



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

John Allwright Alumni Association Newsletter - November 2006

ACIAR is maintaining linkages with all of the former students that we supported through the John Allwright (postgraduate) Fellowship program, and who have now returned to their home countries, through establishment of a “John Allwright Alumni Association”. Alumni keep involved with ACIAR in other ways. Some have a leadership role in projects. Others have been invited to assist in the delivery of short ACIAR-sponsored training courses in-country. In 2006, Alumni have been involved in assisting as tutors in a number of short training courses. JAF Alumni are also invited to in-country functions – including country consultations, training activities and impact assessment meetings, among other functions.

This is the third edition of the Newsletter for 2006.

In August, you should have received the following documents by airmail:

- Recent (2006) issues of ACIAR’s “Partners” Magazine;
- The new 2006/07 Annual Operational Plan;
- The current “ACIAR Country Profile” for your country or region; and
- The “ACIAR Publications Catalogue 2006”.

If for some reason you haven’t received these documents yet, and would like to do so, please email Sharon Harvey (harvey@aciarc.gov.au). Also, please don’t hesitate to contact our communications section if you would like hard copies of any of the publications listed in the catalogue. The ACIAR annual report for 2005/06 has also just been released. It is able to be downloaded from www.aciarc.gov.au, or alternatively you can request a printed copy.

What’s news ?

New JAF Alumni

Over that last 6-8 months, thirteen John Allwright fellows have successfully completed their postgraduate studies in Australia. Well done !

The Fellows and their thesis titles or subjects are:

- Ms Janet Pandi (Papua New Guinea) – Masters on “Insoluble non-starch polysaccharides in poultry diets”.
- Mr Joseph Lummani (Papua New Guinea) – Masters on “The influence of social factors on the economic efficiency of smallholder cocoa and coconut production in Papua New Guinea”.
- Mr Dwi Budi Santosa (Indonesia) – PhD on “Transaction cost and smallholders diversification in East Java Indonesia”.

- Mr Judhi Rachmat (Indonesia) – PhD on “Methodology for the development production of recombinant Jembrana disease virus vaccine using technology appropriate to Indonesia”.
- Mr Akhmad Mustafa (Indonesia) – PhD related to “Remediation and management of degraded earthen shrimp ponds in Indonesia and Australia”.
- Mr Nestor Gregorio (Philippines) - PhD on “The role of nurseries in the promotion of small-scale forestry in Leyte, Philippines”.
- Mr Dao Ngoc Quang (Vietnam) – Masters on “Research methods of ecology on Hypsipyla and other forest insect pests, control and identification”.
- Mr Vu Anh Tuan (Vietnam) – PhD on “Improving formulated diets on grow-out phase for mud crab *Scylla serrata* in Australia and Vietnam”.
- Ms Manda Asalatha (India) – PhD on “Physiological mechanisms that contribute to drought tolerance in peanut and their relationship with aflatoxin resistance”.
- Mr Bhagirath Chauhan (India) – PhD on “Innovative management strategies for the control of resistant weeds of wheat in India and Australia”.
- Mr Muhammed Raisheed Saif-Ur (Pakistan) – PhD on “Gemini virus tissue targeting signals in Tomato leaf curl virus”.
- Ms Kazi Akter (Bangladesh) – PhD on “Arsenic contamination of groundwater”.
- Mr Kangana Bandara (Sri Lanka) – PhD on “Genetic improvement of *Eucalyptus grandis* to increase the solid wood product value”.

New John Allwright Fellows come to town

A training workshop for 16 John Allwright Fellows, most of whom started their studies this year, was held at ACIAR from 16-20 October 2006. This was a most impressive group of people who presented competently and confidently to ACIAR staff on the last day of the visit following a three-day scientific writing training workshop. The program also included a session on writing a thesis, a visit to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a presentation from AusAID, and sessions with ACIAR senior staff on evaluating research projects and applying for research funding.

More new John Allwright Fellow awardees !

The Training Committee met in early September 2006 to consider the second round of applications for John Allwright Fellowships for the 2007 academic year. From a large field of high quality applications, the committee selected 33 candidates (10 women and 23 men) from 11 countries, who were offered a scholarship depending on meeting the English language requirement for study at Australian universities. A further three have been shortlisted.

The successful candidates are shown in the Table below. If you know the awardees personally, please do make efforts to get in contact with them:

| Name | Sex | Country | ACIAR Project | University | Degree |
|------------------------|-----|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|---------|
| South East Asia | | | | | |
| Bugi Sumirat | M | Indonesia | FST/2003/025 - Community partnerships for plantation forestry: enhancing rural incomes from forestry in eastern Indonesia and Australia | Charles Sturt University | Masters |
| Daryono Prehaten | M | Indonesia | FST/2004/058 - Realising genetic gains in Indonesian and Australian plantations through water and nutrient management | University of Western Australia | Masters |
| Ani Adiwinata | F | Indonesia | FST/2005/177 - Improving economic outcomes for smallholders growing teak in agroforestry systems in Indonesia | Australian National University | PhD |
| Yohanis Ngongo | M | Indonesia | LPS/2006/003 - Integrating forage legumes into the maize cropping systems of West Timor | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Prastyono | M | Indonesia | FST/2000/016 - Breeding to enhance productivity of plantations of melaleucas for essential oil production in Indonesia | Southern Cross University | Masters |
| Lukas Wibowo | M | Indonesia | FST/2003/025 - Community partnerships for plantation forestry: enhancing rural incomes from forestry in eastern Indonesia and Australia | Charles Sturt University | PhD |
| Mochamat Wibisono | M | Indonesia | FST/2004/058 - Realising genetic gains in Indonesian and Australian plantations through water and nutrient management | University of Western Australia | PhD |
| Do Huu Hoang | M | Vietnam | FIS/2001/058 - Sustainable tropical spiny lobster aquaculture in Vietnam and Australia | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Le Son | M | Vietnam | FST/1999/095 - Improving the value chain for plantation-grown eucalypt sawn wood in China, Vietnam and Australia: Genetics and silviculture | Southern Cross University | Masters |
| Tran Thi Thanh Nhan | F | Vietnam | ADP/2001/066 - Strengthening agricultural market information activities in Vietnam | University of Western Australia | Masters |
| Bui Thi Lien Ha | F | Vietnam | FIS/2003/003 - Stock structure of two important Mekong River carp species | Queensland University of Technology | Masters |
| Tran Dang Dung | M | Vietnam | LWR/2002/073 - Efficient nutrient use in rice production in Vietnam achieved using inoculant biofertilisers | University of Sydney | Masters |

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|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Nguyen Dien | M | Vietnam | FIS/2003/003 - Stock structure of two important Mekong River carp species | Queensland University of Technology | Masters |
| Nguyen Quang Chon | M | Vietnam | LWR/2002/085 - Utilising basic soil data for the sustainable management of upland soils in Vietnam and Australia | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Nguyen Dat Thuan | M | Vietnam | CIM/1995/130 - Soybean variety adaptation and improvement in Vietnam and Australia | James Cook University | Masters |
| Somvang Phimmavong | M | Laos | FST/2005/100 - Value adding to Lao PDR plantation timber products | University of Melbourne | PhD |
| Sorn San | M | Cambodia | AH/2006/025 - Improved risk assessment for trans-boundary disease in Laos and Cambodia | Murdoch University | PhD |
| Dinah Loculan | F | Philippines | LPS/1998/025 - Performance evaluation and genetic improvement of ruminant animals in the Philippines | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Papua New Guinea and Pacific | | | | | |
| Annastasia Kawi | F | Papua New Guinea | CP/2002/013 - Biology, damage levels and control of red-banded mango caterpillar in Papua New Guinea and Australia | University of Queensland | Masters |
| Cossey Yosi | M | Papua New Guinea | FST/2004/061 - Assessment, management and marketing of goods and services from cutover native forests in Papua New Guinea | University of Melbourne | PhD |
| Gou Rauka | F | Papua New Guinea | CP/1996/140 - Biological threats to Saccharum germplasm and sugar production in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Australia | University of Queensland | Masters |
| Nalish Sam | M | Papua New Guinea | FST/2004/009 - Facilitating the availability and use of improved germplasm for forestry and agroforestry in Papua New Guinea | Australian National University | PhD |
| Sim Sar | M | Papua New Guinea | HORT/2005/134 - The use of pathogen tested planting materials to improve sustainable sweet potato production in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Tom Okpul | M | Papua New Guinea | CP/2004/071 - Reducing pest and disease impact on yield in selected PNG sweet potato production systems | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Terence Titilulu | M | Solomon Islands | FST/2003/049 - Review of portable sawmills in the Pacific: Identifying the factors for success | Australian National University | Masters |

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|------------------------|---|--------------|---|---------------------------|---------|
| Apaitia Macanawi | M | Fiji | CP/2004/064 - Biological control of "mile-a-minute" (<i>Mikania micrantha</i>) in Papua New Guinea and Fiji | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Mereia Fong-Lomavatu | F | Fiji | HORT/2004/049 - Improved farming systems for managing soil-borne pathogens of ginger in Fiji and Australia | University of Queensland | Masters |
| Salend Kumar | M | Fiji | SFS/2005/140 - Participatory needs assessment for capacity building in extension (Pacific Islands) | University of Queensland | PhD |
| Semi Dranibaka | M | Fiji | FST/2004/054 - Improving value and marketability of coconut wood | Southern Cross University | Masters |
| South Asia | | | | | |
| Navneet Brar | F | India | SMCN/2000/089 - Permanent beds for irrigated rice-wheat and alternative cropping systems in north-west India and south-east Australia | Charles Sturt University | PhD |
| North Asia | | | | | |
| Lan Jun | M | China | FST/1999/095 - Improving the value chain for plantation-grown eucalypt sawn wood in China, Vietnam and Australia: Genetics and silviculture | Southern Cross University | Masters |
| Xiangba Zhou Ga | F | China | LPS/2002/104 - Increasing milk production from cattle in Tibet | Charles Sturt University | Masters |
| Southern Africa | | | | | |
| Rebinah Sasa | F | South Africa | LPS/2002/081 - Development of emerging farmer crop-livestock systems in northern RSA | University of Adelaide | Masters |

In late January 2007, we will be calling for the round of nominations for John Allwright Fellowships to commence in 2008. Applications are welcome from participants in both bilateral and multilateral (IARC) projects. An updated copy of the Fellowship guidelines and application form is available from Sharon Harvey (harvey@aciarc.gov.au). Please bring this opportunity to the attention of people working on ACIAR projects and may be interested in postgraduate study in Australia. Applications must reach us before 31 March 2007.

2007 John Dillon Fellowship awardees

The Training Committee met in August to consider the 43 applications (from 13 women and 30 men from 13 countries) for the John Dillon Memorial Fellowships for 2007. Many were

of high quality with a strong focus on research management and a well planned proposed visit schedule. We selected six younger scientists who would benefit greatly from the program. These six, together with two candidates who deferred from 2005 (Ms Ismayanti, Indonesia and Mr Fontes, East Timor), will visit Australia during February/March 2007.

The six awardees representing six countries are:

- I Gusti Made Kusnarta, University of Mataram, Indonesia
- Michael Poesi, PNG Forest Research Institute, Lae, Papua New Guinea
- Madonna Casimero, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Nueva Ecija, Philippines
- Khamouane Khamphoukeo, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Vientiane, Laos
- Nguyen Xuan Ba, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue, Vietnam
- Jeff Mkhari, Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Polokwane, Republic of South Africa

A program is currently being developed for the eight awardees and will commence with the leadership course held at Mt Eliza Centre for Executive Education, with further formal training at Melbourne Business School on defining research project deliverables and research commercialisation. An ACIAR visit will be planned to coincide with an In-House Review and a meeting with Minister Downer.

New Research Program Managers and a new Research Program at ACIAR

The ACIAR **Agribusiness** program has been created in recognition of the increasing importance of partnerships between public and private research providers and the involvement of the private sector more generally in delivering economic growth derived from the agricultural sector in developing countries and Australia. The goal of the Agribusiness program is to provide improved access for farmers and agribusiness to new knowledge underpinning the production and marketing of agricultural outputs at higher levels of productivity and quality. The Agribusiness program will have projects that address the full supply chain for agricultural commodities, including production, postharvest processing and marketing issues. **Mr David Shearer** commenced in the position in mid-November. He has a Bachelors Degree in agriculture, a Masters degree in horticulture and is completing a Masters degree in management. His previous position was Manager, International Market Development for the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. Prior to this, he was an extension horticulturalist with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and with NSW Agriculture.

Dr Paul Fox has been selected to the position of RPM, **Crop Improvement and Management**, and will commence in early January 2007. He has a BAgrSc (Hons) and PhD from the University of Adelaide in plant breeding. He has worked both in the private sector and at CIMMYT for many years.

Dr Ian Willett (Land and Water Resources, LWR) plans to retire in early 2007. Following on from the recent RPM recruitment exercise, **Dr Christian Roth** has agreed to move to the LWR position after Ian's retirement. We have appointed **Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe** to the position of RPM, Soil Management and Crop Nutrition and he will commence in mid-January 2007. Gamini, born in Sri Lanka and trained in Germany, is an Australian citizen and between 1989 and 1997 he worked in Canberra at CSIRO Plant Industry. Since that time

he has been at FAO in a senior role at their Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Earlier he worked in Sri Lanka, Germany and the USA and at IRRI. Project changes will be limited. Christian Roth will retain responsibility for South Asia and upon Ian Willett's retirement, Dr Roth will take over responsibility for LWR projects in China. The "new" SMCN program will include current SMCN projects in PNG and Burma and LWR projects in Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Planning workshops in Indonesia

In the July newsletter we mentioned that ACIAR was managing a major new program "Support for market-driven adaptive research" as part of a an Indonesian Government AusAID/ WorldBank/ International Finance Corporation "Smallholder Agribusiness Development Initiative" in four provinces of Eastern Indonesia.

By the end of 2006 there will be six Indonesia-based staff for the ACIAR SMAR Subprogram. The two expatriate positions are **Dr Peter Horne** (Subprogram Manager, Makassar-based) and **Dr Robert Caudwell** (Institutional Development Adviser, Bogor Based). **Dr Luthfi Fatah** has been appointed to the Research Management position in Makassar. Luthfi has a PhD in agricultural economics from Adelaide University and is currently a lecturer at Lambung Mangkurat University in Banjarbaru, Kalimantan, and has several years' research and research management experience in agribusiness and development planning. As well as working in the University sector he has worked in NGOs, for donor programs and in government policy roles. **Dr Saediman Mboe** has been appointed to the (national) Institutional Development Advisor position based in Bogor. He is currently a lecturer in agribusiness at Haluoleo University in Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi. He has a Masters and PhD in agricultural economics from Japan, and has worked as a researcher and program manager for a number of Indonesian government and donor programs in agriculture, agricultural marketing, socioeconomics and rural development.

The largest part of the ACIAR-managed SMAR Subprogram involves support of adaptive R&D projects in each of the four target provinces. A key part of the program design involves the conduct of workshops to assist in research priority setting in each province. Workshops involving 60-70 stakeholders each were organized jointly with Indonesian counterparts and held in NTT (Kupang, 2-3 November), NTB (Mataram, 6-7 November), Southeast Sulawesi (Kendari, 16-17 November) and South Sulawesi provinces (Makassar, 20-21 November). Indonesian participants included Provincial Government (the provincial planning authority policy as well as line departments in a agriculture, horticulture, estate crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries), assessment institutes for agricultural technology and other central government agencies based in the provinces, Universities, industry, key industry bodies and farmer groups and NGOs.

In-country training courses

In December 2006, Stephanie Bennett will take over the administration of "cross-program" training activities from Cherree Webeck, who will move to the Director's Executive Assistant position. Those of you who are foresters will already know Stephanie, as she has worked with ACIAR since 2005 as Program Assistant in the Forestry program.

Recent training courses organised or supported by ACIAR include:

- Application of Participatory Research and Extension (at IRRI, Philippines) for project scientists from India, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos and Cambodia
- Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Research for Development (at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Philippines) for participants from PNG, Vietnam, Indonesia and Pakistan
- Research and Development Project Management and Commercialisation (Philippines)
- Writing scientific papers in English (Indonesia)

Courses currently under design for implementation over the next few months include:

- Leadership course for Asian women in agriculture R&D and extension to be held in the Philippines (November 2006) for project staff from several countries
- Experimental design, data analysis and interpretation to be held in Laos (December 2006) and Cambodia (February 2007)
- Financial and economic research methods for natural resource managers to be held in the Philippines (January 2007) for project staff from several countries

Please feel free to contact Stephanie on bennett@aciarc.gov.au for further information.

New projects under development at ACIAR

The following projects are under development at ACIAR, with planned start dates in 2007. If you would like to learn more about individual projects, please contact the relevant ACIAR Research Program Manager (see www.aciarc.gov.au). (An SRA is a “small research activity”, often a scoping study).

| | Papua New Guinea and the Pacific | |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| ASEM/2006/023 | Re-commercialisation of the PNG pyrethrum industry and improving harvested yields in Australia | PNG |
| ASEM/2006/035 | Improving marketing efficiency and post harvest handling of sweet potatoes in PNG | PNG |
| CP/2006/063 | Integrated pest management for Finschhafen disorder of oil palm in Papua New Guinea | PNG |
| CP/2006/065 | Integrated pest management of pest coconut beetles in Papua New Guinea | PNG |
| FIS/2002/110 | A whole of supply chain approach to the management of the PNG sea cucumber fishery | PNG |
| FST/2004/050 | Value-adding to PNG agroforestry systems | PNG |
| FST/2004/061 | Assessment, management and marketing of goods and services from cutover native forests in Papua New Guinea | PNG |
| FST/2006/088 | Promoting diverse fuelwood production systems in PNG | PNG |
| FST/2006/048 | Improved processing, storage and packaging of Canarium nuts | PNG Solomon Islands |
| LPS/2005/094 | Improving the profitability of village broiler production in PNG | PNG |
| SMCN/2004/067 | Management of soil fertility in sweet potato based cropping | PNG |

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| | systems of the PNG Highlands | |
| HORT/2005/077 | Integrated crop management package for sustainable smallholder gardens in the Solomon Islands | Solomon Islands |
| HORT/2005/134 | The use of pathogen tested planting materials to improve sustainable sweet potato production in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea | PNG Solomon Islands |
| FIS/2003/059 | Sea ranching and restocking sandfish in Asia-Pacific | Philippines Pacific |
| FST/2004/054 | Improving value and marketability of coconut wood | Fiji Vanuatu |
| PLIA/2005/150 | A review of the policy and economic environment in the South Pacific and implications for the adoption of ACIAR project outcomes: a scoping study (SRA) | Pacific |
| SFS/2004/030 | Control of Asian honeybees in the Solomon Islands | Solomon Islands |
| | South East Asia | |
| AH/2004/020 | The development of a national surveillance system for classical swine fever, avian influenza, and foot and mouth disease in Indonesia | Indonesia |
| AH/2006/050 | Control and characterisation of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains in poultry in Indonesia | Indonesia |
| CP/2005/074 | Improving cocoa production through farmer involvement in demonstration trials of potentially superior and pest/disease resistant genotypes and integrated management practices | Indonesia |
| FIS/2005/169 | Improving productivity and profitability of smallholder shrimp aquaculture and related agribusiness in Indonesia | Indonesia |
| FST/2005/177 | Improving economic outcomes for smallholders growing teak in agroforestry systems in Indonesia | Indonesia |
| LPS/2006/003 | Integrating forage legumes into the maize cropping systems of West Timor | Indonesia |
| LPS/2006/005 | Evaluating strategies to improve calf survival in West Timor villages | Indonesia |
| FST/2006/011 | Evaluation of non-timber forest product species as potential elements of agroforestry systems in West Timor farming communities | Indonesia |
| ASEM/2006/091 | An industry organisation model for delivering tree seedlings to smallholders in the Philippines | Philippines |
| FIS/2005/172 | Beche de Mer development in the Philippines (SRA) | Philippines |
| FIS/2003/059 | Sea ranching and restocking sandfish in Asia-Pacific | Philippines Pacific |
| HORT/2006/006 | Development of an embryo culture manual and an embryo transplantation technique for coconut germplasm movement and seedling production of elite coconut types (SRA) | Philippines |
| LWR/2004/078 | Evaluation and adoption of improved farming practices on soil and water resources, Bohol Island, the Philippines | Philippines |
| LWR/2005/060 | Sustaining livelihoods and the environment in upland Mindanao through irrigated horticulture | Philippines |
| ADP/2005/063 | Successful smallholder pig producers in an adjusting Vietnam market | Vietnam |
| CP/2006/066 | Improving productivity and fruit quality of sweet persimmon in Vietnam and Australia | Vietnam |

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| LWR/2003/035 | Improving the utilisation of water and soil resources for tree crop production in coastal areas of Vietnam and New South Wales | Vietnam |
| PLIA/2006/012 | Livestock health and vaccines in Cambodia and Laos: scoping study and economic assessment (SRA) | Cambodia Laos |
| CIM/2006/040 | Crop diversification in lowland rice cropping areas in Cambodia | Cambodia |
| AH/2006/025 | Improved risk assessment for transboundary disease in Laos and Cambodia | Laos |
| ASEM/2005/124 | Extension approaches to scaling out livestock production in northern Lao PDR | Laos |
| ASEM/2006/060 | Lao Agricultural Research Fund (LARF) | Laos |
| CIM/2006/041 | Crop intensification and yield improvement in lowland rice cropping areas in Lao PDR | Laos |
| FIS/2005/078 | Culture based fisheries development in Lao PDR | Laos |
| FST/2005/100 | Value adding to Lao PDR plantation timber products | Laos |
| AH/2005/084 | Improved supply and quality of livestock vaccines in Laos (SRA) | Laos |
| SMCN/2006/013 | Increasing food security and farmer livelihoods through enhanced legume cultivation in the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar | Myanmar |
| | South Asia | |
| PLIA/2006/180 | Happy Seeder policy linkage scoping study (SRA) | India |
| HORT/2005/153 | Development of integrated crop management practices to increase sustainable yield and quality of mangoes in Pakistan and Australia | Pakistan |
| HORT/2005/157 | Optimising mango supply chains for more profitable horticultural agri-enterprises in Pakistan and Australia | Pakistan |
| HORT/2005/160 | Increasing citrus productivity in Pakistan and Australia through improved orchard management techniques | Pakistan |
| SMCN/2005/001 | Addressing constraints to pulses in cereals-based cropping systems, with particular reference to poverty alleviation in north-western Bangladesh | Bangladesh |
| SMCN/2005/146 | Expanding the area for Rabi-season cropping in southern Bangladesh | Bangladesh |
| HORT/2005/142 | Improving mandarin production in Bhutan and Australia through the implementation of on-farm best management practices | Bhutan |
| | North Asia | |
| LPS/2005/129 | Mineral response in Tibetan livestock | China |
| PLIA/2005/152 | Australia-China linkage for improved rice cold tolerance | China |

Do we have your contact details correct ?

If not, please contact Sharon Harvey, email harvey@aci.gov.au fax +61 2 6217 0501