



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

John Allwright and John Dillon Fellowship Alumni Association Newsletter – June 2009

Welcome to the second edition of the John Allwright Alumni Association Newsletter for 2009. 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.

Call for John Allwright Fellows for 2010 opens

Just some advance notice that in May, ACIAR will be calling for applications for John Allwright Fellowships for study at Australian universities, commencing in 2010. The primary aim of the fellowship scheme is to enhance research capacity in ACIAR's partner country institutions. Through the fellowship award, funding is provided for research staff engaged on ACIAR projects to obtain postgraduate qualifications in Australian tertiary institutions. Although applications are welcome from participants in both bilateral and multilateral projects, applicants must be working in the following ACIAR bilateral partner priority countries.

Currently these are:

- Papua-New Guinea, and in the Pacific - Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati.
- in South East Asia - East Timor, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines
- in South and North Asia - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan and Western China
- and the Republic of South Africa

Up to two return airfares for a Masters student and up to three for a PhD student are permitted for fieldwork in the home country on the advice of the university supervisor and ACIAR. If

fieldwork travel is considered necessary, it should be included in the study program submitted with the application for a fellowship.

The closing date for applications to reach ACIAR will be **31 July 2009**.

Call for John Dillon Fellows for 2010 opens in July

ACIAR will be calling for applications for John Dillon Fellowships in early July. The fellowship, established by ACIAR in 2002 provides a career development opportunity in Australia for outstanding mid-career agricultural scientists and economists from ACIAR partner countries. The aim is to develop the leadership skills of Fellows in the area of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and/or extension technologies through exposure to Australian agriculture across a range of best practice organisations involved in research, extension and/or policy-making.

The fellowship visit will be for a 5-6 week period in Australia and consists of participation in formal research management training courses of 1-2 weeks followed by placement at an Australian organisation (such as CSIRO, a university or state department of agriculture). The visit will take place in February/March 2010. To be eligible, applicants:

- should be under 45 at the time of application.
- must be associated with ACIAR bilateral projects that are either active or completed in the last 24 months.
- can be associated with either a national agricultural research and development system or a CGIAR centre (if the applicant is involved in an ACIAR bilateral project), but must be a citizen of an ACIAR partner country.

The closing date for applications to reach ACIAR will be **31 August 2009**.

John Dillon Fellowship visit 2009

During February and March a group of nine talented agricultural scientists and economists from across the Asia-Pacific region visited Australia for leadership training and to make valuable connections with Australians working in similar fields during their six-week visit. Each had won a John Dillon Fellowship award for short-term leadership development opportunities in the area of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and extension technologies. The scheme is named in recognition of the late Professor John Dillon who made an outstanding contribution to international agricultural research and research collaboration. The 2009 ACIAR John Dillon Fellows were:

- Ms Wahida, Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Socio Economic and Policy Studies, Bogor, INDONESIA
- Dr Marsetyo, Department of Animal Science, University of Tadulako, Palu, INDONESIA
- Mr Handoko Widagdo, World Education Indonesia, Jakarta, INDONESIA
- Mr Nelson Simbiken, Papua New Guinea Coffee Industry Corporation, Goroka, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Mr William Kerua, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Lae, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Mr Don Yakuma, OK Tedi Development Foundation, Tabubil, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Mr Chea Sareth, Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA
- Dr Babar Ehsan Bajwa, Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Board, Lahore, PAKISTAN
- Mr Oupakone Alounsavath, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Vientiane, LAOS

Their six weeks in Australia commenced with management training at Mt Eliza Business School, and included formal training in research management in Canberra and participatory development communication in Brisbane. In addition the Fellows had placements with Australian R&D organisations in Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Brisbane and Sydney, to experience how they manage research in a changing environment.



Back row (l to r): Mr William Kerua, Dr Babar Bajwa, Mr Oupakone Alounsavath, Mr Nelson Simbiken
 Front: Mrs Sharon Harvey, Ms Wahida, Mr Handoko Widagdo, Mr Don Yakuma, Mr Bob McMullan, Mr Chea Sareth, Dr Marsetyo, Mr Peter Core

While in Canberra the group visited Parliament House and were presented with a plaque by the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Mr Bob McMullan. “Each member has shown potential to lead research institutes and agencies in our partner countries and will be important contributors to the global effort to fight poverty and secure world food security,” Mr McMullan told the group.

International Association of Agricultural Economists conference - sponsorship opportunities

The International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) is a worldwide confederation of agricultural economists and other professionals concerned with agricultural economic problems, including problems related to the use of renewable resources and the environment. The IAAE conference is held every three years. This year marks the 27th Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), which will be held in Beijing China, August 16-22, 2009. The conference theme is 'The New Landscape of Global Agriculture'. For more information go to www.iaae2009.org.

All those who submitted papers to the conference will now know if their paper has been accepted. However, there may be a number of current and past John Dillon and John Allwright Fellows who may benefit from attending the conference. ACIAR will cover the cost of the registration, the conference fee and economy class return airfares to Beijing to a limited number of alumni. However, the total budget is limited so priority will be given to those who submitted a paper and those whose area of study or expertise is in the field of economics.

If you are interested, could you please contact Dr Deborah Templeton (Program Manager, Impact Assessment, ACIAR at templeton@aciarc.gov.au), providing your full contact details, a brief summary of your current areas of work or study and, where applicable, the abstract of the paper that was submitted. It is advised that you respond quickly as places are limited and there is an early bird discount for registration prior to 30 June 2009.

News from the Field

Several Alumni have sent in items of interest:

Dr Seng Vang (Cambodia) received a John Dillon Memorial Fellowship and visited Australia in 2004. Dr Seng is currently Head of the Soil and Water Sciences Division, Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). Vang leads research and development to develop tools for supporting sustainable soil and nutrient management in order to increase and stabilize crop yield in lowland and upland farming systems, through improving knowledge of soil and water in Cambodia.



Dr Seng Vang, (pictured at far right in blue shirt) together with farmers, agronomist and extension workers, carried out on-farm research on the best use of fertilizer for rice production in the rain-fed lowlands of Cambodia

Vang's recent experience as a Project Leader includes work on:

- Assessing land suitability for crop diversification
- Productivity and nutrient dynamics under improved soil nutrient management techniques for rice in the rainfed lowlands of Cambodia
- Assessing Nitrogen Management Options for Rice Production
- Reaching towards optimum rice yield by enhancing the adoption of improved soil nutrient management technique in rainfed lowlands
- Use of groundwater use for supplementary irrigation to paddies in Cambodia

Ms Anastasia Kawi (Papua New Guinea) completed her Masters project at the University of Queensland in July 2008. Ms Kawi provides a wonderful example of how dedication and commitment leads to success. Her duties as a research technician with the entomology section of National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Laloki from 1992-2006 enabled her to be involved in ACIAR funded projects on 'Biology, identification, management, quarantine systems of fruit flies'; 'Biology, damage levels and control of Red Banded mango caterpillar in PNG' and 'Management of fruit flies in Papua New Guinea'. She commenced her study with a Graduate Diploma in Plant Protection then articulated to a Master in Plant Protection at University of Queensland. Ms Kawi says that her wealth of work experience was also a large factor in enabling her to successfully complete the course work studies.

Upon returning from her studies Ms Kawi was promoted to scientist and is currently involved in executing the project activities of ACIAR project, CP/2004/064 – 'Biological control of mile-a-minute in PNG and Fiji'. One of the achievements of this project was the successful importation, rearing and mass culturing, field release and establishment of the biological control agent, a rust fungus *Puccinia spegazzinii de Toni* in PNG. Being innovative and testing different techniques in mass production has proved a success in developing a draft protocol on 'How to maintain a culture of *Puccinia spegazzinii* in Post Entry Quarantine'. Ms Kawi was recently asked to provide in-house training on culturing and release techniques of *P. spegazzinii* for the SPC Fiji Mikania project staff. Based at NARI Kerevat in East New Britain Ms Kawi also oversees the implementation activities of the ACIAR project on 'Management of fruit flies in PNG' and general entomological activities.



Anastasia and family attending her graduation at St Lucia campus, University of Queensland, July 2008

Mr Michael Poesi (Papua New Guinea) completed his Masters program in 2004 at the Australian National University and is employed by the PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd as a Senior Forestry Officer. Mr Poesi is responsible for the development of sustainable economic investments in forestry projects with a particular focus on the Western Province of PNG. The current project Mr Poesi is involved in relates to downstream processing of natural forests, development of commercial plantation of grasslands and degraded forest areas for multiple end-uses, and development of non-timber species such as eaglewood as a source of incoming generating opportunities for rural communities in PNG. Other projects include sustainable management of community programs aimed at improving the livelihoods of the poor rural communities in Western province.



Michael treating a native eaglewood tree in the natural forests in PNG with special capsules containing nutrients. This was a collaboration research work between the patented cultivated agarwood technology owners from the University of Minnesota and the Tropical Rainforest Foundation in Vietnam (Photo: Henry Heuveling van Beek 2009)

Since returning to PNG in 2005, Mr Poesi has been developing improved germplasm of important plantation species for commercial use with his former employer, PNG Forest Authority and several private industries in PNG. With the private industries, he was able to secure collaborative work and research contracts to undertake the improved germplasm development program. Some of the industrial stakeholders include Ramu Sugar Limited in Madang, Jant Woodchipping in Madang, Coconut Product Limited in Rabaul and Kei Beseu in Manus. Mr Poesi believes that the experience of studying as a John Allwright Fellow provided him with the opportunity to learn best practice forestry techniques and has given him a

benchmark to strive for in relation to sustainable forestry in PNG. He was also awarded a John Dillon Fellowship in 2007.

Dr Delia Catacutan (Philippines) was a John Allwright fellow from 2001-2004. She obtained her PhD in Natural and Rural Systems Management at the University of Queensland. Her thesis examined the issues, methods and strategies for scaling up Landcare in the Philippines. In 2006, Dr Catacutan was awarded the John Dillon Fellowship for training in research management.

On return to the Philippines following the completion of her PhD program, Dr Catacutan embarked on more challenging roles at the World Agroforestry Centre where she was employed as a social scientist. She managed the regional-wide Landcare project in East Africa which was supported by AusAID from 2005-2008. Her research interest has since expanded to issues surrounding payments for environmental services, including policy incentives for smallholder agroforestry. In September 2008, she was awarded the Giorgio Ruffolo Post-Doctoral fellowship on Sustainability Science at the Center for International Development, at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Her study explores the types and dynamics of boundary organisations within knowledge-action systems in the context of compensation and rewards of environmental services in Asia and Africa. In the last survey of John Allwright fellows, Dr Catacutan attributed her professional success to the training she received from her graduate program and exposure to Australian research management. "I am grateful to ACIAR for giving me the opportunity to attain higher education and professional training. I would not be where I am now, without such support" Dr Catacutan concluded.



Ms Atien Priyanti (Indonesia) received a John Dillon Memorial Fellowship and visited Australia in 2004. Ms Priyanti is still with the Indonesian Center for Animal Research and Development (ICARD) of Bogor, Indonesia where she is employed as an agricultural economist for livestock specialisation. She has been working on the ACIAR project LPS/2004/023 - 'Strategies to increase growth of the weaned Bali calf' with staff from the University of Queensland and is currently involved in establishing a new ACIAR project LPS /2008/038 - 'Improving reproductive performance of cows and performance of fattening cattle in low input systems of Indonesia and northern Australia'. Ms Priyanti completed her PhD degree from Bogor Agricultural University in 2006, a significant achievement.



Atien Priyanti pictured in Lombok where she is working on ACIAR project LPS/2008/038

Dr Zhou Changyong (People’s Republic of China) graduated from the University of Sydney in 2001 with a PhD under the John Allwright Fellowship scheme. He received a John Dillon Memorial Fellowship and visited Australia in 2004.

Dr Zhou was awarded the “Year 2007 First class Award for Science and Technology Progress” by the Chongqing Government for his work on molecular detection of citrus viruses, virus-like and quarantine pathogens and virus-free citrus propagation scheme”. Since 2007 Dr Zhou has been responsible for the running of the National Citrus Engineering Research Center located at the Citrus Research Institute. In 2008 he received an award for Disaster Relief by the Chinese Association of Science and Technology.



Dr. Zhou Changyong (left), Mark Chown and Judith Damiani of Australian Citrus Growers Inc. at the Chongqing Citrus Industry Development International Forum in Jan. 2008

Currently he is supervising a PhD student from Pakistan studying at the Southwest University. Dr Zhou believes that he has followed John Allwright Fellowship principles well by making contributions to his own country and also in helping other developing countries by using the skills and technology gained in Australia.

Mr Andrew Tukana (Fiji) graduated from the University of Western Sydney in 2005 with a Masters degree under the John Allwright Fellowship scheme. Prior to his study in Australia Mr Tukana worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji. In 2006 following the successful completion of a Masters degree in Applied Science (Animal Waste Management Research), Mr Tukana was promoted to Senior Agricultural Officer.

Mr Tukana is currently employed with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in the Animal Health and Production Thematic Team, involved with the bird flu project as well as other animal production work in the Pacific. Recently Mr Tukana became the project manager for a Venezuela funded project in Tonga for the livestock sector. The project involves the improvement of piggery infrastructure, rain water harvesting for vegetable production, and the establishment of biogas digesters. The ordering and procurement of project building materials, improvement of selected pig farm infrastructures as well as the construction of biogas digesters will be accomplished soon with future project visits to Tonga.



Mr. Kinikinilau Nonu (Piggery Proprietor-Patangata, Tongatapu), Mr. Andrew Tukana (SPC-Animal Health & Production Thematic Team), March 12009

Mr Arnab Chakraborty (India) received a John Dillon Memorial Fellowship and visited Australia in 2008. Mr Chakraborty has more than 14 years experience of grassroots development action at the Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), a national level NGO that works to promote livelihoods in the Purulia district of West Bengal, India. Recently he has received an Australian government Endeavour Executive Award – an internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing high-achieving individuals with a unique opportunity to undertake study, research or professional development.

Mr Chakraborty will take up his award from in August 2009 when he plans to visit the Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program at the Australian National University, Canberra and become familiar with the activities of the Gender Water Network. The network links students, professionals and researchers with interest related to gender concerns in water resource management. This includes a gendered view of farming, irrigation, community-based water management, and intra-household allocation and interests in water.

Ms Lilly Sar (Papua New Guinea) returned to PNG in early April this year after completing her thesis titled “Communication about communication: The use of rural peoples’ knowledge”

at the University of Queensland, Brisbane. One area the thesis covered was creating and sharing agricultural knowledge among research scientists, extension, education and rural households. This was a shift from 'information and technology transfer' to 'collective learning' with farmers. Participants bring to the discussions their knowledge and each participant's experiences are valued in analysing problems affecting agricultural production and improved livelihood.

Ms Sar says "My journey in completing the thesis has enhanced my role in the PNG University of Technology Language and Communication Studies department as coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in communication of science and technology. From an earlier ACIAR project on scientific communication in Papua New Guinea, the modules form the core of the Graduate Certificate and are offered through workshop mode to participants from the government, private sector, universities, and anyone whose focus is to communicate science to the public.

Mr Le Anh Tuan (Vietnam) completed his Masters degree at James Cook University, Townsville in February 2009. He is currently working as a social development consultant with the World Bank and is involved in both operations and research and development. There are three projects that Mr Le Anh Tuan is involved in: one is related to enhancing the competitiveness of smallholders in agriculture in eight provinces, the second is about agricultural modernisation in the Mekong delta and the third project is concerned with control of and preparedness for avian and human influenza in more than ten provinces across Vietnam.

Dr Minda Mangabat (Philippines) completed her PhD in Agricultural Economics at La Trobe University, Melbourne in 1995. Dr Mangabat has completed 35 years of service with the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Philippines Department of Agriculture and is involved in a number of Philippine agricultural projects. Under a technical cooperation project with the Food and Agricultural Organisation she is currently working in Vientiane, Lao PDR as a Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries expert on secondary data analysis and dissemination. The project ends in July 2009.

New Fisheries Research Program Manager

Our longest serving Research Program Manager, Barney Smith is retiring on 11 September 2009 and the new Fisheries Research Program Manager will be Dr Chris Barlow. He starts in Canberra with ACIAR on 31 August 2009. Chris is the Chief Technical Adviser of the Fisheries program of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) based in Vientiane, Laos. Prior to his commencement with MRC in 2001, Dr Barlow was the Program Leader of Aquaculture with the then Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF), having worked in fisheries and aquaculture with QDPIF from 1983 onwards. He has, however, worked extensively in Southeast Asia since 1975 and has published widely in scientific journals and technical reports and publications for wider distribution.

New ACIAR publications (March - June 2009)

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@aciarcg.gov.au

Final Reports for the following projects are now available:

- FR2009-19 Economic performance and management of the Gulf of Papua prawn fishery
- FR2009-18 Microbial contaminants associated with sago processing and storage in Papua New Guinea
- FR2009-17 Farming systems research for crop diversification in Cambodia and Australia
- FR2009-16 Development of a vaccine for the control of Gumboro in village and small poultry holdings in Indonesia
- FR2009-15 Evaluating domestic tuna fisheries projects
- FR2009-14 Salinity reduction in tannery effluents in India and Australia
- FR2009-13 Increasing the productivity of cattle in India and Australia with rumen fungal treatments
- FR2009-12 Improving sustainability and profitability of village sea cucumber fisheries in Solomon Islands
- FR2009-11 Overcoming magnesium deficiency in oil palm crops on volcanic ash soils of Papua New Guinea
- FR2009-10 Managing groundwater access in the central highlands (Tay Nguyen), Vietnam
- FR2009-09 Analysis of nutritional constraints to cocoa production in Papua New Guinea
- FR2009-08 Improving the marketing system for maize and soybeans in Cambodia
- FR2009-07 Abalone industry enhancement in eastern Indonesia
- FR2009-06 Assessing the South-East Asian tropical lobster supply and major market demands
- FR2009-05 Contract farming options for shrimp production in eastern Indonesia
- FR2009-04 Identifying economic and social constraints for water management in vegetable production in East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara
- FR2009-03 Herbicide use strategies and weed management options in Filipino and Australian cropping
- FR2009-02 Improving productivity and the participation of youth and women in the Papua New Guinea cocoa, coconut and oil palm industries
- FR 2009-01 Prospects for integrated timber–forage–livestock agroforestry systems for economic diversification in West Timor farming communities
- FR 2008-48 Fertilisation-independent formation of embryo, endosperm and pericarp for apomictic hybrid rice

Other publications include:

MN138 Landcare in the Philippines: a practical guide to getting it started and keeping it going

The Australian aid program has been working with the landcare movement in the Philippines for 10 years, encouraging farmers and their communities to take control of their own problems and to implement appropriate solutions. This book provides practical guidelines for all those involved in this important role.

MN137 Jorani and the green vegetable bugs

This book is for primary school children for use in the 'Life Skills' part of the Cambodian School curriculum. It will teach children about integrated pest management (IPM) in crops and the positive impact on the environment.

PR129 Silvicultural management of bamboo in the Philippines and Australia for shoots and timber

A symposium was organised in November 2006 in the Philippines, to provide an opportunity for bamboo researchers to present their findings. The peer-reviewed papers contained herein provide an opportunity to fully report on the research.

New projects under development (March – June 2009)

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).

Africa

CSE/2009/024 Sustainable maize-based systems for smallholders in dryland and semi-arid farming areas

Papua New Guinea

FIS/2008/023 Increasing fish production from inland farming systems in Papua New Guinea for food and income security

FIS/2009/027 Training in soil assessment and scientific writing for aquaculture officers in Papua New Guinea

FST/2009/012 Identification of researchable issues underpinning a vibrant balsa wood industry in Papua New Guinea

Pacific Islands

PC/2009/029 Understanding constraints and opportunities in the use of native floriculture to improve the livelihoods of indigenous communities in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific islands

South-East Asia

AH/2009/028	Research requirements for processed sweet potato products and increasing income from sweet potato-based systems in Papua and West Papua provinces in Indonesia
FST/2008/039	Enhancement of production of acacia and eucalypt veneer and bamboo timber products in Vietnam
FIS/2007/124	Diversification of smallholder aquaculture in Indonesia
HORT/2008/040	Integrated crop production of bananas for increased quality and productivity in Indonesia and Australia
LWR/2008/019	Building capacity of farming communities in Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh and India to adapt to climate change
SMAR/2008/021	Spiny lobster aquaculture development in eastern Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia
LPS/2008/038	Improving reproductive performance of cows and performance of fattening cattle in low input systems of Indonesia and northern Australia
FIS/2006/143	Philippines mariculture enterprise development project
FIS/2009/03	Determinants for WSD outbreaks in Indonesian smallholder shrimp pond
FIS/2009/033	Preliminary assessment of the hand-line (banca) fisheries in the Philippines

Do we have your contact details correct?

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