

Congratulations Norah

Sweetpotato farmers in Papua New Guinea will be pleased to learn of the recent graduation of Dr Norah Omot, who received a PhD from the University of Canberra.

Her studies, sponsored by ACIAR through a John Allwright Fellowship, identified weaknesses in the process of bringing the vegetables from production to market in PNG.

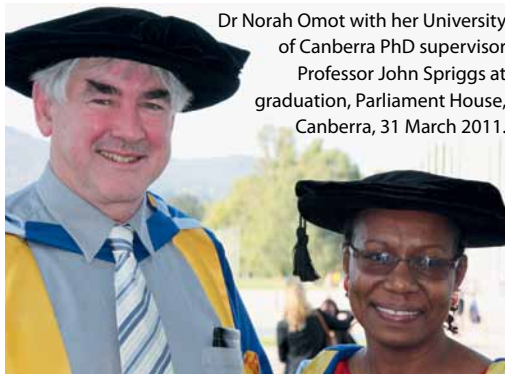
"In particular, I looked at what consumers want and whether suppliers are meeting their needs," Dr Omot said of her thesis, *Long-distance marketing of sweetpotato from the highlands of Papua New Guinea: an analysis of consumer preferences and supplier responsiveness*.

Dr Caroline Lemerle, ACIAR's research program manager for Agricultural Systems Management, recognised Dr Omot's

PhD as a valuable contribution to agricultural development in PNG.

"By identifying market orientation, Norah's thesis can assist sweetpotato smallholders with growing to demand and generating income for their families," she said. "Certainly it has the potential to form the basis for future research."

Dr Omot is now running the NARI program 'Enabling environment', which is identifying the socioeconomic barriers to sustainable agricultural development in PNG.



Dr Norah Omot with her University of Canberra PhD supervisor Professor John Spriggs at graduation, Parliament House, Canberra, 31 March 2011.

John Dillon Fellows visit Canberra

The Hon. Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, welcomed ACIAR's John Dillon Fellows to Parliament House as part of their study tour visit in March of this year.

The Parliamentary Secretary acknowledged the key role the John Dillon Fellows have in promoting and strengthening the partnerships that ACIAR fosters between Australian researchers and their colleagues in research institutions, in the private sector and beyond.



"Agricultural research is vital in the development process. It is the source of new technology, and production technology is the source of economic growth. As projects have produced new technologies it has become important to ensure clear strategies are available to facilitate the efficient development, transfer and application to intended users."

– JOHN DILLON

Payakun Satria (left) receives his certificate of achievement from the Hon. Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs.

NEW STAFF

David Shearer has been appointed as ACIAR's director corporate. Dave joined ACIAR in 2006 as Agribusiness research program manager and has acted in the role of director corporate since the departure of Lisa Wright. He is



experienced in delivering corporate objectives for a range of government agencies. He also brings a sound knowledge of ACIAR's operating environment, a broad understanding of the Australian Government's aid strategy and a strong understanding of agricultural development. These capabilities will assist in strategically positioning ACIAR during a time of rapid change in the aid program. Last year Dave received an Australian Development Council (ADC) Australian Leadership Award in recognition of his capabilities.

GLOBETROTTERS

ACIAR research program managers undertake a hefty travel schedule, with partner visits, project reviews and in-country consultations. We'll report on some of the highlights of trip visits in the next few issues of *Partners*.

In May, Debbie Templeton, ACIAR's Impact Assessment research program manager, travelled to Cambodia. She presented a 3 day workshop to 36 attendees representing four components of the New Policy Program Safeguarding Food Security in Rice-Based Farming Systems in the Mekong (CSE/2009/005 Improved rice germplasm for Cambodia and Australia; CSE/2009/037 Improved rice establishment and productivity in Cambodia and Australia; LWR/2009/046 Improved irrigation water management to increase rice productivity in Cambodia; and HORT/2009/064 Strengthening the Cambodian and Australian vegetable industries through adoption of improved production and postharvest practices).

ACIAR's principal adviser for strategy and policy, Simon Hearn, travelled to Jakarta in April. The purpose of the visit to Indonesia was to attend the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Board meeting. He provided a discussion paper to an IFPRI workshop covering climate change, price volatility and food security. The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (Indonesia). While in Jakarta, Simon also held bilateral discussions with project leaders covering two ADP projects: ADP/2005/066 Markets for high value commodities in Indonesia: promoting competitiveness and inclusiveness; and ADP/2005/068 Plausible futures for economic development and structural adjustment – impacts and policy implications for Indonesia and Australia.

In March, ACIAR's research program manager for Soil Management and Crop Nutrition, Gamini Keerthisinghe, travelled to Thailand to attend a project review workshop of SMCN/2007/215 Improving the reliability of rainfed, rice/livestock-based farming systems at Khon Kaen University. The overall aim of the project is to improve the reliability of achieving profitable returns at the household level from rice and cattle production in rainfed rice-based farming ecosystems in Mahasarakham province. Gamini also met with project proponents to discuss the formulation of a new regional project on rainfed lowland rice and livestock farming systems.

ACIAR COMMISSIONERS



Chair: Joanna Hewitt

With her depth of experience in international agricultural research—most recently on consultancy projects with the International Food Policy Research Institute, which is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research network—Ms Hewitt brings a lot to the Commission. Among her former appointments, Ms Hewitt was Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and has held several Deputy Secretary positions at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Holding a Masters in International Relations, she was a lead negotiator with the World Trade Organization. She is also a former member of the ACIAR Board of Management.



Commissioner: Professor Kym Anderson

Kym Anderson is a professor with the School of Economics at the University of Adelaide. He is also Foundation Executive Director of the university's Wine Economics Research Centre, and formerly held the same position with its Centre for International Economics Studies. He is on the Board of Trustees with the International Food Policy Research Institute and holds several other international board memberships in the fields of rural development and commodity economics.



Commissioner: Dr Conall O'Connell

Dr Conall O'Connell is the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and has held several positions with government agencies. These include the Department of Environment, Environment Australia and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He has completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

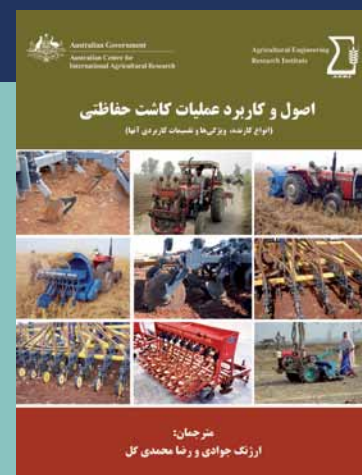
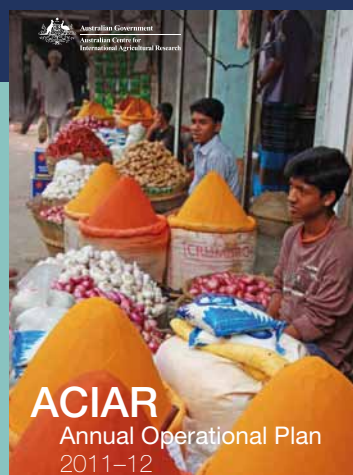


Reappointed Commissioner: David Crombie

Mr Crombie has more than 30 years commercial and representational experience in agriculture, including as managing director of major agricultural development and pastoral companies. He is Director of GRM International and a former President of the National Farmers Federation, as well as Chair of Meat and Livestock Australia and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Continuing Commissioners

Mr Peter Baxter, Director-General of AusAID; Dr Joanne Daly, member of the CSIRO Executive Management Council; and Dr Nick Austin, chief executive officer of ACIAR.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

CORPORATE PUBLICATIONS

ACIAR Annual Operational Plan 2011–12 *ACIAR's planned R&D priorities, corporate expenditures and key performance indicators for the year ahead, AOP 2011–12, 138 pp.*

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Hidden economies, future options: trade in non-timber forest products in eastern Indonesia *A.B. Cunningham, W. Ingram, W. Daos Kadati, J. Howe, S. Sujatmoko, R. Refli, J.V. Liem, A. Tari, T. Maruk, N. Robianto, A. Sinlae, Y. Ndun, I. Made Maduarta, D. Sulistyohardi and E. Koeslutat, TR77, 115 pp. \$42 (plus postage & handling)*

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Extending low-chill fruits in northern Thailand: an ACIAR–World Vision collaborative program *David N. Harris, IAS70, 52 pp. \$40 (plus postage & handling)*

The economic impact in Indonesia and Australia of investment in plantation forestry research, 1987–2009 *Bob Lindner, IAS71, 90 pp. \$55 (plus postage & handling)*

MONOGRAPHS

Planters and their components: types, attributes, functional requirements, classification and description [Persian translation] *J.R. Murray, J.N. Tullberg and B.B. Basnet [Persian translation by Arzhang Javadi and Reza Mohammadi Gol; translation reviewed by Mohammad Reza Daahij], MN121a, 221 pp.*

Integrated pest and disease management for sustainable cocoa production: a training manual for farmers and extension workers (2nd ed.) *John Konam, Yak Namaliu, Rosalie Daniel and David Guest, MN131(2nd ed.), 36 pp. \$9 (plus postage & handling)*

Jorani and the green vegetable bugs [Lao translation] *Bob Martin and Deborah White, MN137b, 48 pp.*

Beef production in crop–livestock systems: simple approaches for complex problems *W.H. Winter (ed.), MN145, 160 pp. \$57 (plus postage & handling)*

FINAL REPORTS (AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY)

ASIA

Applying wheat quality markers in India *Howard Eagles and Karen Cane, Final Report for project CIM/2010/014 <aciarc.gov.au/FR2011-06>*

Seeds of Life 2 *Harry Nesbitt, Final Report for project CIM/2003/014 <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-13>*

Realising genetic gains in Indonesian and Australian plantations through water and nutrient management *Daniel Mendham and Eko Hardiyanto, Final Report for project FST/2004/058 <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-07>*

Enhancing tree seedling supply via economic and policy changes in the Philippines nursery sector *John Herbohn, Final Report for project ASEM/2006/091*
<aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-08>

Oilseed brassica improvement in China, India and Australia *Phillip Salisbury and Allison Gurung, Final Report for project CIM/1999/072* <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-11>

Ensuring productivity and food security through sustainable control of wheat yellow rust in Asia *Ravi Prakash Singh, Colin Wellings, Kumarse Nazari and Amor Yahyaoui, Final Report for project CIM/2003/067* <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-12>

PNG AND PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Sustainable management of coffee green scales in Papua New Guinea *Sean Murphy, Alex Brook, Richard Shaw, Wendy Shaw and staff of the Research and Grower Services Division (R&GSD), PNG Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC), Final Report for project ASEM/2004/047* <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-05>

Assessment, management and marketing of goods and services from cutover native forests in Papua New Guinea *Julian Christian Fox, Rodney John Keenan, Final Report for project FST/2004/061* <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-10>

Accelerating economic development through engagement and development of local industry institutions in Pacific island countries *Brian Ramsay, Final Report for project ADP/2010/024* <aciarc.gov.au/publication/FR2011-09>

Identifying pilot sites and research methods for soil health research in the Pacific region *Dr Mike Smith, Dr Tony Pattison and Mr John Bagshaw, Final Report for project PC/2010/038,* <aciarc.gov.au/FR2011-03>

NEW PROJECTS

ASEM/2009/053	Developing agricultural policies for rice-based farming systems in Lao PDR and Cambodia
FST/2010/013	Developing markets and products for the Pacific island and PNG <i>Canarium</i> nut industry
FST/2009/051	Increasing productivity and profitability of Indonesian smallholder plantations
HORT/2010/011	Improving the sustainability of cocoa production in eastern Indonesia through integrated pest, disease and soil management in an effective extension and policy environment
LPS/2008/048	Sustainable livestock grazing systems on Chinese temperate grasslands

EVENTS

15–16 August 2011	Crawford Fund National Conference, Parliament House, Canberra, Australia < www.crawfordfund.org/conference/conf2011.html >
26–29 September 2011	14th International River Symposium, Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane, Australia < riversymposium.com >
26–29 September 2011	5th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (ACIAR-sponsored event) (This event is held in conjunction with the 3rd Farming Systems Design Conference) Brisbane Convention Centre, Australia < wcca2011.org >
30 September 2011	Indo-Australian Forum on Agricultural Research, Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane, Australia < aciarc.gov.au/IAAR-Forum >
April 2013	International Spiny Lobster Aquaculture Symposium Bali, Indonesia To express interest in attending, presenting, hosting or sponsoring, contact Clive Jones (clive.jones@deedi.qld.gov.au , telephone +61 7 4057 3782)

5th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture

Incorporating

3rd Farming Systems Design Conference

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Australia

26-29 SEPTEMBER 2011

Incorporating Landcare and proudly supported by foundation sponsors

Australian Government
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

GRDC
Grains Research & Development Corporation

www.wcca2011.org

ACIAR'S DISTRIBUTION POLICY

ACIAR provides complimentary copies of its publications to developing-country libraries, institutions, researchers and administrators with involvement in agriculture in developing countries in ACIAR's operating areas, and to scientists involved in ACIAR projects. For enquiries about complimentary copies, please contact ACIAR's Communications Unit, comms@aciarc.gov.au.

For other customers, please use our online ordering facility at <aciarc.gov.au> or direct enquiries to our distributors, National Mailing & Marketing, PO Box 7077, Canberra BC ACT 2610, Australia, phone +61 2 6269 1055, fax +61 2 6260 2770, aciarc@nationalmailing.com.au.

Copies of most publications are available as free downloads from the ACIAR website <aciarc.gov.au>.

ACIAR'S VISION

ACIAR looks to a world where poverty has been reduced and the livelihoods of many improved through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research.



The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) operates as part of Australia's international development cooperation program, with a mission to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. ACIAR commissions collaborative research between Australian and developing-country researchers in areas where Australia has special research competence. It also administers Australia's contribution to the International Agricultural Research Centres.

Back cover: Dr Chiranjeevi Tallapragada addresses farmers during the village meeting in Nemmani, India. In February 2011 CSIRO researchers Zvi Hochman and Christian Roth and their Indian colleagues Raji Reddy, Sreenivas (Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University) and Kosaraju Suresh (from the NGO Watershed Support Services and Activities Network) attended meetings in the villages in India to assess how farmers are adapting to climate challenges.

Front cover: A farmer from Nemmani village, India, checks for soil moisture. Water management projects in India that also encompass social, economic, regulatory and equity issues are helping vulnerable smallholder farmers.



ACIAR
aciar.gov.au