

AFACI Newsletter

“Better World Together”



Asian Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI)

Special Issue: RDA, Korea provided Training Course on Genetic Management System for Twenty Four Researchers from 10 AFACI Countries (page 9)



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New appointment - RDA got a New Administrator



Mr. Lee Yang-Ho
Administrator

Rural Development Administration



The Rural Development Administration (RDA), a hosting organization for AFACI Secretariat and a funding agency for AFACI, announced the appointment of **Mr. Lee Yang-Ho** as the new RDA Administrator effective March 18, 2013, succeeding the former Administrator, Mr. Park Hyun-chool.

Mr. Lee has received high praise for his deep understanding of all aspects of agricultural administration & policy and food industry as he has taken on actual work duties at various posts. The new Administrator also has emphasized the change and innovation in the agricultural R&D sector. Under his leadership, RDA will encourage farmers to boost highly productive and competitive agricultural industry.

Even before joining RDA, Mr. Lee has served

as a public officer in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MIFAFF) for 30 years since 1982. He held a series of agricultural administration posts and was a representative policy specialist. Also, he has assumed a very important role in the diagnosis of Korean agricultural administration and policy making. His latest task was the Deputy Minister for Planning & Coordination in the MiFAFF. He also served as the Deputy Minister for Food Industry Policy Office; Director General of Agricultural Policy Bureau; Director of Public Relations Division, Planning & Budget Division, Trade Promotion Division. In addition, he has experience working as Agricultural Attache in the Korean Delegation to the OECD.

Mr. Lee was awarded his B.S. degree on Public Administration at Yeungnam University, Korea; and also M.S. degree on Agricultural Food Engineering at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, respectively.

With his excellent background and rich experience in agricultural administration and government policies, Mr. Lee will lead RDA and Korean agriculture to new heights.

RDA is the national agency mandated to conduct agricultural research and extension services as well as to collaborate with international organizations and foreign research institutes. In the collaboration with international research organizations, it aims to contribute to global development through sustainable food production, high-tech agriculture and vibrant rural areas.

- Press Release, Suwon, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, March 18, 2013

A New Agreement Opens a Way to Strengthen Cooperation via the Training Workshop on Germplasm Management System

In August 2008, the Food and Agriculture Organization-Global Crop Diversity Trust (FAO-GCDT) recognized the National Agrobiodiversity Center (NAC) as a “World Seed Vault”, the second of its kind in the world, aside from the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. Two months later, RDA held a “Global Seed Hub” declaration ceremony, leading to the establishment of the “Asia-Pacific Genetic Resources Network” with three organizations (GCDT, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center, Bioversity International) and nine countries in the region.



Early this year, RDA-NAC, Bioversity International and AFACI decided to revive the collaboration for the conduct of the “International Training Workshop on Germplasm Management Systems (GMS) in Asia”.



Mr. Cho Yang-hee (left), Dr. Leocadio Sebastian (center) and Dr. Kim Yeon-gyu (right) after the signing of LOA.

Dr. Kim Yeon-gyu, Director of Genebank RDA-NAC, Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, Regional Director of Bioversity International Asia Pacific Office, and Mr. Cho Yang-hee, Secretary General of AFACI, signed the Letter of Agreement (LOA) on March 12, 2013. Under the new LOA, the three organizations agreed to conduct the GMS workshop annually. The Agreement stipulates the roles and responsibilities of the organizations as follows:

- **RDA-NAC** will provide the overall management and coordination in the implementation of the training course on agricultural genetic resources safely.
- **Bioversity International** will work with RDA-NAC in developing the course curriculum and provide the resource person(s).
- **AFACI** will provide funding support to invited participants from member countries.

In the signing ceremony, Dr. Kim Yeon-kyu expressed his optimism that the Agreement will contribute to secure conservation, improvement and use of agricultural genetic resources in Asia.



Group photo with Bioversity International-APO staff

Based on the Agreement, a ten-day training course entitled ‘First AFACI International Training Workshop on Germplasm Management Systems (GMS) in Asia’ was held on May 20-29, 2013, in Suwon.

- (This article is related to the GMS training workshop on page 9.)



National Agrobiodiversity Center (NAC), RDA,

On March 27, 2009, the Bioversity International and the Rural Development Administration (RDA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote global cooperation in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources (PGR). Under the MOU, the two organizations agreed to conduct international training courses on PGR and genebank management, exchange technical staff and researchers to support capacity building and conduct R&D on cryopreservation of vegetables. Since then, RDA held four consecutive international genebank management trainings from 2009 to 2012.



AFACI Planning Meeting on “Establishing Cooperation System of Sericulture Technology in Asia”

March 18-22, 2013, Suwon, Korea

Sericulture is an alternative source of income to enhance the livelihood of small-scale farmers in rural areas of developing countries, through silk worm rearing, reeling of yarn, weaving of fabric, and value-addition. However, the main constraints faced in establishing sericulture industry in Asia are lack of mulberry tree varieties adapted to local agro-climatic conditions, suitable silkworm race, and knowledge and skills among the farmers. To support the industry, AFACI launched the project titled “Establishing Cooperation System of Sericulture Technology in Asia” and organized a planning meeting in Suwon to commence the project .



Group Photo of Participants

Since 2009, AFACI has conducted nineteen (19) projects. During the Second General Assembly last year in Korea, eight (8) new Pan-Asian and Regional projects were approved. The sericulture project was one of the new AFACI projects.



Welcome Remarks by Mr. Kim Eung-bon, Director General of International Cooperation Bureau, RDA

The Planning meeting in 2013 was participated by six (6) principal investigators from six (6) countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam and Korea).

The meeting aimed to a) develop the implementation plan of the project and b) to conclude the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP). The meeting was held in the Department of Agricultural Biology, RDA. The meeting discussed the sericulture industry in each member country including

information on farm household engaged in sericulture, sericulture technology, and sericulture by-products.

During the opening session, Dr. Lee Sang-bum, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Biology said “sericulture industry in Korea has shifted from cocoon production for supply of silk materials to functional food and medicinal application 15 years ago. Natural fibers such as cotton or silk have been quickly replaced by the high-technique development of chemical fiber named nylon”. The purpose of the planning meeting and the project was to develop various functional products from sericulture researches and to motivate the increasing number of silkworm-rearing farmers. Mr. Le Hong Van, Vice Director of Vietnam Sericulture Research Centre (VAAS), also remarked that “through development of new F1 mulberry variety and silkworm variety in Vietnam, we expect our Vietnamese farmers to gain more income”



Cambodian PI, Dr. Chansothy Yin (seated) is discussing with PIs from Nepal (Mr. Sanjaya Bista) and Vietnam (Mr. Le Hong Van)

The AFACI Sericulture project is expected to strengthen collaboration among the member countries and bring about a substantial improvement of sericulture technologies and silk productivity which should result in poverty alleviation and growth of the country.



After signing of TCP agreement, PI from Thailand (Dr. Saridiporn Chuprayoon) and Project Leader from RDA (Dr. Ryu Gangsun) pose for a photograph.

(Continued on p. 4)



(Sericulture, From p. 3)

Priority activities to be implemented through AFACI's sericulture project in the next three years include the following:

- Establishment of personal network for sericulture industry
- Data/Information sharing: sericulture policy, number of sericulture farmers, geographic information of farm house, facilities and equipment of silkworm house, and sericulture products. The status of sericulture technology such as scale of

silkworm rearing, area of mulberry plantation, demand of silk products, and silk processing will be included.

- Transfer of advanced sericulture technology: breeding of mulberry, breeding of silkworm hybrid, identification of silkworm disease and adoption of silk processing technology
- Sericulture technology promotion

Visit to Korea Silk Museum



Animal Genetic Resources

AFACI, takes another step in AnGR as a responsible regional actor in Asia.

May 8-12, 2013, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Mongolia, where the livestock sector accounts for 30% of its GDP, was the most logical venue of the AFACI Planning Meeting on Improving Animal Genetic Resources Value and Productive Performance in Asia. Livestock is the major occupation of the rural population in Mongolia and the backbone of the rural economy.

country-specific circumstances as well as regional challenges. The meeting aimed to develop the implementation plan of the project and to conclude the Agreement on Technical Cooperation Project (TCP).



Opening Session

The meeting held in Ulaanbaatar on May 6-10, 2013 brought in more than 30 participants from government institutions from AFACI member countries to share knowledge and experience on animal genetic resources and find solutions to

The two-day discussion, which kicked off with the presentation of Bangladesh, focused on the status of conservation, distribution and management system in each member country. Member countries had different indigenous livestock species and their level of public awareness and technology in management of AnGR varied. However, they faced the same challenges, to name a few - lack of national and public awareness, human resources, and poor linkage between researchers and institutions at the domestic and regional level.

Against the odds, some countries tried to identify, conserve and de-
(Continued on p. 5)



(Animal Genetic Resources , from p.4)

velop new breeds/population and operate the management system on livestock inventory. Dr. Endang Romjali, Indonesian participant from the Indonesia Centre for Animal Research and Development, IAARD, introduced international collaboration with ACIAR, ILRI and USAID. A system named 'Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS)' has been developed to help in the collection and utilization of data.

From Thailand, Dr. Kalaya Boonyanuwat from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), MOAC said that information of AnGR is managed by the clearing house mechanism website of DLD (<http://www.dld.go.th/biodiversity/chm/index.html>) and the Bureau of Animal Husbandry and genetic improvement, DLD (<http://www.dld.go.th/breeding/>).



Dr. Kalaya Boonyanuwat (right) (PI, Thailand)

Dr. La Van Kinh (right) (PI, Vietnam)

According to Dr. La Van Kinh, the Vietnamese participant from the National Institute of Animal Sciences, MARD started some AnGR-related projects in 1990 and developed a software named 'Vietgen', which manages data by characterizing the AnGR and activating information and inventory gathering.

Participants discussed with Dr. Choi Seong-bok, project leader from RDA, priority actions, existing mechanisms and resources and necessary support in a country perspective, which were later shared during a general discussion on TCP. After the general discussion,

the project was officially launched by signing the Agreement on TCP.



Signing of TCP Agreement

Participants appreciated the meeting as timely, in view of the diminishing indigenous genetic resources. A very useful recommendation emerged from participants for efficient information sharing and project implementation.

The AFACI Pan-Asian Project will continue to support researchers as they identify approaches to develop appropriate management systems on AnGR, raise public awareness and build capacity of researchers.



11 principal investigators with distinguished guests including Hon. Ts. Tuvvaan (Vice Minister of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia), Hong Seong-koo (Director General of Department of Animal Biotechnology and Environment, NIAS) and Dr. Nguyen Van Bo (AFACI Chair and President of VAAS) who delivered welcome and congratulatory remarks for the event.

In a field trip

- Sub-branch of Animal Gene Bank
- Herding Household in Hustai National Park





Postharvest

Expert Workshop on Establishment of Network and Model Manual on Postharvest Technology of Horticultural Crops in Asia

April 15-19, 2013, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

The first AFACI Expert Workshop on “Postharvest Management Manual on Horticultural Project” was held on April 2013 in the Philippines. Principal Investigators from ten member countries except Bangladesh attended. Dr. Rex. Victor O Cruz, Chancellor and Dr. Domingo E. Angeles, Dean of College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), were also present at the meeting.



Workshop on “Establishment of Network and Model Manual on Postharvest Technology of Horticultural Crops”
SEARCA Residence Hotel, UPLB Campus College, Laguna, Philippines
Sponsored by: Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (RDA) South Korea
Hosted by: Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center, CSC College of Agriculture, UPLB

Group Photo with 10 principal investigators and UPLB official

While processing vegetables, especially tomato, high losses are incurred in the distribution chain. In developing countries without proper storage and management techniques, the damage during postharvest is more than 35%. This workshop was held to investigate the progress of the ‘Tomato Postharvest Project’ from September 2012 after the concluded MOU among the AFACI member countries; and to formulate the ‘Postharvest Manual on Tomato Postharvest’ by sharing the results and outcomes among the members.

In his welcome remarks, UPLB Chancellor Cruz mentioned that this workshop will provide the opportunity for improving the postharvest management systems in all member countries. Also, Mr. Cho Yang-hee, Secretary General of AFACI, in his congratulatory remarks, stated that he hopes this manual will be disseminated to other Asian countries, aside from member countries. Participants acknowledged this workshop as a great chance to learn how to reduce the postharvest losses in their country.



Dr. Perlita Nuevo, (PI, Philippines)

Every Principal Investigator presented his country’s progress on this project and the status of manual preparation. Particularly, participants showed interest in the presentations of Dr. Perlita Nuevo, Philippines PI, who introduced the task situation and the instance of demo farms; and Dr. Kim Ji-gang, Korea PI and project coordinator, who introduced the status of tomato postharvest in

Korea, as well as the summary of this project. RDA will publish the tomato manual suitable to each member country’s situation based on the outcomes. To make it easily understandable to farmers and retailers, this manual will use simple terms and pictures. Thus, it is expected to be the basis for providing safer and fresher products to the customers.



Dr. Kim Ji-gang (PI, Korea)

In the final discussion, participants agreed to hold the next postharvest expert workshop in Ho Chi Min, Vietnam, and produce the ‘Postharvest Manual on Tomato’ with generalization of all PIs’ inputs by October. Also, the next guidebook to be published will be about “Kimchi cabbage” and “Red pepper”.



Field Trips to:

- Liliw (Laguna),
- Robinson’s Supermarket,
- Silang, Cavite,
- Tagaytay,
- Makati City





Expert Workshop on Development of Locally-Appropriate GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Programmes and Agricultural Produce Safety Information System (GAP)

May 13~17, 2013, VAAS, Hanoi, Vietnam

Author: Kim Hwang-yong, Ph.D.,

Research Scientist, Microbial Safety Team,
Department of Crop Life Safety, National Academy
of Agricultural Science (NAAS)



Dr. Yun Jong-Chul from Korea read the congratulatory address of Dr. Chun Hye-Kyung, the President of NAAS, Korea.

On May 13-17, 2013, experts on agricultural product safety from ten AFACI member countries met in Hanoi, Vietnam. For five days, they attended GAP expert workshop, which was jointly held by Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Science (VAAS) and AFACI. The workshop was organized to review its first-year achievement and to exchange useful information to improve the GAP program of AFACI member countries.

Dr. Nguyen Van Bo, Chair of AFACI and President of VAAS, attended the opening ceremony and emphasized the necessity of establishing the network for sharing data, information and



Cambodia Country Report
(Mr. Mean Chetna, PI)

experience from GAP implementation on the target crops of the

technologies among AFACI member countries to improve their national capacity on GAP and strengthen the Asian regional market.

In country reports, the participants reported on national GAP standard, GAP certification system,

project, current safety issues in the agricultural sector, and so on.

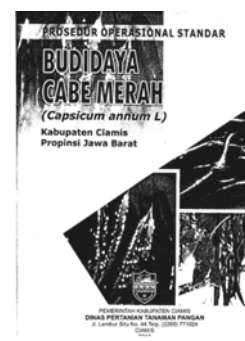
As a consensus of the expert workshop, the next activities of AFACI member countries will focus on farm-level field implementation of GAP manuals on some target crops including tomato, mango, pepper, cabbage and beans. Concurrently, the participants will collaborate to establish the 'agricultural produce safety information



network' among AFACI member countries. On May 15-16, participants took an extensive field trip. First, they visited the experimental field of Korea Project on International Agriculture (KOPIA) Vietnam at VAAS. Then, in Hai Duong province, they inspected two local GAP farms (1. a GAP farm implementing rice-watermelon-vegetables rotation system; 2. a GAP farm cultivating long bean) and a postharvest equipment system. Finally they visited Food Crops Research Institute.



GAP draft manual
(Cambodia)



GAP-SOP (Indonesia)

For Better GAP

To improve the quality and safety of agricultural produce, national level GAP standards and practical manuals on production of Tomato and Mango will be developed. **Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan** from Bangladesh

The project has successfully set up a project team; consultation between coordinator and team and sent the first draft manual to an external advisor for feedback. **Mr. Mean Chetna** from Cambodia

The implementation of GAP-SOP (Standard Operational Procedure) has given some benefits to the farmers, such as increasing productivity, consumer safety and environmental sustainability. **Dr. Idha Widi Arsanti** from Indonesia

The VietGAP, pursuing Vietnam standards line with international standards, is currently applied in two levels (modest level and high level for the world market) for key commodities for local consumption. **Dr. Nguyen Van Tuat** from Vietnam



RDA, Korea provided Training Course on Genetic Management System for 24 Researchers from 10 AFACI Countries

May 20-29, 2013, NAC, Suwon, Korea



Under the LOA with Bioversity International-APO, NAC, and AFACI, an international training on Genetic Management System in Asia was held on May 20-29, 2013, in Suwon, Korea. Since March 2012, the AFACI has conducted a Pan-Asian Project named "Development of Integrated Management System of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)". This training, however, focuses on practical exercise in PGR.

Twenty-four researchers from AFACI member countries were invited to join the 10-day training. Some of them were already involved in AFACI activities as PI. As lecturers, about fifteen experts including Dr. Paul Queck and Dr. Baek Hyung-jin from Bioversity International, joined in the training.



Dr. Chun Hye-Kyung, President of NAAS

In the opening ceremony, welcome and congratulatory remarks were made by Dr. Chun Hye-Kyung, President of NAAS, RDA and Mr. Kim Eung-bon, Director General of the International Technology Cooperation Bureau, RDA.

As a first step, each participant introduced the status of their PGR management system, challenges and suggestions for development, which set a common ground for the conduct of further activities. The training ranged from general information of PGR management to international issues related to PGR. As a start, Dr. Paul Queck, (Bioversity International)

gave a lecture on descriptors; its development, evaluation, and standardization. Dr. Baek Hyung-jin, senior researcher from Bioversity-APO as well as RDA, explained the detailed process of preparation for collection.



The lessons on 'molecular markers and its applications in genetic resources' approached the issue in a more technical way. After a series of courses on seed and vegetative cloning, the class was given a practical course through experiment.

Dr. Lee Ho-sun informed the participants of forthcoming issues in PGR. The lecture briefly introduced international issues with its negotiation background and related regulations.

Feedback analysis showed that participants rated greatest satisfaction in quantity and quality of equipment. But they expressed the need for more time allocation for experiment analysis.



The participants expressed their hopes that the knowledge they got in the training would be applied to their workplace in their home countries. For the subject of the next training, most participants indicated their interest in cryo-conservation.

	Activities	Lecturer
1	Descriptor Development and Standardization in Databases	Dr. Paul Queck (BI)
2	Exploration & Collection of Plant Genetic Resources	Dr. Baek Hyung-jin (BI)
3	Conservation & Management of PGR-seeds	Dr. Lee Young-yi
4	In vitro collection and cryopreservation of PGR	Dr. Yi Jung-yoon
5	Regeneration of PGR for Securing quality	Dr. Lee Myung-Chul
6	Quality Management of Seeds before Storage	Dr. Jeon Young-ah
7	GMS in NAC and the Access	Dr. Cho Gyu-taek
8	Understanding International Issues on PGR	Dr. Lee Ho-sun
9	DNA variation in Genetic Resources	Dr. Lee Myung-Chul
10	Molecular Markers and its Application in Genetic Resources	Dr. Lee Myung-Chul
11	Practice of basic Molecular work (Practice 1,2,3)	Mr. Lee Gi-an
12	Assessment of Genetic Diversity practical use of software	Dr. Chung Jong-wook
13	Introduction to National Management System of PGR	Dr. Jong-hyun Park
14	Management System of Agricultural Genetic Resources in RDA	Dr. Lee Sok-young

List of Lectures and lecturers (Two from Bioversity-International, 12 from RDA)



Dr. Kim Yeon-kyu, Director of Genebank, NAC, RDA, awards the certificate to participant from Sri Lanka .



Training Materials

Greetings from Bioversity International

Dr. Emile Frison, Director General of Bioversity sent the Participants for GMS Training Workshop an encouraging video message on May 21, 2013.



“ Good morning from Rome!

I am Director General of Bioversity International.

BI is an international research organization aiming at improving people's lives through the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity. We are also one of the 15 centers of CGIAR.

I would like to warmly congratulate RDA and AFACI for the collaboration with BI in organizing this course.

In particular, I would like to thank Lee Yang Ho and RDA's scientists for their contribution and BI staff and all participants today.

BI is delighted to co-organize this training event together with RDA and AFACI. This is not the first training course we organized, but already fifth one. And we are very delighted that we have reached to a new agreement to continue to four more years to 2017. This year, there are participants from 10 Asian countries which a lot of agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources can be found, but we also realize that this biodiversity is threatened. This is why this capacity building training course is so important. We must ensure that the countries have necessary skills to continue to use and

conserve the diversity. That is also why this training courses and capacity building have to be on-going efforts.

BI has had long-term collaboration with RDA not only through this course but also through the secondment of Korean scientists to our regional office in Asia and the Pacific. Currently, Dr. Bak Hyoun-jin is with us. And we are very happy through that collaboration to be able to contribute to the conservation and use of the genetic resources in the region. We all know that genetic resource and agricultural biodiversity in general is so important to satisfy the current needs but also the future needs in terms of improving nutrition, in terms of having a more resilient and sustainable agriculture, providing better eco-system services.

And therefore we think that this capacity building is essential in order to have the capacities in the countries to take advantage of potential of this diversity. We at BI take great pride in partnering with organizations like RDA. We want to invite you all to engage with BI. Go to our Website to follow us on social Media. On behalf of Bioversity, I wish you productive and successful course. I send you our best regards and thank you for your dedication to PGR's conservation and utilization.”



Headquarters of Bioversity International in Maccarese, Rome, Italy

Bioversity International is...

Bioversity International was originally established by the CGIAR as the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) in 1974. In October 1991, IBPGR became the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and in 1994 IPGRI began independent operation as one of the centers of the CGIAR.

Bioversity International is a research-for-development organization working with partners worldwide to use and conserve agricultural and forest biodiversity for improved livelihoods, nutrition, sustainability and productive and resilient ecosystems. Bioversity is working towards a world in which smallholder farming communities in developing countries of Africa, Asia and the Americas are thriving and sustainable. We focus on rain-fed farming systems, primarily managed by smallholder farmers, in areas where large-scale agriculture is not a viable option. Our research influences policy decisions and investment in agricultural research, from the local level to the global level.

Bioversity International's headquarters are near Rome, Italy, along with Rome-based UN food agencies Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ([FAO](#)), International Fund for Agricultural Development ([IFAD](#)) and World Food Programme ([WFP](#)). It has regional offices in Colombia, Kenya and Malaysia. and have more than 300 staff and scientists worldwide, working with almost 700 partners. (source: *Bioversity International Webpage*)



Successful Next Step for AFACI Country Project - Thailand's Corn Project blooms as a National Project

In 2009, Nakhon Sawan Field Crops Research Center developed Nakoh Sawan 3 (NS3), a drought-tolerant and high yielding maize hybrid. It was a great opportunity for Thailand to reduce farmers' large dependence on private companies in producing seed and solve the problems of high cost and seed shortage. But supply of NS3 was not sufficient to farmers' demands. In order to increase seed production, knowledge and related technology had to be transferred at farmers' level. That was how the collaborative project between AFACI and Thailand began.

The institution's achievement of developing a maize hybrid largely contributed to the project. But without local farmers' active participation, the project could not be implemented



Seed farm in Nakhon Sawan

successfully. In the project, farmers joined a training program and learned a method of producing hybrid seeds. By field visit to a hybrid demo plot, they compared yield of hybrid seeds with that of normal

seeds, which led to voluntary participation of farmers.

After planting self-sufficient seeds, the price of seeds per kilogram reduced from 130 baht to 60~74 baht. This remarkable achievement drew attractions from the public. In 2012 the government adopted this as a national project and is expected to support the project financially until June 2015.

Even though the contract period of collaboration between AFACI and Thailand had finished, I had to visit this country again. As the AFACI decided to continue its technical support, I had the duty of inspecting and identifying the current status in the field and providing any support or advice, if necessary.

Under the coordination of the Field and Renewable Energy Crops Research Institute (FCRI), the project was being implemented well in each province. The planted area covers 56.68 ha and the engaged households reached 83.



Seed farm in Sukhothai

Dr. Chutima Koshawatana, who worked as a principal investigator of the AFACI country project, is a senior agricultural research specialist in the institute and still in charge of managing the project. I met her in the institution and talked about current status, expected

outcomes, and future plans of the project.

The organizations I visited included several regional centers in Nakhon Sawan, Petchabun and Sukhothai. Nakhon Sawan province was the first place where the AFACI country project started and the center in this province helped farmers with multiplication and dissemination in close cooperation with FCRI. The planted area in Petchabun and Sukhothai province has been steadily growing due to increased interests from farmers.

<Table 1. Current Status of the Project in Each Institution>

Institution	No. of House	Planted Area
Sukhothai Agricultural Research and Development Center	22	19.68
Petchabun Field Crops Research Center	23	8.48
Petchabun Agricultural Research and Development Center	6	1.12
Chiang Mai Field Crops Research Center	7	4.16
Chiang Mai Agricultural Research and Development Center	4	1.12
Tak Agricultural Research and Development Center	20	16.64
Nakhon Sawan Field Crops Research Center	1	0.16
Nakhon Sawan Agricultural Research and Development Center	2	0.32
Total	83	51.68

I also visited a private breeding research center in Takli, Nakhorn Sawan owned by Syngenta, a global seed company. In 2006, it began to adapt doubled-haploid breeding system and is now widely used, which covers around 20% of its production. The system can reduce breeding time from 8 years to 4 or even 3 years.

To step forward, the institutions should have a deep understanding in the doubled-haploid breeding system. Also, by adopting the advanced breeding system, they can conduct the project more effectively.

Lastly, I deeply appreciate the DOA's interest in AFACI project, Dr. Chutima's dedicated management, and the farmers' active participation.

- Park Ki-jin, Ph.D., Project Coordinator, Senior Researcher, Maize Experiment Station, Kangwon Agricultural Research and Extension Services.



Seed Testing Lab in Pitsanulok

AFACI Country Project on Thai TV



TV 9, one of the Thai TV channels, broadcasted the success story of the country project in Thailand on April 7. The program entitled 'Thailand's Agricultural Heart' featured the project of 'Maize Seed Village' for thirty (30) minutes.

In this program, Dr. Chutima Koshawatana, Principal Investigator of the project, explained the project, including the successful factors and its future directions.



The project was launched in 2009 with the aim of providing maize seed to farmers at a lower price. Even though the duration of the project was over, AFACI and RDA promised to continue providing technical support.

This year, Dr. Park Ki-jin (Gangwon Province) as dispatched scientist from RDA, visited Thailand to inspect the farm and consult with the experts in Thailand.



The First Publication of Crop Calendar from Mongolia

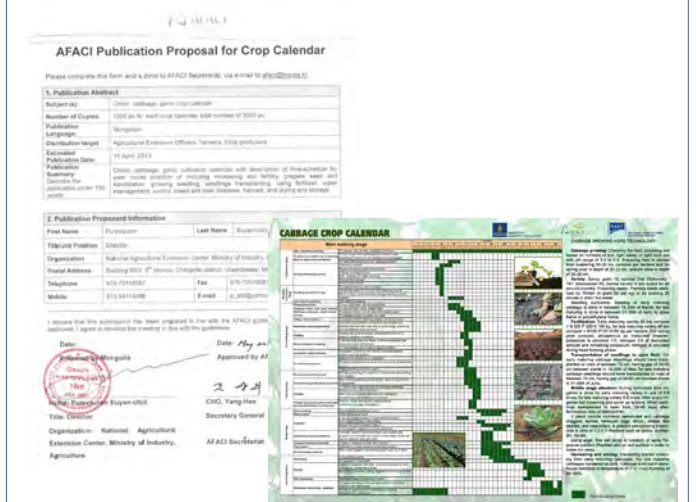


In 2012, the officials from AFACI member countries gathered in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the need for a crop calendar to help farmers adapt to climate change. The activity aims at facilitating the publication and distribution of current agricultural technologies to local farmers of member countries.

The Mongolian PI, Dr. Khanimkhan Ivirai, of ATIN project, produced the first crop calendar in May.

Crop calendars (for onion, cabbage, garlic crops) and plant protection manuals were published and 5,500 copies per crop were

printed (total of 22,000 copies). The AFACI secretariat called for the publication of crop calendars (AFACI 13-12, Feb, 5, 2013) for the AFACI member countries. Proposals are being collected and reviewed for funding. AFACI secretariat is expecting the proposals from members by the end of June. The funding will be decided by July and will be distributed for the implementation of the publications.



Publication proposal and English version crop calendar



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Sponsored by



Current 11 AFACI Member Countries and Cooperative Organizations

Bangladesh		Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) , Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)
Cambodia		Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
Indonesia		Indonesian Agency For Agricultural Research And Development (IAARD)
Korea		Rural Development Administration (RDA)
Lao PDR		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Mongolia		Ministry of Industry and Agriculture (MIA)
Nepal		Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MOAD), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
Philippines		Department of Agriculture (DA)
Sri Lanka		Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Thailand		Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Vietnam		Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Science (VAAS)

Editorial Board

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2013 AFACI Event Calendar

Project Planning Meetings

1. March 18-22, Suwon, Korea

Project Planning Meeting on Establishing
Cooperation System of Sericulture Technology in
Asia

2. May 6-10, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Project Planning Meeting on Improving Animal
Genetic Resource Value and Productive
Performance in Asia (AnGR)

Expert Workshops

1. April 15-19, Los Banos, Philippines

Expert Workshop on Establishment of Network
and Model Manual on Postharvest Technology of
Horticultural Crops in Asia

2. May 13-17, Hanoi, Vietnam

Expert Workshop on Development of Locally-
Appropriate GAP Programmes and Agricultural
Produce Safety Information System (GAP)

3. July 8-12, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Expert Workshop on Production and Service of
Agro-meteorological Information for the
Adaptation to Climate Change (AMIS)

4. August 19-24, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Expert Workshop on Construction of the Asian
Network for Sustainable Organic Farming
Technology (ANSOFT)

5. September 9-13, Thailand

Expert Workshop on Development of Rice
Production Techniques for Increase of Self-
Sufficiency of Staple Food In Asia

6. September 11-15, Thailand

Expert Workshop on Enhancing Agricultural
Mechanization Technologies for Crop Production
and Postharvest Processing of Cassava

7. September 23-27, Kathmandu, Nepal

Expert Workshop on Development of Integrated
Management System of Plant Genetic Resources
(PGRM)

8. October 14-18, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia

Expert Workshop on Agricultural Land
Management for Improving Soil Fertility and
Irrigation Efficiency

9. October 21-25, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Expert Workshop on Collaboration Network for the
Management of Migratory Rice Plant-hoppers and
Associated Virus Diseases of Rice in Asia (IPM)

10. November 25-20, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Expert Workshop on Establishment of Agricultural
Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN)

Other Events

January 24, 2013, AFACI Secretariat

Recruitment of Attendance of AFACI On-the-Job
Training on Communication

March 12, 2013, Serdang, Malaysia

LOA Signing for the International Training
Workshop on Germplasm Management Systems
(GMS) in Asia

May 20-29, Suwon, Korea

1st International Training Workshop on
Germplasm Management Systems (GMS) in Asia

June 17-18, Suwon, Korea

AFACI International Symposium on National
Agricultural R&D Strategies in Asia

June 19-22, Suwon, Korea

Evaluation Meeting for AFACI Country Projects