 - e. Carry out state management over plant protection, veterinary, plant and animal quarantine; organize quarantined activities for agricultural animal, forestry animal and exported and imported flora in accordance with legal document and treaties that Government of SR Vietnam have signed or being member.
6. On forestry:
 - a. Carry out state management on forestation, forestry resources development, exploitation and forestry product preservation;
 - b. Unify the management of forestry product processing;
 - c. Carry out state management on forestry seeding, materials; and
 - d. Carry out state management on forestry resources protection.
7. On salt production:
 - a. Carry out state management on production, salt preservation and other salt-related products; and
 - b. Unify the management of salt processing and other salt-related products.
8. On water resources:
 - a. Unify the management of construction, exploitation; usage and protection irrigation works, drainage works for rural area;
 - b. Unify the management of river basins, exploitation, usage and river integrated development per approved plans; and
 - c. Unify the management of construction, dike protection, prevention flood and storm works, and tasks related to prevent and combat against flood, storm, drought, and landslide along the river and coastline.
9. On rural development:
 - a. Synthesize and submit to Government, Prime Minister to issue plans, programs, policies on rural development;
 - b. Unify the management of on reallocation of population in agriculture and rural area in accordance with legal documents;
 - c. Unify the management of construction and development economy of household, farms, co-operatives, development of agricultural co-operative and state farm of agriculture and forest; and

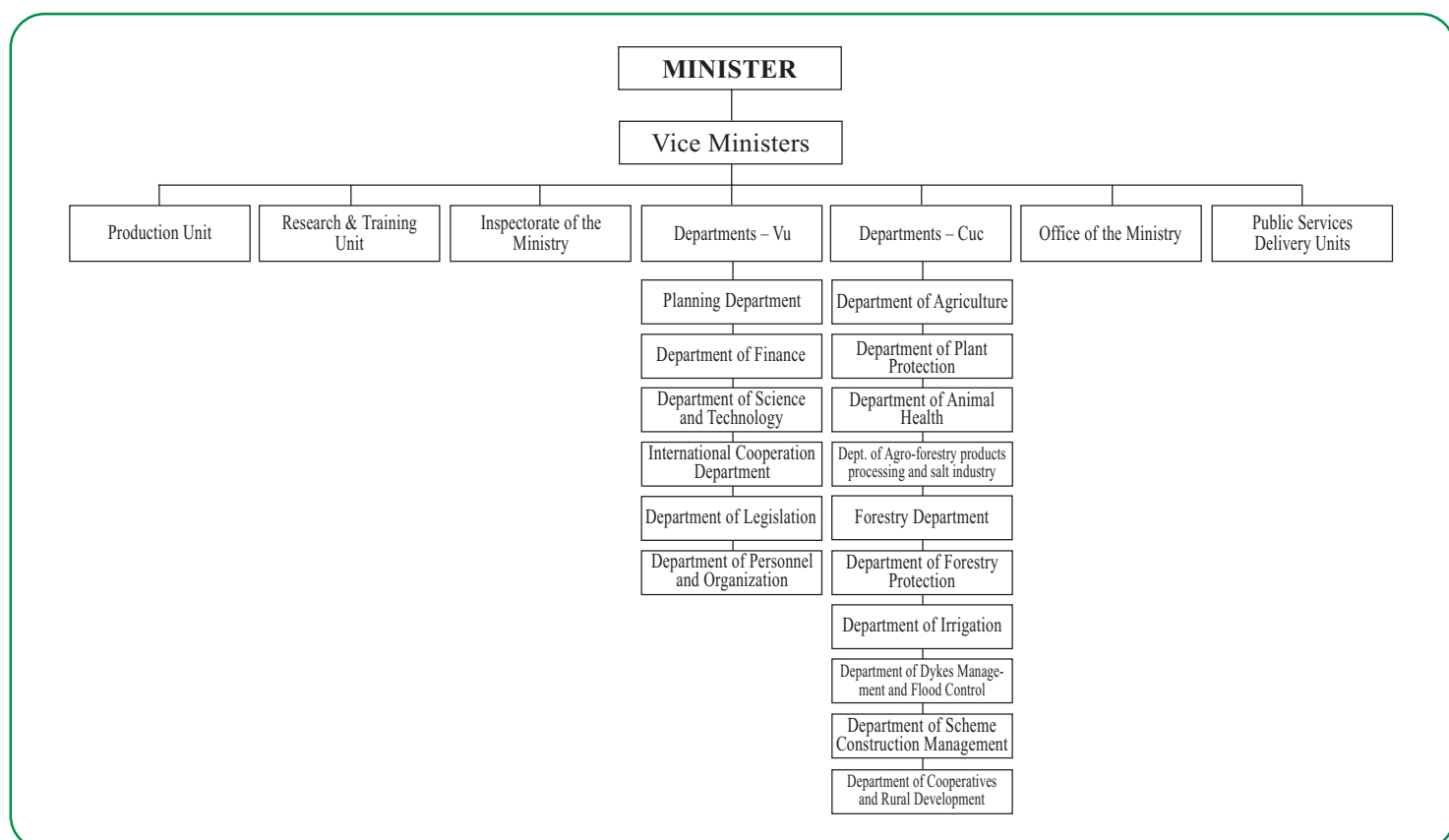
Continued on page 11 ➔

- d. Unify the management of extension works of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation and the development of rural careers.
10. Carry out management on state reservation of inputs materials, equipments being assigned by Government.
11. On science and technology:
 - a. Unify the management of the development of programs, plans, developed researches, new technology application in the domain of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation, water resources and rural development in accordance with legal documents;
 - b. Carry out state management over fauna and flora genes (including forestry animal and wide animal), microorganisms used in agriculture, forest, salt cultivation in accordance with legal documents;
 - c. Manage standards, quality of input materials and product of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation. Appraise quality of professional equipments and works under the domain of the ministry; and
 - d. Manage information of science and technology, professional intellectual property rights in the domain of the ministry in accordance with legal documents.
12. On trade promotion:
 - a. Coordinate with Trade Ministry in developing mechanisms, policy to develop market for agricultural, forestry and salt products to submit to Government, Prime Minister;
 - b. Coordinate with Trade Ministry in developing and forecasting the developed orientation of the market for agricultural, forestry and salt products; and
 - c. Unify the management of organizing exhibitions on agriculture, forest, salt cultivation in accordance with legal document.
13. Carry out international cooperation in the domain of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation, water resources and rural development in accordance with legal document.
14. Carry out specific tasks, authorities that under the representative right of state ownership in enterprises that have share of state capital in the domain of the ministry in accordance with legal documents.
15. On the public service activities:
 - a. Manage and direct activities carried out by public services agencies of the ministry; and
 - b. Carry out state management over organizations that provide public services in agriculture, forest, salt cultivation, water resources and rural development in accordance with legal documents.
16. Carry out state management over activities of associations and non-government organizations in the domain of the ministry in accordance with legal documents.
17. Inspectorate, supervise and deal with complains, denunciations, anti-corruption and bureaucracy and violation in domain of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation, water resources and rural development in accordance with legal documents.
18. Provide decision and direction to implement the PAR program of the ministry toward objectives and contents set out by state PAR program that approved by the Prime Minister.
19. Implement permanent tasks and duties of Central Standing Committee on Flood Control; tasks of protection and anti forest-fire, anti-desertification, Standing office of the Vietnam National Mekong Committee; authorities to control across-border trade of rare animal, National Program of Food Security in accordance with legal documents.
20. Manage its organization, staffs; provide direction on implement ting salary and other policies of treatment, reward, discipline to civil servants under management of the ministry; provide training, refreshing and development civil servant group in the domain of agriculture, forest, salt cultivation, water resources and rural development.
21. Manage finance, assigned assets and organize the implementation allocated budget in accordance with legal documents.

MARD organizational structure

Departments assisting Minister to carry out state management functions:

1. Planning Department
2. Finance Department
3. Science and Technology Department
4. International Co-operation Department
5. Legislation Department
6. Organization and Personnel Department
7. Agriculture Department
8. Plant Protection Department
9. Veterinary Department
10. Agro-forestry Products Processing and Salt Production Department
11. Forestry Department
12. Forest Protection Department
13. Water Resources Department
14. Dyke Management and Flood Control Department
15. Construction Management Department
16. Co-operative and Rural Development Department
17. Ministry's Inspection
18. Ministry's Office



MARD organizational structure

Public Service Agencies of the Ministry

1. Informatics Center
2. National Extension Center
3. Center for rural water supply and sanitation
4. Vietnam's Agriculture Newspaper
5. Agriculture and Rural Development Magazine

MARD contact address:

2 Ngoc Ha Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
 Tel: 84-4-8459670
 Fax: 84-4-7330752
 Email: icdmard@fpt.vn
 Websites: <http://www.mard.gov.vn>
<http://www.agroviet.gov.vn>
<http://www.isgmard.org.vn>



A New Executive Officer of Future Harvest Alliance Office

The Chair of the CGIAR Center Directors Committee recently announced Meryl J. Williams, previous Director General of WorldFish Center, as the Executive Officer of the new Future Harvest Alliance Office. Dr. William is taking on half time position at the request of the Center Directors Committee, from 1 May 2004.

Dr. William also continues to be involved in a number of other pursuits, including Chairing the FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research, and being a member of the Scientific

Committee of DIVERSITAS, the international Scientific Committee of the Census of Marine Life, and the Working Group to Promote a representative System of Marine Protected Areas in the High Seas.

Dr. Meryl J. Williams is an old associate of APAARI. We wish her all the success in her new assignment with CGIAR.



Inter-regional Workshop in Rome Defines a Global Agenda for Information and Communication Management (ICM) in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)

The GLOBAL.RAIS Project of GFAR

GLOBAL.RAIS (GLOBAL ALLIANCE of the Regional Agricultural Information Systems) is a project by GFAR, funded by the European Commission (EC), aiming at strengthening its information and communication system, EGFAR, and at improving the relationships of EGFAR with the Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) of the various Regional and Sub-Regional Fora (RF/SRF), members of the GFAR Steering Committee. As a global platform of communication for ARD, EGFAR therefore aims to promote cooperation in sharing and exchanging ARD information and knowledge internationally.

The main goal of the GLOBAL.RAIS project is to bring consistency at several levels – from the national to the regional and global – to achieve economies of scale and synergism to the Regional Agricultural Information Systems of:

- a. West Asia and North Africa (AARINENA-RAIS) managed by AARINENA;
- b. Asia-Pacific (APARIS);
- c. Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC-RAIS) managed by CACAARI;
- d. Sub-Saharan Africa (FARA-RAIS) managed by FARA and the 3 sub-regional organizations CORAF, ASARECA /RAIN and SADC;
- e. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-RAIS) managed by FORAGRO;
- f. Europe (EARD-InfoSys+) managed by EIARD.

To achieve the above goal, there must be compatibility across the systems to allow smooth sharing and exchange of data and information globally. Alongside compatibility, the principles of decentralization and subsidiary must be met to involve, proactively, all ARD stakeholders in order to let them gain from the newly emerging knowledge society.

Within this main goal and the values that accompany to achieve it are two main objectives:

- a. To build through partnerships with the various RF/SRF and GFAR, a strategic agenda in ICM related to ARD at regional and global level;
- b. To launch EGFAR as a gateway of gateways for ARD enhancing access to the RAIS web information resources.

GFAR has indeed no comparative advantage to manage information related to ARD. GFAR, however, has an important facilitating role to support all RAIS in the

design and management of their own information systems. GFAR therefore stresses compatibility and keeps, at the global level, the specific responsibility to launch, through EGFAR, a gateway function that would allow access to the web resources of the various RAIS. A global agreement with all stakeholders who share this vision has to be reached to bring about its operationalization. This entails setting priority, through participation of ARD stakeholders, of information related activities of the RAIS and, by adhering to the principal of decentralization and subsidiarity, also of the constituent NARS and ARD institutions' and organizations' information systems.

The formation of the GLOBAL.RAIS Webring, as one activity in operationalizing the GLOBAL.RAIS vision, will be a formal agreement between all the RAIS willing to share their information resources. The GLOBAL.RAIS Webring will have a multi-host database search engine allowing access to selected subset of web based information of the distributed RAIS information platforms. It will also allow access to the contents selected databases hosted by the RAIS websites. This implies that a high level of technical compatibility be achieved to make the Webring operational.

Regional Workshops on ICM in ARD

To build a strategic agenda in ICM related to ARD, GFAR, under the GLOBAL.RAIS project and through collaborative partnerships with individual RF, initiated a set of support missions and workshops in each region during 2003-2004. There were pre-consultations on web-boards organized by AARINENA through the EGFAR website, APAARI through APARIS website and FORAGRO through INFOTEC platform to discuss issues related to regional ARD information systems,



Continued on page 14 ➔

Inter-regional Workshop ...

which set the agenda for the regional workshops. The discussions considered:

- a. Information strategy of the RAIS;
- b. Critical issues the RAIS face;
- c. On-going projects and activities of the RAIS;
- d. Identification of crosscutting opportunities between RAIS.

Five regional workshops, one each by AARINENA, APAARI, CACAARI, FARA and FORAGRO were organized. In each workshop the participating NARS presented status papers on ICT use and ICM in their ARD institutions. In the FARA-RAIS workshop, the 3 sub-regional organizations, CORAF, ASARECA/RAIN and SADC, presented the status of ICT use and ICM in their respective sub-regions. APAARI Newsletters (June 2003 and December 2003 issues) carried brief proceedings of APAARI and AARINENA workshops. This year CACAARI, FARA and FORAGRO conducted similar workshops and APAARI representative presented the APARIS experience in the first two.

ICT Use and ICM in ARD in a Global Framework

The current status of organization of RAIS is illustrated in Table 1. The RAIS in the South are still in formation and at different stages of evolution. Most of these systems have issues of establishing their governance structures and in identifying their roles and activities in enabling improved agriculture related information flows and services within their region.

This inequity and heterogeneity among the various regions/sub-regions stems from various factors such as: national ICT policy issues, need for proper ICT models, technologies, human skills, and most importantly the resources available to various secretariats.

Towards a Global Agenda for ICM in ARD

Based on the above review of Status of ICT use and ICM in ARD, and the management capacity of the NARS and their RF/SRF, the issues to be considered for developing a global agenda for ICM in global ARD are: (i) Advocacy, (ii) Capacity Development and (iii) Establishment of a GLOBAL.RAIS Webring. GFAR organized an inter-regional workshop at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 10-11 June 2004. The 2-day workshop was attended by GFAR experts, several FAO Officers,

regional and sub-regional representatives including APAARI, and other international organizations. The following articulates the outcomes of this meeting:

- a. Shared vision on the main pillars of advocacy, capacity development and integration of information for a global agenda in ICT/ICM in ARD;
- b. Main objectives of each pillars well defined;
- c. Collaborative programs in ICT/ICM for ARD with next steps to strengthen the partnership process clearly articulated;
- d. Proposals for the organization and governance of the

RAIS/S-RAIS	Steering Committee/Task Force to guide further development	RAIS Secretariat with Staff	Website
AARINENA-RAIS	Yes	Under implementation	Yes
APARIS	Yes	Partially	Yes
CAC-RAIS	Under implementation	No	No, using AgroWeb
FARA-RAIS	Under implementation	Yes	Yes
ASARECA/RAIS	Yes	Yes	Yes
CORAF	Yes	Yes	Yes
SADC	Under implementation	Under implementation	Under implementation
INFOTEC	Yes	Yes	Yes
EARD-InfoSys+	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1: Organizational Status of RAIS

- e. Global Partnership Program (GPP) for ICT enabled information systems and services in ARD;
- e. Follow up mechanisms of the inter-regional workshop including a proposal for a drafting committee for the GPP.



The New Director General of WorldFish Center

Dr. Stephen Hall is appointed as the new Director General of WorldFish Center from 1 March 2004 replacing Dr. Meryl J. Williams who had been the DG of Worldfish Center for the last 10 years. APAARI congratulates Dr. Hall for his appointment and looks forward to continued cooperation with the WorldFish Center being an Associate Member of APAARI. Jointly they have established a regional network for fisheries research named as “GoFAR.”



APARIS Updates and Recent APAARI Success Stories

APAARI, in collaboration with GFAR, FAO, AIT and AFITA, is organizing a Training Program for National Agricultural Information Officers of Bhutan, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Mongolia and Vietnam, to be held from 3-13 August 2004 at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. The training is aimed at assisting these officers in developing a National Agricultural Information System (NAIS), which can be delivered through a web site. Initially, the APAARI web site (www.apaari.org) will host these NAIS. The NAIS will serve policy makers, researchers, extension and development professionals, and donors in the region. NARS of some countries of the region are not yet members of APAARI and hence been unable to benefit from three APAARI organized expert consultations during 2000-2003 on information and communication management (ICM) in agricultural research for development. These consultations have helped several member NARS of APAARI in defining and developing their NAIS.

Early this year APAARI published its 20th success story entitled “Lentil Improvement in Bangladesh.” Soon a CD containing all the 20 success stories and other important reports and publications of APAARI will be developed and distributed widely. Most APAARI publications are available at APAARI web site (www.apaari.org). However, the CD will be useful for those who lack internet connectivity. Interested individuals can write to APAARI (apaari@apaari.org) for copies of success stories or other APAARI publications.

APAARI will soon publish a benchmark report on the status of ICT in ARD in the Asia-Pacific region. The NINPs have made significant contributions in developing the first draft of this report. APAARI appreciates their cooperation.



Lentil Improvement in Bangladesh

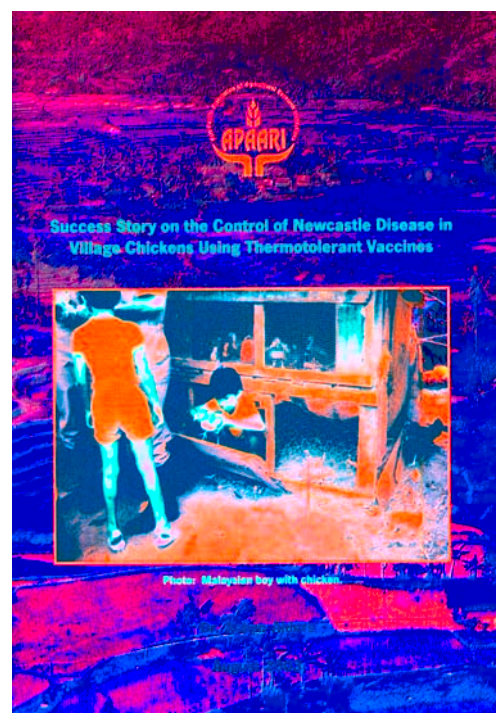
APAARI Publication 2004/1

Lentil research in Bangladesh did not end with technology development. A Government-funded Technology Transfer Pilot Project was put in place to ensure that new technology reaches the farmers. It should be appreciated that the leaders of the South Asian national programs have shown a keen interest in including lentil under the Cereals and Legume Asia Network (CLAN) operating from ICRISAT, India. With APAARI's proposition, and ICARDA's endorsement, lentil has now been included in CLAN portfolio. This means that its research and development activities will get a new momentum in South Asia. The success story, “Lentil Improvement in Bangladesh” is an example of a successful partnership between a national agricultural research system, ICARDA and other international centers/organizations.

Success Story on the Control of Newcastle Disease in Village Chickens Using Thermotolerant Vaccines

APAARI Publication 2003/1

This success story describes several vaccines and Newcastle Disease (ND) control programmes developed by ACIAR's collaborative research activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The case studies of the success story illustrate implementation of ND control procedures and their impact on rural livelihood in a variety of socio-economic conditions. Several useful information resources, conferences, training programmes, and agencies involved in ND control research are also listed for interested readers.



APAARI Publications

SUCCESS STORIES

Baby Corn Production in Thailand (1994/1) by Dr. Chamnan Chutkaew and Dr. R.S. Paroda

Tilapia Farming in the Philippines (1994/2) by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III

Hybrid Rice in China (1994/3) by Mr. Lou Xizhi and Dr. C.X. Mao

Dairying in India (1994/4) by Dr. R.P. Aneja

Hybrid Cotton in India (1995/1) by Dr. A.K. Basu and Dr. R.S. Paroda

Palm Oil Industry in Malaysia (1995/2) by Dr. Y.B. Basiron

Transformation in Korean Farming – A Success Story of Effective Linkages (1996/1) by Dr. Chae Yun Cho

Cotton Production in Pakistan (1996/2) by Dr. Badaruddin Soomro and Dr. Parvez Khaliq

Orchids in Thailand (1997/1) by Dr. Kanchit Thammasiri

Wheat Production in Iran (1997/2) by Dr. Abbas Keshavarz and Dr. M.J. Mirhadi

Agro-Tourism in Australia (1997/3) by Dr. Tom Connors

Direct Seeded Rice in Malaysia (1998/1) by Dr. Cheong Ah Wah

Groundnut in China (1998/2) by Dr. Duan Shufen, Dr. Hu Wenguang and Dr. Sui Qingwei

Oilseeds in India (1999/1) by Dr. Mangala Rai

Integrated Pest Management in Rice in Indonesia (1999/2) by Dr. Soejitno

Bivalve Mariculture in India (2000/1) by Dr. V.N. Pillai et al.

Farming of Carrageenophytes in the Philippines (2001/1) by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III

Resource Conserving Technologies: Transforming the Rice-Wheat Systems of the Indo-Gangetic Plains (2002/1) by Dr. Raj K. Gupta et al.

Success Story on Control of New Castle Disease in Village Chickens (2003/1) by Dr. Robyn Alders

Success Story on Lentil Improvement in Bangladesh (2004/1) by Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, et al.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System: Role of ICT in ARD, and the Seventh APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, 1-4 December 2003, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Proceedings – The Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Strengthening Research Partnerships Through Networks and Consortia, 2-4 December 2002, Penang, Malaysia.
- APAARI – A Decade of Progress, reprinted in 2001.
- APAARI Vision 2025.
- Proceedings – Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting for Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region and Sixth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI, 12-14 November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand.
- FAO-APAARI Expert Consultation on the Status of Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, 21-23 March 2002.
- Agricultural Research Priorities for Asia and the Pacific – A Synthesis
- ICT Expert Consultation on Development of Second Phase of APARIS, 24-25 October 2002.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

2nd INCANA Meeting

6-8 September 2004, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

4th International Crop Science Congress (4ICSC) in conjunction with the 5th Asian Crop Science Conference (5ACSC) and the 12th Australian Agronomy Conference (12AAC)

26 September – 1 October 2004, Brisbane, Australia

<http://www.cropscience2004.com/>

International Congress of Entomology 2004

15-21 August 2004, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

<http://www.ice2004.org>

18th International Conference of Plant Growth Substances

20-24 September 2004, Canberra, ACT, Australia

<http://www.conlog.au/ipgsa2004>

AFITA/WCCA2004: The 4th International Conference of the Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture and The 2nd World Congress on Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources

August 9-12, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

<http://www.afitaandwcca2004.net/>

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