



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

John Allwright and John Dillon Fellowship Alumni Association Newsletter – November 2008

Welcome to the third and final edition of the John Allwright Alumni Association Newsletter for 2008. Through this newsletter, 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. There are also an increasing number of former participants in the John Dillon (research management) program, and we also include them on this newsletter mailing list.

Alumni keep involved with ACIAR in other ways. Some have a leadership role in projects while others have been invited to assist in the delivery of short ACIAR-sponsored training courses. 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.

John Allwright Fellowship Follow-up survey

In the mid-year edition of the Newsletter we mentioned that you would be contacted regarding a follow-up survey of JAF Alumni. Thanks for the time that each of you took in completing the survey. The survey evaluated the impact of the JAF scheme on the awardees and their institutions in terms of employment, career paths, and the impact of the JAFs on the research institutions to which the JAFs return (the main rationale for the JAF scheme) and wider national impacts/ leadership by the students. The follow-up evaluation has now been completed and in early December will be available electronically on our website or in hardcopy by request.

The results were once again very positive, showing significant benefits for institutions and individuals from the program:

- A high (75-80%) return rate of Fellows to their home country following completion of studies. This allows “spillover” benefits for capacity building to occur within alumni home country institutes. The figure is nonetheless a little lower than in the 2004 survey, and probably reflects the high demand for trained scientists by developed countries, and the easing of visa requirements for professionals who wish to work overseas.
- Almost all (99%) Fellows indicated that they were facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills within their institute or current workplace.

- The majority (93%) of Directors and Fellows agreed that skills and knowledge acquired during postgraduate studies were highly relevant to their current positions.
- The majority (81%) of Fellows have been promoted since returning to their home country, with Directors (78%) and Fellows (85%) agreeing that the promotion was directly attributed to successful completion of postgraduate qualifications.
- An almost unanimous (99%) expression of strong satisfaction by Fellows regarding their overall experience in Australia. Directors also expressed a strong level of satisfaction in the degree studies undertaken by Fellows.
- Almost all (95%) Fellows indicated that the Fellowship was a positive experience with both Fellows and Directors identifying research and writing skills, increased flexibility and openness to new ideas, and the network of professional contacts as major benefits resulting from participation in the scheme.

Among suggestions for improvement, Fellows and Directors proposed possible expansion of the JAF scheme, increases to the stipend and greater pre-departure English language support for Fellows as areas for potential modification.

New John Allwright and John Dillon Fellows for 2009

The Training Committee met in September to consider a record number of applications (101) for **John Allwright Fellowships** for the 2009 academic year. Due to a dramatic rise in the cost of sponsorship per person over the last 18 months, the Committee was only able to choose 6 candidates. A further 13 applicants who submitted very good applications will be asked to reapply in 12 months time, when it is anticipated more awards will be available. We are also encouraging applicants to apply for AusAID “Australian Development Scholarships” and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations “International Endeavour Scholarships” to maximize their chances of obtaining a study award.

Four men and two women who will receive scholarships to commence at Australian universities in June 2009:

Mr Taranamulia, Indonesia, FIS/2002/076 - Land capability assessment and classification for sustainable pond-based aquaculture, University of NSW, PhD

Ms Istriningsih, Indonesia, ACIAR-SADI Institutional Development, University of Queensland, Masters by Coursework

Mr Ghani Akbar, Pakistan, LWR/2002/034 - Refinement and adoption of permanent raised bed technology for the irrigated maize-wheat cropping system in Pakistan, University of Southern Queensland, PhD

Mr Deane Woruba, Papua New Guinea, CP/2006/063 – Integrated Pest Management for Finschhafen disorder of oil palm in PNG, Charles Sturt University, Masters

Ms Veronica Bue, Papua New Guinea, ASEM/2006/127 - Private-public partnerships - PNG, Curtin University of Technology, PhD

Mr Philip Tuivavalangi, Samoa, PC/2004/063 - Integrated pest management in a sustainable production system for Brassica crops in Fiji and Samoa, University of Queensland, Masters

In October the Training Committee met to select awardees for the **John Dillon Memorial Fellowship** for Research Management Training in Australia. Fifty applications were received and from these 10 awardees were selected. The visit to Australia is planned to take place between 22 February and 31 March 2009 with the awardees clustered according to their disciplines into three groups, with similar visit plans. Three programs will be developed and will commence with the leadership course held at Mt Eliza Centre for Executive Education, with further formal training at ACIAR in professional communication and research management. In Brisbane all 10 awardees will participate in a short postgraduate course in participatory development communication at the University of Queensland. Visits to host organisations are being organised with the prime purpose of exposing the Fellows to research business management practices, to show them how research-extension-communication collaborations work in Australia, how research planning is carried out, and project monitoring and management.

The 10 awardees are:

Dr Marsetyo, Indonesia, Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science, University of Tadulako, Central Sulawesi

Mr Chea Sareth, Cambodia, Deputy Head of Socio-economics & Science Division, Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Phnom Penh

Mr Adalfredo Ferriera, East Timor, Director of Research and Special Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dili

Ms Wahida Maghraby, Indonesia, Coordinator of Collaborative Research division, Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Social Economics and Policy Studies, Bogor

Dr Babar Bajwa, Pakistan, Manager (Technical), Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Board, Lahore

Mr Nelson Simbiken, PNG, Senior Research Scientist, Coffee Industry Corporation, Goroka

Mr William Kerua, PNG, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology, Lae

Mr Handoko Widagdo, Indonesia, Acting Country Director, World Education, Jakarta

Mr Don Yakuma, PNG, Program Coordinator (Forestry), OK Tedi Development Foundation, Tabubil

Mr Oupakone Alounsavath, Lao PDR, Director, Planning and Cooperation, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Vientiane

ACIAR's 2007-08 Annual Report and 2008-09 Annual Operational Plan

The ACIAR Annual Report for 2008-09 has been completed and will be available in mid-June. It describes the agreed priorities for ACIAR's programs in each country and discipline area for the 2008/09 period. Copies will be able to be downloaded from the ACIAR website or hard copies can be requested by emailing comms@aciar.gov.au. A new feature is the translation of sections of the Annual Operational Plan into local languages. In 2008, we have translated chapters into Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, Khymer and Lao. These can be also obtained from the ACIAR website or in hard copy, and we would be grateful if Alumni from these countries could circulate them within their agencies.

New research programs and program managers at ACIAR

Dr Richard Markham – Pacific Crops. Richard will be based in Suva with responsibility for "Pacific Crops", covering PNG and the Pacific Islands and being responsible for horticultural, root and tree crops research in production, protection, postharvest handling and marketing. Agreement has been reached with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to base the RPM at their agriculture headquarters in Suva, Fiji. **Dr Richard Markham** commenced in mid-November. Dr Markham has for the last 5 years worked as a Program Director for the CGIAR centre, Bioversity. He has worked in international research for development since his graduate student days 30 years ago.

Peter Horne, who has been leading the ACIAR-SADI subprogram in Indonesia is relocating to Canberra in early December. Over the last few months, Peter has been managing Livestock Production program activities in Indonesia and after his relocation to Canberra, Peter will assume management of the full **Livestock Production Systems** program.

Dr Mirko Stauffacher, has been appointed to the Land and Water Resources Research Program Manager position. In 2002 he was appointed to the CSIRO Land and Water Divisional Executive as Program Director for salinity. Since 2005 Mirko has been on secondment to run programs and a research project portfolio in the combined DAFF/DEWHA natural resource team.

With the increased focus on food security in the Australian Aid program, we have decided to create a **new Cropping Systems and Economics (CSE) program**. CSE will utilise collaborative R&D partnerships to improve food security through enhanced productivity and sustainability of field crop farming systems through biophysical and economic research and development. **Dr John Dixon** has been appointed to manage the program. For the last 4 years John has been Director, Impacts, Targeting and Assessment at CIMMYT managing activities on impact assessment, value chains, impact knowledge sharing and systems agronomy.

New ACIAR publications (June-November 2008)

ACIAR technical publications are also listed on our website at www.aciar.gov.au. Alumni can receive complimentary copies of our publications at any time by emailing comms@aciar.gov.au

Final Reports for the following projects are now available:

FR2008-47 Economic and policy constraints affecting the development of small-scale dairy farmers in Pakistan

FR2008-46 Enhancing project impact and science capability through ongoing evaluation

FR2008-45 Impacts of the policy and institutional environment on ACIAR research in the South Pacific

FR2008-44 Developing profitable beef business systems for previously disadvantaged farmers in South Africa

FR2008-43 Horticulture industry development for market-remote communities: Cape York and Samoa

FR2008-42 Impact of migration and off-farm employment on roles of women and appropriate technologies in Asian and Australian mixed farming systems

FR2008-41 Establishment of beef industries in additional red soils provinces in China

FR2008-40 Improving smallholder crop-livestock systems in eastern Indonesia

FR2008-39 Genetic and morphological relationships of mud crabs, genus *Scylla*, from throughout the Indo-Pacific

FR2008-38 A sea cucumber fisheries management project in PNG: a project feasibility review to ACIAR

FR2008-37 Increasing milk production from cattle in Tibet

FR2008-36 Facilitating farmer uptake of ACIAR project results: World Vision collaborative program

FR2008-35 Agricultural water-use efficiency in north-west China

Other publications include:

IAS59 [Two-stage grain drying in the Philippines](#)

Grain drying is a major issue in all grain-producing countries and presents particular problems in humid, tropical climates. ACIAR and PCARRD, in association with other Philippine research organisations, have supported a major effort in this area. The review indicated that the technologies developed in these projects had not been adopted and that little use was being made of them in the Philippines, however the same technologies had been adopted in other collaborating countries in the Asian region and in Australia. Therefore it was decided that the

assessment resources should be used to look in detail at the reasons for this lack of adoption and impact. This report presents the results of this assessment study.

IAS58 [Guidelines for assessing the impacts of ACIAR's research activities](#)

These guidelines are designed for all independent consultants to use as a basis for future impact assessments and adoption studies.

IAS57 [Management of internal parasites in goats in the Philippines](#)

Goats are an important source of income for smallholders in the Philippines and were shown to be sustaining significant losses from internal parasites. In collaboration with Philippine and international organisations, ACIAR funded a program which developed a management package which effectively controlled internal parasites and enhanced goat productivity. This study found significant impacts with the estimated net present value of welfare gains of \$66 million, a benefit to cost ratio of 10:1 and an internal rate of return of 25 per cent.

IAS56 [A review and impact assessment of ACIAR's fruit-fly research partnerships, 1984–2007](#)

This study reviewed the full set of 17 projects on fruit flies that ACIAR has supported with many partner organisations and countries. Overall the study shows that the return on this substantial research and development investment has been significant. The net present value of all benefits was estimated as \$208.1 million (in A\$2007).

IAS55 [ACIAR fisheries projects in Indonesia: review and impact assessment](#)

This study provided a review of all ACIAR-funded fisheries research in Indonesia and selected two different programs of research for detailed studies – tuna capture fisheries and shrimp aquaculture. The returns attributed to the ACIAR supported component of tuna capture fisheries was assessed to be \$168 million, indicating a return on ACIAR and partner-invested funds of a benefit to cost ratio of 179:1. For shrimp aquaculture the net present value of the welfare gains from the impact was found to be \$547 million with a benefit to cost ratio of 52:1.

IAS54 [Impact of improved management of white grubs in peanut-cropping systems in India](#)

This project looked at the problems caused by various species of white-grub pests in peanut production in India and Australia. The impact assessment study shows that the project has generated important benefits for a crop that is largely grown by the poorer farmers in this part of India.

IAS53 [The impact of increasing efficiency and productivity of ruminants in India by the use of protected-nutrient technology](#)

The dairy industry is a large and important sector for India and availability of quality feed is a significant issue for cow productivity. The ACIAR project assessed in this impact study focused on this major constraint and adapted some technologies readily available in Australia to suit the types of feed available in India. The impact was shown to be substantial, with a benefit to cost ratio of 124:1.

MN135 [Sea cucumber fisheries: a manager's toolbox](#)

Outcomes of the 'Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands and Northern Australia Sea Cucumber Fisheries Management Workshop', held at Motupore Island Research Centre, Papua New Guinea, 20–23 March 2006.

MN134 [Growing peanuts in Papua New Guinea: a best management practice manual](#)

A best management production manual aimed at the wide spectrum of industry stakeholders interested in growing and marketing peanuts in PNG. It is designed to assist agricultural researchers, extension people, smallholder producers, agricultural consultants and commercial producers by providing information on best management practices that will improve peanut productivity and quality.

MN133 [Overcoming liver fluke as a constraint to ruminant production in South-East Asia](#)

This monograph addresses the knowledge gaps in the genetics, immunology, epidemiology and control of liver fluke disease.

MN132 [TaroPest: an illustrated guide to pests and diseases of taro in the South Pacific](#)

A guide to the pests and diseases of taro in the South Pacific.

MN131 [Integrated pest and disease management for sustainable cocoa production: a training manual for farmers and extension workers](#)

This booklet addresses knowledge gaps in cocoa production.

MN130 [Soil constraints and management package \(SCAMP\): guidelines for sustainable management of tropical upland soils](#)

This book describes a decision-support framework called the Soil Constraints and Management Package (SCAMP).

New projects under development (June-November 2008)

A number of projects are currently under development at ACIAR or have recently been approved for commencement. If you would like further information on particular projects, please contact the relevant ACIAR Research Program Manager (see www.aciar.gov.au for contact details).

Papua New Guinea

FST/2007/078 Germplasm development and delivery to underpinning a PNG timber industry based on planted forests

Pacific Islands

FIS/2007/116 Improving resilience and adaptive capacity of fisheries-dependent communities in Solomon Islands

PC 2007/039 The control of basal stem rot of oil palm caused by Ganoderma in Solomon Islands

PC 2007/118 Alternative disinfection treatments for fresh produce commodities from Pacific island countries (Fiji, PNG)

PC 2008/003 Strengthening the Fiji papaya industry through applied research and information dissemination

South-East Asia

ADP/2005/068 Plausible futures for economic development and structural adjustment - impacts and policy implications for Indonesia and Australia

FIS/2006/141 Increasing uptake of aquaculture nutrition research in Vietnam

FST/2006/117 Capturing more value from Indonesian forest plantations through enhanced timber processing and manufacturing options

HORT/2006/146 Management of fruit quality and pest infestation on mango and mangosteen to meet technical market access requirements (Indonesia)

SMCN/2007/109 Sustainable and profitable crop and livestock systems for south central coastal Vietnam

SMCN/2007/040 Building more profitable and resilient farming systems in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and New South Wales (Indonesia)

AH/2007/106 Improvement and diversification of Sweetpotato-Pig Production Systems to support livelihoods in Highland Papua and West Papua, Indonesia

FST/2008/107 Development of a sophisticated clonal deployment strategy for hybrid acacias in Vietnam

South Asia

CIM/2006/071 Root system traits to improve grain yield and drought resistance of wheat in Australia and India

CIM/2007/122 Sustainable intensification of rice-maize production systems in Bangladesh

LWR/2007/113 Impact of climate change and watershed development on whole-of-basin agricultural water security in the Krishna Basin, India

LWR/2006/158 Enhancing institutional performance in watershed management in Andhra Pradesh, India

LWR/2007/008 Pressurised irrigation systems to minimise waterlogging and salinity and to optimise nutrition of mango and citrus orchards in Pakistan and Australia

Do we have your contact details correct ?

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