



Melanie Sim interviews a farmer (left) just outside of Hanoi, Vietnam, with the aid of a translator.

ACIAR and Crawford Fund sponsor ABC journalist

HANOI: As part of the launch of a new project in Vietnam, ACIAR and the Crawford Fund supported ABC rural journalist Melanie Sim to travel to Hanoi and report on Australian-funded research activities. On 7–8 May 2007 a workshop attended by the Vice-President of Vietnam, Mme Truong My Hoa, the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, His Excellency Mr Bill Tweddell, and other Vietnamese dignitaries was held to launch an ACIAR project aimed at enhancing the role of women in the production and use of indigenous vegetables.

The project was initiated by Mme Hoa and the Vietnamese Women's Union, a group with about 13 million members across Vietnam. Melanie was able to speak with Mme Khiet and Women's Union representatives about the challenges of farming in Vietnam, and the potential that indigenous vegetables offer women, particularly for

income generation. Melanie also accompanied ACIAR and project staff to several vegetable farms, markets and research stations in and around Hanoi.

Although Vietnamese vegetable farming is a far cry from Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley, where Melanie reports on Australian rural issues, she did see some similarities. "The cups of tea around the table might be different, green tea as opposed to a strong milky cuppa; the crops might be different, gac fruit as opposed to wheat or canola; and the hats are contrasting, conical hats instead of the wide-brimmed hat of Australia. But when it comes to being proud of what they do, how they do it, wanting to improve and wanting the best for their families, then it's all the same," Melanie says on her online blog.

Policy Advisory Council tours Victoria

CANBERRA: ACIAR's Policy Advisory Council recently toured rural Victoria as part of the annual council meeting in Australia. The program began in

Canberra with a formal Council meeting and a dinner with the Honourable Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Partner-country council members at the meeting included Dr Patricio Faylon (Philippines), Mr Jia Jingdun (China), Dr Nguyen Van Bo (Vietnam), Dr Achmad Suryana (Indonesia), Dr Mangala Rai (India) and Mr Brown Bai (Papua New Guinea).

The Council, which advises the Minister with regard to agricultural problems of developing countries and agricultural research programs and policies, provided input on country research priorities and

strategic issues for inclusion in the 2007–08 Annual Operational Plan.

The Council then travelled to Victoria, where they visited the Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer Unit and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to look at animal pest and disease research and development, and disease monitoring and emergency control.

Members also visited the Wimmera and Mallee regions and the irrigation area around Mildura, and met with Australian researchers, project leaders and innovative producers and producer groups. These included the Grains Innovation Park in Horsham, the Wimmera Catchment Association, the Birchip Cropping Group, and the Riverlink group.

Beer waste irresistible to fruit flies

HANOI: Fruit flies, the scourge of the Vietnamese fruit industry, are set to be more tightly controlled with the opening of a new commercial protein-bait facility at the An Think Brewery near Hanoi in May. A new technique for luring mature flies to an insecticide has been developed after six



Time for celebration: the launch of the new protein-bait facility at An Think Brewery in Hanoi, Vietnam.

years of research in Vietnam by Australian and Vietnamese scientists, using the yeast waste from beer production.

The pests can cause losses of up to 100% in peaches, rose-apples, dragon fruits, mangoes, lychees, persimmons, grapefruit, oranges and many other fruits and vegetables across Vietnam, reducing the income of already poor farmers.

The An Think Brewery facility is the second to produce fruit-fly bait from the yeast waste. The first facility, at the Foster's brewery in southern Vietnam, has been selling pesticide-laced protein baits since June 2006, but it cannot produce enough to meet the rising demand for the product in the north of the country. Using the protein baits as a control method for the fruit fly reduces the need for large-scale use of pesticide sprays, which can contaminate fruit and reduce their value.

At the facility launch His Excellency Mr Bill Tweddell, Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, said: "Vietnam's fruit farmers now have a new source of low-cost, safe, environmentally friendly product to control fruit fly, to increase fruit yields and fruit safety." It is hoped the increase in fruit yields and quality will contribute to income generation for poor farmers, in another step towards poverty alleviation in Vietnam.

First ACIAR graduate trainee gets a start

CANBERRA: ACIAR's first graduate trainee, Meredith Errington, joined ACIAR in February 2007 as part of the new graduate trainee program.

This program, established last year by ACIAR director

Mr Peter Core, awards one traineeship each year to a young Australian graduate as an opportunity to become exposed to international agricultural research within the broader context of Australia's aid program.

Meredith is working with ACIAR's research program managers, the Communications Unit and the director to receive on-the-job training in project development and monitoring, drafting and production of corporate documents, and the preparation of discussion papers on emerging issues relevant to ACIAR's planning.

Meredith completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Hons) in 2006 at the University of Sydney. Her Honours thesis was on cotton nutrition and the efficacy of foliar fertilisers. Her project results will be presented at the World Cotton Conference in Texas later this year. Next year, she plans to start a PhD on cotton physiology and internal distribution of nutrients.

Meredith said, "I hope to work in agricultural research and extension in developing countries in the future. Working at ACIAR for a year before further study was an excellent opportunity for me to have some experience in this area and to learn about research collaboration between Australia and developing countries."



Meredith Errington: ACIAR's first graduate trainee.

Order of Australia to Dr Tony Fischer

CANBERRA: One of ACIAR's recently retired program managers, Dr Tony Fischer, has been awarded an Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday 2007 Honours List.

Dr Fischer is widely acknowledged as one of the world's leading wheat scientists as well as one of the world's leading plant physiologists.

ACIAR director Mr Peter Core

congratulated Dr Fischer on his award. "Tony has had a career-long commitment to the application of agricultural science to improving food supply in developing countries over many years," he said.

"In his role at ACIAR, Tony used his extensive network to create linkages of people and ideas, which has led to much fruitful collaboration within our partner countries and Australia.

"Through his close connection with the International Wheat and Maize Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), he has also provided immense benefits to the Australian wheat industry and has promoted CIMMYT as the main supplier of germ plasm to the industry," Mr Core said.



Dr Tony Fischer

for the Cause of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The award recognised Ms Coleman's significant contribution to the collaboration between Vietnam and Australia on agricultural research for development under the auspices of ACIAR's program.

Misha joined ACIAR in June 2004 after having worked in

Cambodia and Vietnam in the non-government sector and with AusAID in Canberra and Bougainville. She left ACIAR in April 2007 to further her career by joining World Vision Australia in Melbourne as policy adviser to the

chief executive, the Reverend Tim Costello.

As ACIAR's manager in Vietnam, Misha was a proactive and enthusiastic supporter of ACIAR's work and an excellent ambassador for the Vietnam–Australia partnership in agricultural research. Examples include her excellent work in facilitating the commercialisation of the SOFRI–Foster's protein-bait product in South Vietnam and the formation of a joint stock company in Hanoi to construct a new protein-bait facility in the north.

Biofuels Conference

CANBERRA: The ATSE Crawford Fund's 2007 annual conference will be held on 15 August 2007 in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Canberra. This year's title is 'Biofuels, Energy and Agriculture—Powering Towards or Away from Food Security'. Free online registration and further information are available at www.crawfordfund.org, 03 9347 8328 or by emailing crawford@mira.net

Congratulations Misha

HANOI: In March 2007 the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) awarded Misha Coleman, then ACIAR's manager in Vietnam, the Government of Vietnam's Medal

PNG postgraduates pass with flying colours

LAE: Nine Papua New Guinean postgraduate students were awarded their Masters and Diploma degrees in agriculture at a ceremony held on 20 April 2007 at the University of Technology (Unitech) in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Under an ACIAR scholarship scheme, the students completed postgraduate coursework and research projects linked to ACIAR activities in PNG, ranging from DNA fingerprinting of cocoa diseases to developing new fish and pig feeds.

The three-year program is the first of its kind for ACIAR. Students in the Agriculture, Forestry and Applied Science departments at Unitech are provided with a stipend, research funding and administration costs, with assistance from senior University of Queensland staff. Twelve students



Standing proud: James Butubu, Brian Takaboy, Amos Topi Uriningi, Ronnie Datoana, Gure Tumae, Peter Amatus (not ACIAR-sponsored), Professor A. Halim, Dr Jacqui Wright, Nicholar Boas, Bandy Keponge Yombo and Densley Tapat at the April 2007 graduation ceremony at Unitech, PNG.

have graduated in the past two years, with six more set to don their robes next year. All nine graduates this year have found employment in PNG's agricultural sector and are working

with local organisations to improve food security and productivity in the region.

Amos Topi Uriningi, one of the recipients of the ACIAR scholarship,

said after graduation: "We are grateful to ACIAR for its support. I hope ACIAR will continue this endeavour for manpower development of PNG in the coming years."

John Dillon Fellows meet the Minister

CANBERRA: Seven new John Dillon Memorial Fellowship awardees toured Australia for five weeks in February and March 2007, visiting various host organisations, attending formal training in research management and visiting ACIAR in Canberra, where they also met the Honourable Alexander Downer MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The awardees include scientists from across Asia and the Pacific who are currently participating in, or have recently participated in, one of ACIAR's research projects and who are demonstrating potential as future research managers and leaders.



Their areas of expertise range from forestry management to water and agroclimatic research, areas in which training and resources from scientists in Australia could prove invaluable.

The aim of the John Dillon Fellowship is to provide developing-country scientists with an opportunity to extend their leadership and research

capability through exposure to Australian agricultural technologies and research institutions.

Indonesian priorities

JAKARTA: ACIAR senior staff, representatives from the Indonesian Government and representatives from research,

Ms Ismayanti, from Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, receives her John Dillon Memorial Fellowship Award from Minister Downer.

farming and extension agencies met in Jakarta in late February 2007 to discuss priorities for the collaborative agricultural research program between Indonesia and Australia. A shift in focus towards the development of integrated agribusinesses across a range of agricultural disciplines, rather than single-faceted production research, will be at the forefront of the newly developed set of research priorities.

These will be spread across seven key subprograms, emphasising animal health and production, crop protection, forestry, fisheries and agricultural policy research and will be used by ACIAR as a framework for development of research activities in Indonesia until 2011.

Farewell John Fryer



It is with great sadness that ACIAR records the passing of Dr John Fryer, Forestry Research Program

Manager from 1994 to 2004.

In his ACIAR role, John made a significant contribution to the development of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, he oversaw the continued development of eucalypts and acacias as major elements of plantation forestry, and the introduction of approaches to managing pests and diseases and improving utilisation of these species. ACIAR's contributions to the Asian eucalypt and acacia plantation programs, and the industries now based upon them, have been independently assessed as among ACIAR's most effective international development activities, and John was a major catalyst.

An affable man with an easygoing but effective manner, John made many friends among Australian and international partner agencies. He had a strong commitment to development and, at the time of his death, had almost completed a two-year period as a volunteer adviser to the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam. His achievements in mentoring young Vietnamese forest scientists were very evident and much appreciated.

John was a true gentleman, generous and patient. He will be greatly missed by the ACIAR community, by his many friends in Australian forestry, and internationally.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



ANNI SUGIONO

Anni Sugiono is ACIAR's new accountant, responsible for external reporting. She has a Masters of Accounting from the University of Melbourne and is currently enrolled in the CPA (certified practising accountant) program. She also has a certificate in information systems and is a Microsoft Certified Professional.

CATHY PIANGA



Cathy Pianga joins ACIAR from AusAID, where she was senior programs officer for rural development and private-sector growth, and managed the ACIAR-AusAID Record of Understanding. Cathy was instrumental in planning and design of the Agricultural Research and Development Support Facility (ARDSF), which is concerned with capacity building for agricultural research and development institutions in PNG and dissemination of demand-driven adaptable agricultural research products. Cathy hopes ARDSF will provide a cutting-edge link between ACIAR and AusAID.

Cathy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy and international relations, and a Postgraduate Diploma in economic policy analysis. She brings to ACIAR a wealth of knowledge and experience in the development sector of PNG, having worked with the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and the private sector, including Ok Tedi Mining Ltd.

GEOFF MORRIS

Geoff Morris replaces Misha Coleman as ACIAR country manager for Vietnam, based in Hanoi. Geoff has a combined Bachelor degree in Science and Forest Science from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of New England. Geoff has a wide range of experience in forest and land management, project coordination and community development. Geoff worked with Forestry Tasmania in strategic planning operations and district management roles. He also worked through the Australian Volunteers International program as a senior adviser to a Vietnamese Government research centre and non-government organisations in forestry research, forest management and community development.



MARA FAYLON

Ma. Rassel 'Mara' Faylon is ACIAR's new assistant country manager for the Philippines. She previously worked for the Philippines' Department of Science and Technology, where she gained vast experience in providing support services. Mara recently completed her Masters in Management from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, the same institution where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in biology.



NEW PROJECTS

- AH/2006/050 Control and characterisation of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains in poultry in Indonesia
- AH/2006/077 Identifying research priorities for the development of the beef industry in Cambodia and Lao PDR with special reference to animal health interventions
- AH/2006/155 Vaccine business development in Lao PDR
- AH/2006/163 Assessment of zoonotic diseases in Indonesia
- AH/2006/164 Future directions for animal health services in Indonesia
- ASEM/2005/124 Extension approaches to scaling out livestock production in northern Lao PDR
- ASEM/2006/023 Re-commercialisation of the PNG pyrethrum industry and improving harvested yields in Australia
- CP/2005/075 Integrated soil and crop management for rehabilitation of vegetable production in the tsunami-affected areas of NAD province, Indonesia
- CP/2006/063 Integrated pest management for Finschhafen disorder of oil palm in Papua New Guinea
- CP/2006/083 Effective phosphine fumigation—technology transfer
- CP/2006/084 Targeting crop protection research and development (R&D) towards social change amongst ethnic minority communities in central Vietnam
- CP/2006/113 Scoping study to review the role of women and assess constraints in the production of indigenous Vietnamese vegetables
- CP/2007/187 Technical support facility for commercialisation of protein-bait production in north Vietnam
- CP/2007/211 Scoping study to identify research and implementation issues related to management of the brown plant-hopper/virus problem in rice in Vietnam
- FST/2004/050 Value-adding to PNG agroforestry systems
- FST/2004/061 Assessment, management and marketing of goods and services from cutover native forests in Papua New Guinea
- FST/2005/100 Value-adding to Lao PDR plantation timber products
- FST/2005/177 Improving economic outcomes for smallholders growing teak in agroforestry systems in Indonesia
- FST/2006/118 Sandalwood inventory
- HORT/2005/142 Improving mandarin production in Bhutan and Australia through the implementation of on-farm best-management practices
- HORT/2005/160 Increasing citrus production in Pakistan and Australia through improved orchard management techniques
- HORT/2006/055 Developing the ornamentals industry in the Pacific: an opportunity for income generation
- HORT/2006/106 Screening and field trials of high-carotenoid sweet potatoes in Solomon Islands and PNG to improve human vitamin A status
- HORT/2006/108 The potential for tropical fruits production in Tonga—a feasibility and constraints analysis
- HORT/2006/111 Managing trade risks arising from the use of crop protection chemicals in horticultural crops in the Philippines and Australia
- HORT/2007/210 Detection surveys for mango seed and pulp weevils in Sarangani and Davao del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines
- LPS/2005/063 Improving the competitiveness of pig producers in an adjusting Vietnam market

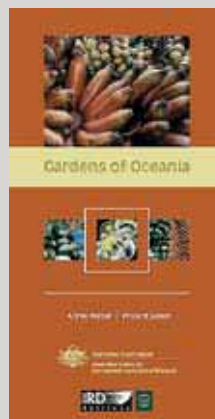
- LPS/2006/005 Evaluating strategies to improve calf survival in West Timor villages
- LWR/2005/146 Expanding the area for Rabi-season cropping in southern Bangladesh
- SMAR/2006/003 Integrating forage legumes into the maize cropping systems of West Timor
- SMAR/2007/013 Opportunities to use cocoa pods and forages to address feed gaps in the dry season in South-east Sulawesi
- SMAR/2007/197 Scoping horticulture projects in eastern Indonesia (passionfruit, cashews and tropical tree crops)
- SMAR/2007/200 Securing the profitability of the Toraja and Flores coffee industries
- SMCN/2006/013 Increasing food security and farmer livelihoods through enhanced legume cultivation in the central dry zone of Burma
- SMCN/2006/031 Analysis of nutritional constraints to cocoa production in PNG

NEW PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Guidelines for surveillance for plant pests in Asia and the Pacific [Indonesian translation]

This is the Indonesian translation of Monograph 119, a manual that aims to assist plant health scientists to devise surveillance programs and to transmit specimens to the laboratory for identification and preservation. *Teresa McMaugh, Indonesian translation by Andi Trisyono, 2007, ACIAR Monograph 119a, \$40.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

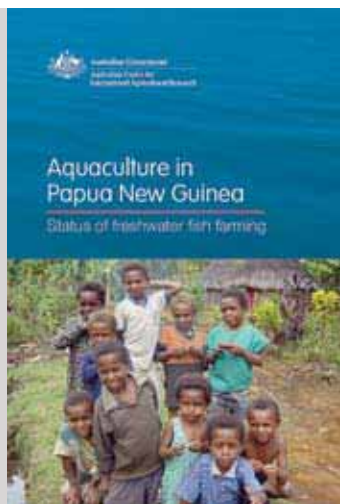


Gardens of Oceania

Gardens of Oceania summarises available knowledge about numerous food plants with commercial potential, in order to assure the development of an agriculture that can produce a sufficient amount to cope with formidable population growth while at the same time preserving the Vanuatu environment. It is an English translation from the French, originally published by IRD Éditions and CIRAD in 2003. *Annie Walter and Vincent Lebot, English translation by Paul Ferrar, 2007, ACIAR Monograph 122, \$50.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

Agricultural development and land policy in Vietnam [Vietnamese translation]

The main aims of the ACIAR project, which provided the information for this book, were to assess the impacts of the Vietnamese Government's new policies on agriculture and to provide economic models suitable for analysing policy reforms. *Sally P. Marsh, T. Gordon MacAuley and Pham Van Hung (eds), Vietnamese translation by Pham Van Hung, 2007, ACIAR Monograph 123a*



Aquaculture in Papua New Guinea: status of freshwater fish farming

This monograph summarises the results of an ACIAR project aimed to determine the status of inland aquaculture in PNG and prioritise the key researchable issues. It provides a comprehensive account of the history of aquaculture and fish stock enhancement programs in PNG, supported by a CD-ROM of 177 unpublished reports. *Paul T. Smith (ed.), 2007, ACIAR Monograph 125, \$40.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

Agricultural development and land policy in Vietnam: policy briefs

A bilingual (English and Vietnamese) version of Chapter 12 of *Agricultural development and land policy in Vietnam* (Monograph 123). These are the policy briefs developed through the ACIAR project 'Impacts of alternative policies on the agricultural sector in Vietnam'. *Sally P. Marsh, T. Gordon MacAulay and Pham Van Hung (eds), Vietnamese translation by P.V. Hung, 2007, ACIAR Monograph 126*

Postlarval fish capture and grow-out

This manual describes a new method for Pacific islanders to catch valuable fish and crustaceans for the aquarium trade. It explains the stages involved in setting up a 'capture and grow-out' operation and will help readers decide if this business is right for them and their community. *Cathy Hair, Regon Warren, Ambo Tewaki and Ronnie Posalo, illustrated by Kisi Mae, 2007, ACIAR Monograph 127, \$15.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*



TECHNICAL REPORTS

Towards improving profitability of teak in integrated smallholder farming systems in northern Laos

Occurring naturally in Laos, teak is one of the world's finest timbers. The high sustained demand for teak wood, coupled with significant shortages of supply from natural forests, has stimulated the development of plantations in many tropical countries. This study examined the socioeconomic and technical constraints to the incorporation of teak planting into farming systems in northern Laos. *Stephen Midgley, Michael Blyth, Khamphone Mounlamai, Dao Midgley and Alan Brown, 2007, ACIAR Technical Reports 64, \$27.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

A review of animal health research opportunities in Nusa Tenggara Timur and Nusa Tenggara Barat provinces, eastern Indonesia

This report was commissioned to identify possible research opportunities in animal health (production) in Indonesia, consistent with ACIAR's mandate to alleviate poverty with a focus on village smallholders. *Bruce M. Christie, 2007, ACIAR Technical Reports 65, \$20.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

Modelling minimum residue thresholds for soil conservation benefits in tropical, semi-arid cropping systems

A targeted modelling approach was taken to investigate the benefits of conservation agriculture in the semi-arid tropics. Farmers may find partial retention of residues an acceptable compromise, enabling them to maintain some use of residues for livestock and divert the balance to soil fertility management and erosion control. *M.E. Probert, 2007, ACIAR Technical Reports 66, \$18.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

WORKING PAPERS

Economics and market analysis of the live reef-fish trade in the Asia-Pacific region

Live reef-fish are a high-income food product in many Asian countries. However, supplies are currently threatened from overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices in a number of countries. A key challenge for the future is to identify management arrangements that would effectively constrain fishing efforts in many wild-caught fisheries and stamp out unsustainable practices. *Brian Johnston (ed.), 2007, Working Paper 63, \$45.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling)*

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SERIES

Impact assessment of capacity building and training: assessment framework and two case studies

Capacity building and training have long been recognised as an important component of most research-for-development activities. ACIAR and the ATSE Crawford Fund felt that it was time to undertake a detailed assessment of the options for more rigorously estimating the returns from capacity building and training. This assessment draws on literature and methodology reviews to suggest a framework for analysing the benefits of capacity building and training. This is illustrated through two case studies. *Jenny Gordon and Kevin Chadwick, 2007, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 44*

Development of sustainable eucalypt plantations in China: a review

The forestry sector in China is a major contributor to economic growth. The development of fast-growing, high-yielding plantations for wood production has made a significant contribution to this sector. This report documents the story of Chinese forestry development. *John W. Turnbull, 2007, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 45*

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