

# ROUNDUP

## Australia and Thailand working together

CANBERRA: On 23 and 24 November 2006, ACIAR hosted a joint agricultural research forum between Australia and Thailand. A grant from the Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI) made the forum possible.

The research relationship between Thailand and Australia has matured over the past few years and is now a non-aid, collaborative and co-investment system. A discussion between the two parties was therefore timely, to take stock of the changes and the possibilities those changes bring for future cooperation.

During the two-day meeting in Canberra the participants explored current and future research priorities in both countries and discussed common issues. The parties agreed that there are several research themes on which Australia and Thailand can cooperate with regard to agricultural research, both bilaterally and regionally.

The meeting was held in an open and constructive atmosphere and a full report was sent to the ATI for further consideration.



Dr Suthiporn Chirapanda, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, presents ACIAR's director Peter Core with a gift at the forum dinner.

PHOTO: ANUSORN SOMSIRI, WORLD VISION THAILAND

## Vietnamese Vice-President visits ACIAR

CANBERRA: On Tuesday 10 October 2006, ACIAR had the honour of hosting a visit by the Vietnamese Vice-President, Madame Truong My Hoa. The Vice-President was in Australia as a guest of the Australian Government, and a visit to ACIAR was included in her itinerary in recognition of the long-standing relationship between Vietnam and ACIAR.

During the visit, ACIAR agreed to explore the scope for involving the Women's Union of Vietnam in a new horticultural project on indigenous vegetables. Development of the project proposal is well under way, and will aim to reduce rural and peri-urban poverty and enhance the role of women in the production, promotion, sale and consumption of Vietnamese vegetables.



(From left to right) interpreter Dr Bui Kim Chi, ACIAR director Peter Core, Vice-President of Vietnam Her Excellency Truong My Hoa, and His Excellency Mr Ha Van Hien.

## Fun Run in the East Timorese sun

DILI: The 'Seeds of Life' (SoL) program's East Timor team raised \$1,600 to win the First Lady's Cup and take home a kiss from the nation's First Lady, Kirsty Sword-Gusmão, in the annual 'Fun Run in the East Timorese Sun'.

Staff from the SoL program turned out in force to meet their country's First Lady at the annual fun run event, which was held in front of the Government Palace in Dili on Sunday 26 November 2006. All funds raised from the event went to the Alola Foundation for needy women and children in East Timor and to Rotary.

The First Lady's Cup is in fact a coffee mug on which are scribbled words of support for Xanana Gusmão. The mug was smuggled into gaol by the now First Lady during Gasmão's incarceration in Jakarta between 1992 and 1999. The cup presented to the team representative, Jose Edy, is now proudly displayed in the SoL office in Dili.



East Timor's First Lady, Kirsty Sword-Gusmão, presents Jose Edy from the 'Seeds of Life' program with the First Lady's Cup after his team's win in the annual fun run in Dili.

PHOTO: LEITH CARROLL

## Cambodian Government award for ACIAR

PHNOM PENH: The Royal Government of Cambodia has recognised the contributions of a number of organisations to the agricultural development of the country, including ACIAR. The awarding of two Medals of Sahametrei to ACIAR director Peter Core and ACIAR deputy director, John Skerritt was held at the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on 9 January 2007, with the medal presented by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen.

Since the 1990s, the Cambodian Government has worked to develop the agricultural sector in the country. Years of civil unrest prior to the 1990s saw both agricultural knowledge and scientific capacity severely diminished. The relationship between Cambodia and ACIAR has centred on the rebuilding and diversification of agriculture beyond rice-based farming systems.

ACIAR has developed a suite of projects aimed at increasing rice-based production systems, critical for food security in Cambodia. Increased yields, and the income that flows back to farmers from this, enable investment in non-rice crops. ACIAR has implemented a number of projects aimed at increasing Cambodian research capacity and farmer adoption of these non-rice-based crops, such as maize, soybean and vegetables.

Developing the skills of agricultural scientists, through training and funding of small projects, has also been undertaken. Cambodian scientific capacity was behind world standards at the start of the 1990s. Through the Cambodian Agricultural Research Fund and short training courses, Cambodian scientists have received training to help deliver research that supports the government's aim of developing agriculture.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, His Excellency Dr Chan Sarun, thanked the recipients for their help in the "building and strengthening of the agricultural research capacity of the Kingdom of Cambodia".



Cambodian Prime Minister, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, presents Peter Core with an award in recognition of ACIAR's assistance with the agricultural development of Cambodia.

## Country office staffer awarded Public Service Medal

JAKARTA: Mrs Mirah Nuryati, Assistant Country Manager for ACIAR's Indonesian office, located in the Australian embassy in Jakarta, was awarded a Public Service Medal in the 2007 Australia Day Honours List for outstanding public service in the development of collaborative agricultural research projects between Australia and Indonesia. Of those who were awarded the medal in 2007, Mirah is the only non-Australian citizen to receive the honour.

Mirah has worked at ACIAR for 14 years. She has been instrumental in bridging the cultural divide between Indonesian and Australian research institutions and scientists, establishing and maintaining professional relationships at all levels, from farmers to senior scientists and government officials, to international organisations, NGOs and the private sector. Mirah's calm, collected and professional approach has been invaluable, especially during the stressful periods following the Bali bombings, the Marriott Hotel bombing in Jakarta, and the 2004 tsunami.

Mirah has been an excellent ambassador for the Australia–Indonesia collaboration in agricultural research for development, promoting and representing ACIAR and the Australian agricultural research fraternity throughout Indonesia.



Mrs Mirah Nuryati receives her Public Service Medal from the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Bill Farmer, and his wife Elaine.

# ROUNDUP

## Call for nominations for the 2007 Derek Tribe Award

Nominations are requested for the 2007 ATSE Crawford Fund Derek Tribe Award. The 2007 recipient will receive the award at a seminar or other public event, and deliver an address, known as The Crawford Fund Derek Tribe Award Address. In addition, the recipient will undertake a visit of about two weeks to agricultural centres in Australia with the intention of enhancing networking and links between the recipient's home institution and country and similar bodies and individuals in Australia.



The award marks the outstanding contribution of Emeritus Professor Derek Tribe, Foundation Director of the Crawford Fund, to the promotion of international agricultural research. It is made every two years to a citizen of a developing country in recognition of their distinguished contribution to the application of research in agriculture or natural resource management in a developing country or countries.

The inaugural Derek Tribe Award was made in 2001 to Dr Sanjaya Rajaram, a researcher in the wheat-breeding program at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico. The recipients of the 2003 and 2005 Derek Tribe Awards were Dr Luis Salazar, Head of the Plant Protection Department, International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru, and Professor Vo-Tong Xuan, Angiang University, Angiang, Vietnam.

Nominations close 2 April 2007. Nomination forms may be downloaded from [www.crawfordfund.org/events/index.htm](http://www.crawfordfund.org/events/index.htm)

## New agribusiness research program

The importance of agribusiness partnerships in rural development has been recognised with a new ACIAR research program. ACIAR's agribusiness program is part of the AusAID-funded Support for Market-Driven Adaptive Research (SMAR) initiative, which focuses on the eastern Indonesian provinces of Nusa Tenggara Timur, Nusa Tenggara Barat and South and South-East Sulawesi.

Agricultural research and development have not always considered implications within the market, nor the value chains needed to deliver products into the market. This lack of market focus often limits the impact of research and development, and the ability to adopt changing technologies and subsequent benefits to rural communities. SMAR is designed to facilitate links throughout the value chain, helping smallholders, agribusinesses and supporting agencies access new knowledge that will deliver market results. By being market-focused in the commissioning of new research, SMAR will assist smallholders and others involved in the value chain to better meet the needs of, and be able to access, markets.

SMAR is part of the Australian-Indonesian Partnership within the Smallholder Agribusiness Development Initiative (SADI), whose overall aim is to improve incomes and productivity for farmers and agribusiness in Indonesia. Recent new appointments to SMAR include Dr Luthfi Fatah, research manager in Makassar, Sulawesi, and Dr Saediman Mboe, institutional development adviser based in Bogor, Java.

ACIAR's agribusiness program, which will be managed by David Shearer, will initially concentrate on the SMAR initiative. In the longer term, it is likely to expand beyond SMAR and Indonesia to address issues within the ACIAR mandate throughout the value chain—from the market to the producer.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



### Liz Clarke

Liz Clarke is manager of the communications and secretariat unit. The unit is responsible for the communication of information generated through ACIAR's activities to stakeholders in Australia and partner countries; information management; and is the secretariat for the ACIAR Board of Management and Policy Advisory Committee. Prior to joining ACIAR, Liz worked with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the Australian Taxation Office, CSIRO, the Environment Management Industry Association of Australia (EMIAA) and as director of Liz Clarke Communications. Liz has worked in communications and management for many years, and also as a scientist. She has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland, a Graduate Diploma in Communication (Public Relations) from Queensland University of Technology and has completed an executive course in general management at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management.

### Bridget Knaus

Bridget Knaus joins ACIAR from the National Library of Australia where she was web content manager. Bridget has a Graduate Certificate in Scientific and Technical Communication. She has worked in the government and private sectors developing communication, training and information-management strategies. She has a strong interest in user-centred design and information design, having



worked for two years in the business design section of the Australian Taxation Office. Bridget has taken up the new role of information manager and will be assessing existing information-management systems for usability and functionality, as well as working to identify and implement changes to support the work of ACIAR.

## David Shearer

David Shearer is research program manager for agribusiness. David joins ACIAR from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) where he was responsible for enhancing the export performance of Victoria's agribusiness sectors in South-East Asia through linking Victorian Government agricultural researchers with their counterparts elsewhere in Australia and throughout Asia. Prior to this he worked as an extension horticulturalist for the Victorian DPI and with New South Wales Agriculture. David has a Bachelors degree in agriculture, a Masters in horticulture, and is completing a Masters in management.



## Dr Paul Fox

Dr Paul Fox is the crop improvement and management research program manager. The crop improvement and management program aims to increase the productivity, sustainability and utilisation of significant field (broadacre) crops through identifying genetic or agronomic solutions to productivity constraints. Paul has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons) and a PhD from the University



of Adelaide, specialising in plant breeding. He joins ACIAR from Grain Biotech Australia Pty Ltd, where he was general manager. Paul has worked at the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT), as a breeder and pathologist, and ran the International Crop Information System and International Wheat Nurseries sections. He has also worked in the US as international product development manager for an international seed company.

## Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe

Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe is the soil management and crop nutrition research program manager. The soil management and crop nutrition program focuses on projects designed in the context of a systems approach to conservation agriculture.

Gamini joins ACIAR from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), where he was responsible for managing the crop improvement project portfolio of Asia-Pacific. He has led FAO team activities in natural resources management,



marketing, extension and livestock programs, as well as in the response to the 2004 tsunami. Prior to joining the FAO he worked for CSIRO Plant Industry on crop nutrition research. Gamini has a Masters and PhD from Germany and has worked for the International Rice Research Institute and the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. Gamini replaces Dr Christian Roth who moves across to the Land and Water Resources Research Program.



## Emily Flowers

Emily Flowers is the new communications officer at ACIAR. Although Emily has held various roles at ACIAR over the past two years, her new position involves responsibility for distribution requests, the library, general ACIAR correspondence and website management. Emily has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in resource and environmental management from the Australian National University, and her Honours work involved the impact of salinity on the breeding and development of a native frog species.

## James Ransom

James Ransom joins ACIAR as information technology support officer with the information technology and infrastructure unit. He has a Bachelor of Information Technology Support with an e-business major from the University of Western Sydney and a TAFE diploma in systems administration. James will undertake the role as a trainee.



# ROUNDUP

## NEW PROJECTS

- CP/2006/017 Management of *Eumetopina flavipes*: the vector of ramu stunt disease of sugarcane in Papua New Guinea
- CP/2005/167 Optimising the productivity of the potato/Brassica cropping system in Central and West Java
- FIS/2006/002 Aceh aquaculture rehabilitation project
- FIS/2005/009 Technical capacity building and research support for the reconstruction of tsunami-affected brackish-water aquaculture ponds in Aceh
- FIS/2003/033 Integrated fisheries resource management (Rinconada Lakes, the Philippines, and NSW, Australia)
- FST/2004/053 Establishing forest-pest-detection systems in South Pacific countries and Australia
- HORT/2005/157 Optimising mango supply chains for more profitable horticultural agrienterprises in Pakistan and Australia
- HORT/2005/153 Development of integrated crop-management practices to increase sustainable yield and quality of mangoes in Pakistan and Australia
- HORT/2005/134 The use of pathogen-tested planting materials to improve sustainable sweet potato production in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea
- LPS/2004/046 Forage legumes for supplementing village pigs in Lao PDR
- LPS/2004/022 Pasture development for community livestock production in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa
- LPS/2003/004 Building agricultural knowledge and R&D capacity in Timor Leste: a small projects facility
- LWR/2005/001 Addressing constraints to pulses in cereals-based cropping systems, with particular reference to poverty alleviation in north-western Bangladesh
- LWR/2004/033 Zero-tillage rice establishment and crop-weed dynamics in rice and wheat-cropping systems in India and Australia
- SMCN/2005/118 Restoration of annual cropping in tsunami-affected areas of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province, Indonesia
- SMCN/2004/078 Evaluation and adoption of improved farming practices on soil and water resources on Bohol Island, the Philippines

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Monographs

#### ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT SHARKS AND RAYS OF INDONESIA

The identification of species of sharks and rays is important for catch monitoring and fisheries management. This comprehensive guide, written in English and Indonesian, is the first of its kind to provide identifications of the sharks and rays marketed in Indonesia. *W.T. White, P.R. Last, J.D. Stevens, G.K. Yearsley, Fahmi & Dharmadi*, 2006, *ACIAR Monograph 124*, \$47.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling).

### Proceedings

#### IMPROVING YIELD AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF PEANUT PRODUCTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA

Peanuts are an important cash crop and nutrition source for smallholder farmers in PNG. This publication details the proceedings of a workshop following ACIAR research focusing on seed and product quality, private-sector involvement and estate and smallholder production. *Rao C.N. Rachaputi, Graeme Wright, Lastus Kuniata and A. Ranakrishna (eds)*, 2006, *ACIAR Proceedings 122*, \$40.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling).

#### HEART ROT AND ROOT ROT IN TROPICAL ACACIA PLANTATIONS

Fast-growing hardwood plantations are increasingly important to the economies of many countries around the Pacific rim, including Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Understanding and managing heart and root rot can substantially boost the productivity and value of hardwood species. *Karina Potter, Anto Rimbawanto and Chris Beadle (eds)*, 2006, *ACIAR Proceedings 124*, \$25.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling).

#### COCONUT REVIVAL: NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR THE 'TREE OF LIFE'

These proceedings document the range of topics covered at the International Coconut Forum held in Australia in 2005, including R&D, business and government, and regional and international agency interests. *S.W. Adkins, M. Foale and Y.M.S. Samosir (eds)*, 2006, *ACIAR Proceedings 125*, \$25.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling).

### Technical reports

#### CONTROLLED POLLINATION METHODS FOR MELALEUCA ALTERNIFOLIA (MAIDEN & BETCHE) CHEEL

The production of tea-tree oil from *Melaleuca* species in Australia has been undertaken for 80 years. This is a practical guide to production of controlled-cross seed of *M. alternifolia* including techniques that may be adaptable to related species cultivated for essential oils and in other locations. *Liliana Baskorowati*, 2006, *ACIAR Technical Report 63*, \$17.00 GST inclusive (plus postage and handling).



## Working Papers

### THE SEAWEED INDUSTRY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Pacific island governments and communities are constantly seeking to tap new and established international markets for their farm produce.

*Dennis J. McHugh, 2006, ACIAR Working Paper 61*

### REPORT ON A REVIEW OF ACIAR-FUNDED PROJECTS ON RHIZOBIUM DURING 1983–2004

An overview of *Rhizobium* science and inoculation as a means of facilitating nodulation and nitrogen-fixation of legumes.

*David F. Herridge, 2006, ACIAR Working Paper 62*

## Impact Assessment Series

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR ACIAR'S ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH

An assessment of ACIAR's work in meeting the escalating demand for animal protein in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on delivering sustainable increases in livestock and fisheries production for poor farmers and consumers.

*Ian Patrick, David Kennedy, Simon Hearn and Peter Rolfe, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 38*

### BENEFITS TO AUSTRALIA FROM ACIAR-FUNDED RESEARCH

While funding research in developing countries, ACIAR also delivers benefits to Australia and, in particular, Australian agriculture.

*David Pearce, Michael Monck, Kevin Chadwick and James Corbishley, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 39*

### ZERO TILLAGE FOR WEED CONTROL IN INDIA: THE CONTRIBUTION TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION

This report took the opportunity of an existing survey in India to try to measure poverty-reduction effects of research.

*James Corbishley and David Pearce, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 40*

### ACIAR AND PUBLIC FUNDING OF R&D: SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION STUDY ON PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

A submission to the Productivity Commission study on ACIAR's unique and interesting role, which transcends both Australia's aid program and its innovation system.

*ACIAR, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 41*

### BENEFITS TO AUSTRALIA OF SELECTED CABI PRODUCTS

CAB International is one of the 15 International Agriculture Research Centres that ACIAR provides funding to, and from which benefits flow to Australia.

*David Pearce and Michael Monck, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 42*

### WATER MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN VIETNAM

ACIAR's impact on irrigation systems is improving public systems in Vietnam.

*David Harris, 2006, ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 43*

## Corporate Publications

### ADOPTION OF ACIAR PROJECT OUTPUTS: STUDIES OF PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2001–02

A study of the uptake of project results and their impact on local communities from eight projects completed in 2001–02. These studies help ACIAR determine research priorities and improve its capacity to select projects that will be scientifically successful and have a lasting benefit.

*Viv McWaters and Jeff Davis (eds), 2006*

### COUNTRY PROFILES 2006

Updates on project activities and progress, at the country level and for each active project, by country. Projects that have been recently completed are reported on, with projects under development listed.

Indicative priorities for the period are also listed, together with relevant publications. Countries included are: Papua New Guinea, Pacific islands, Indonesia, East Timor, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, South Asia and China. Each profile covers the period from July 2005 to June 2006.

### ANNUAL REPORT 2005–06

ACIAR's annual report for the 2005–06 financial year focuses on project activities by country for the period, as well as statutory obligations and ACIAR's financial performance.

## ACIAR'S DISTRIBUTION POLICY

ACIAR provides complimentary copies of its publications to developing-country libraries, institutions, researchers and administrators with an involvement in agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region, and to any scientist involved in an ACIAR project.

For enquiries about complimentary copies, please contact ACIAR's communications unit, [comms@aciar.gov.au](mailto:comms@aciar.gov.au). For other customers, please use our online ordering facility at [www.aciar.gov.au](http://www.aciar.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, [aciar@nationalmailing.com.au](mailto:aciar@nationalmailing.com.au)

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