

## People make partnerships

This edition of *Partners* celebrates some of the people working together within a small group of projects in recognition that without their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment the smallholders who are usually featured in these pages would lead lesser lives.

The success of the projects reported in this edition, as in all our project partnerships, is driven by the commitment of all of the people involved, both within and outside of ACIAR.

Since its inception in 1982 ACIAR has focused its operations on partnerships, linking Australian and developing-country scientists to deliver research to those in need of it. The effectiveness of ACIAR's partnership approach is borne out in the level of impacts generated, both to date and those estimated to occur into the future.

ACIAR's research generates practical solutions to agricultural constraints and works to deliver the resulting knowledge and technologies to smallholder farmers.

A recent independent analysis of 46 impact assessments undertaken for 120 ACIAR projects estimated a stream of benefits totalling \$31.6 billion. Of these benefits, \$29.4 billion flows to developing countries.

There are many reasons why our research approach is effective and successful. Research is targeted, based on the establishment of mutual priorities between partner countries and Australia, as reported on page 4.

The mechanism by which this is achieved is formal consultations with key stakeholders within partner-country research and agricultural institutions. ACIAR recently held a consultation in India, with future research to be focused through four clusters. The outcomes of that consultation inform ACIAR's Annual Operational Plans. How this approach is being deployed and the benefits of that approach are reported on page 6.

**A recent independent analysis of 46 impact assessments undertaken for 120 ACIAR projects estimated a stream of benefits totalling \$31.6 billion. Of these benefits, \$29.4 billion flows to developing countries.**

**There are many reasons why ACIAR's research approach is effective and successful. Research is targeted, based on the establishment of mutual priorities between partner countries and Australia.**

ACIAR supports postgraduate studies through a fellowship scheme for eligible developing-country scientists involved in its research projects. Emerging leaders, such as El Sotheyry from Cambodia, engaged in ACIAR-supported research are the focus of a second fellowship scheme, delivering management and leadership. El's story, together with that of Delia Catacutan, another dual fellow, is told on page 20.

Adapting knowledge that has been proven in Australian conditions to the needs of smallholders is a constant challenge within ACIAR projects. Often the success of such endeavours is the result of the passion of individuals working within the project. Jeff Esdaile is one such scientist. He devoted his working life to establishing conservation agriculture in Australia. Now he is sparking a similar revolution, albeit on a different scale in a number of developing countries, through adapting machinery to roll out conservation tillage in Bangladesh and elsewhere (see page 12).

Pakistan and India are two countries that have benefited from ACIAR work on conservation tillage, particularly in wheat cropping. Sharing resources such as germplasm is another component of successful work, in joint research between India and Australia, reported on page 9. And it is not germplasm alone that is shared. Australian horticultural and dairy expertise is being shared with Pakistan under an Australian Government initiative.

There are other factors that also influence the effectiveness of ACIAR projects. A common thread to each of these is the people involved. This edition is dedicated to all of them.

## This issue...

### Local priorities deliver results 4

ACIAR partnerships support Australian researchers to work with their overseas counterparts on issues of common concern. How our processes link Australian and developing-country scientists to smallholder farmers is the result of partnerships that adapt to changing circumstances.

### Water works 6

The crucial issue of water management in India is proving how ACIAR's cluster approach to research can tackle social and economic issues along with the science.

### Yesterday's aid recipient is today's R&D partner 9

As increasing demand for grain challenges drought- and flood-afflicted farmers worldwide, a partnership between India and Australia is allowing agricultural scientists to share germplasm, funds and breeding expertise to help farmers lift wheat productivity.

### Lifelong passion fuels productivity lift 12

Agronomic luminary Jeff Esdaile devoted his working life to establishing conservation agriculture in Australia. In retirement he is applying his ingenuity to revolutionise farming in developing countries.

### The farmer needs a market 14

Australian horticultural and livestock expertise is helping disadvantaged Pakistani smallholder farmers achieve higher productivity and profitability through a program that also endows Pakistan with a stronger agricultural research, development and extension sector.

### Sharing our citrus success with Bhutan 16

A group of citrus industry personnel from Bhutan recently toured Australian citrus industry operations to help direct improvements in their own industry.



**ACIAR**  
aciar.gov.au

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), aciar.gov.au  
GPO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from ACIAR,

Commonwealth Copyright Administration

Attorney-General's Department

Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

or posted at <http://ag.gov.au/cca>

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011

**PARTNER COUNTRIES**

**INDIA**, see pages 6–11

**PAKISTAN**, see page 14

**BHUTAN**, see page 16

**FIJI**, see page 18

**ASIA / PACIFIC**, see page 24

**Fijian papaya gets a boost** 18

Growth in exports of high-quality papaya from Fiji has the potential to raise the livelihood of smallholder farmers. Helping them achieve the necessary supply-chain innovation is an industry-led ACIAR initiative.



**Research grows from the seeds of fellowship** 20

Providing postgraduate opportunities to people living outside Australia has seen research knowledge spread and thrive across the developing world.

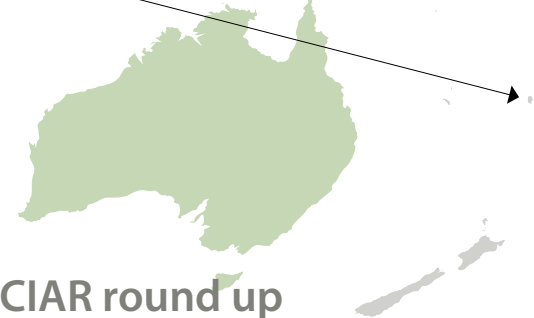
**Positive news for world's poor** 22

As president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Dr Kanayo Nwanze oversees the UN agency working to alleviate poverty and food insecurity among poor rural people. He met up with ACIAR while in Canberra to discuss a new IFAD report on progress to eliminate extreme rural poverty.



**Sea ranching shows promise** 24

The economic importance of sandfish to poor rural Asian communities triggered a collaborative, multinational research effort to advance breeding and rearing techniques when fish numbers started to decline dangerously.



**ACIAR round up**

**Lao researchers in Wagga Wagga** 27

**ACIAR Commission appointments** 27

**Helping Tibetans keep butter tea on the table** 28

**Farmers happy with increased rice yields in Sulawesi** 28

**Weather forecasts for Indian farmers** 28

**Cambodia builds first no-till seeder** 28

**Congratulations Norah** 29

**John Dillon Fellows visit Canberra** 29

**ACIAR what's new**

**New staff** 29

**Globetrotters** 29

**ACIAR Commissioners** 30

**New publications** 30

**New projects** 31

**Events** 31

**partners**  
IN RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



**Mixed Sources**  
Product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources  
www.fsc.org Cert no. SGS-COC-006660  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Partners in Research for Development is the flagship publication of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Partners presents articles that summarise results from ACIAR-sponsored research projects and puts ACIAR research initiatives into perspective. Technical inquiries will be passed on to the appropriate researchers for reply. Reprinting of articles, either whole or in part, is welcomed provided that the source is acknowledged.

This publication is freely available from ACIAR's website at <aciar.gov.au>. It is also freely available on request from ACIAR. The use of a trade name does not constitute any endorsement of, or discrimination against, any product by ACIAR.

ISSN 1031-1009

For further information contact:  
ACIAR Communications and Public Affairs, +61 2 6217 0500

Letters from readers are welcome, and should be addressed to:

The Editor  
Partners in Research for Development, ACIAR  
GPO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive editor: Alex Bagnara, ACIAR science communicator  
Email: comms@aciar.gov.au Photos: All photos ACIAR unless credited

Managing editor: Brad Collis, Coretext Pty Ltd, coretext.com.au  
Associate editor: Dr Gio Braidotti, Coretext Pty Ltd, coretext.com.au  
Design and Production: Coretext Pty Ltd, +61 3 9670 1168

