

# AFACI NEWSLETTER

## Asian Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative

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### New Acting Secretary General : Dr. Gihwan Yi



The first Secretary General, Gyoung-Rae Cho, was transferred to other position. Dr. Gihwan Yi, a senior researcher of Rural Development Administration (RDA), Korea, has temporarily taken over the responsibility. Currently, his title is AFACI Acting Secretary General. He will be in-charge until the election of the Secretary General in the next General Assembly.



p3. Collaboration network



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# Training Workshop on Preservation of Plant Pathogens (Fungi) in Nepal

A training workshop on preservation of plant pathogens (fungi) was held at Plant Pathology Division (PPD), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Nepal from April 4 to 6, 2011. The program was organized under the AFACI country project "Promoting conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of food and agriculture for enhancing food security in Nepal".

Dr. Hongsik Shim, Senior Research Scientist at Crop Protection Division in National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS), RDA and Mr. Won-Il Kim, Researcher at Microbial Safety Division in NAAS, RDA, Republic of Korea served as resource persons. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Hira Kaji Manandhar, Chief of PPD. Altogether 23 plant pathologists/scientists from PPD (9), Gene Bank (1), various research stations, and (3) crop research programs (10) located across the country participated in the workshop. The methods employed/discussed included periodic transfer, water storage, mineral oil storage, liquid nitrogen storage and freeze drying. During the workshop, Dr. Shim and Mr. Kim demonstrated the water storage and mineral oil storage methods in details and discussed the advantages, disadvantages and suitability of the methods for different fungi. The participants practiced the methods. Liquid nitrogen storage and freeze drying could not be demonstrated as the facilities were not available at PPD.

Besides the preservation methods, Dr. Shim delivered seminars on (i) forecasting system of rice diseases in Korea, (ii) rice diseases in Korea, and (iii) diseases and insect pests of soybean in Korea. The lectures gave insights of understanding the plant disease problems and their management.

The workshop was appreciated by all participants and also taken it as a refreshing event. Now, PPD and Plant Pathology Units at various NARC stations have started utilizing the water and mineral oil storage methods, especially for fungal pathogens. Earlier, periodic transfer was the only method being used for the preservation of fungi. PPD is planning to establish facilities for liquid nitrogen storage and freeze drying for long-term preservation of plant pathogens.

## Dr. Hongsik Shim's Impression

When I received a request for giving a lecture on preservation of plant pathogens, I was surprised. The best known image of Nepal is Himalayas at that time. I did not know what type of lecture I give to the participants in Himalayan mountain kingdom called 'the roof of the world'. I looked for the information of Nepal agriculture and preservation methods of plant pathogens. I decided to share locally applied technologies after discussing with the researcher in Nepal.

First, I looked around research facilities as soon as I arrived in Nepal. There is no basic storage facilities because of unstable electricity supplies. Even if they have, it is hard to operate the facilities twenty-four hours a day. Also, I found that it is necessary to share the methods for classification and identification of plant pathogens. I delivered lectures on all technologies prepared and demonstrated the water storage and mineral oil storage methods during the training workshop.

It was valuable time for me to learn Nepal. Nepal has diverse properties, such as subtropical regions and highland altitude cool regions. Nepal is really good place to conserve diverse genetic resources. In order to preserve plant pathogens efficiently, they need to improve their research facilities environment. I think it is possible to use Freeze-drying storage method if electricity supplies would be getting stable. I hope our agricultural technologies can grow up through this AFACI network.



Contributed by Dr. Hira Kaji Manandhar  
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Participants of the training workshop



Dr. Shim demonstrating techniques



Participant practicing techniques

## International workshop on the collaboration network for control of migratory rice planthoppers and associated virus diseases of rice in Asia

**I**nternational workshop on the collaboration network for control of migratory rice planthoppers and associated virus diseases of rice in Asia was held on 26 – 28 April 2011 at Rural Development Administration (RDA), Korea. It was hosted by National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS) and AFACI. The workshop was attended by 100 participants from 13 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, USA, Vietnam and Korea.



*Participants of the meeting*

The workshop was organized to establish a multinational collaborative network for the management of migrating rice planthoppers and associated rice viruses. The three-day workshop provided the strategic basis and ability to reduce their incidence below the threshold level for chemical control of rice planthoppers in resource-limited Asian countries. Currently, migratory insect pests such as brown planthoppers and viruses carried by the insects are the major common constraints for intensive rice production in Asian countries, since the insect pests can be carried by wind for more than few hundred kilometers. For example, it is known that an important rice pest, brown planthoppers (BPH) which can transmit rice viruses can migrate from Viet Nam to China and Taiwan by wind, and those in China again can migrate to Korea and Japan. For the effective prevention of migratory planthoppers, we need to work together in research by sharing information and building networks. In those regards, this workshop was timely and significant.

The workshop began with an opening remark delivered by Dr. Kwang-Yong Jung, President of NAAS. He emphasized that we need to create concerted strategies and building networks among Asian countries.

At the keynote session, Dr. Dale Bottrell, retired professor, Department of Entomology, University of

Maryland, delivered a keynote speech on "Resurrecting the Ghost of Green Revolutions Past: The Rice Brown Planthopper as a Recurring Threat to High Yielding Rice Production in Tropical Asia". Subsequently, Dr. Haikou Wang, GIS & Information Officer, Australian Plague Locust Commission, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, also delivered a keynote speech on "Introducing the Surveillance Network and Management System for the Australian Plague Locust in Australia". Dr. Kong Luen Heong, Senior Scientist, Crop and Environmental Sciences Division, IRRI, delivered final keynote speech on "Rice Planthopper problems in Asia—Insecticides and Policies". They introduced major problems and solutions to overcome damages from migratory planthoppers. Also they emphasized the importance of joint effort to prevent migratory planthoppers among Asian countries.

During the plenary session, the representatives from the individual Asian countries reported the status of the occurrences of rice plant hoppers and associated viruses in the individual countries.



*Dr. Yoo-Han Song explaining about project plan for planthoppers*

The second day of the workshop was fully devoted to planning of multinational cooperative activities to monitor the occurrences of rice planthoppers and associated viruses, and to exchange the information to be obtained from the monitoring. Dr. Yoo-Han Song and Dr. Il-Ryong Choi explained the tentative project plan. It seemed that the representatives were unanimously believing in the need for such multinational efforts since rice planthoppers are able to migrate long distances.

At the end of the workshop, the representatives agreed to start monitoring rice planthoppers and associated viruses within their own countries by adopting standardized monitoring schemes which were discussed and put out during the workshop.

## Field Trip

The participants had an opportunity to tour Seoul city in the final day of the workshop.

The first place was 'Insadong-gil', well known as a traditional street to both locals and foreigners. It has a historical atmosphere harmonized with modern comfort. The participants looked around the insadong-gil and had a time to buy souvenirs before leaving Korea. The participants had a "bibimbab", a rice mixed with vegetables, at insadong-gil and moved to 'Gyeongbok Palace'.

Gyeongbok Palace was the main and largest palace of the Five Grand Palaces built by the Joseon Dynasty, the last kingdom on the Korean Peninsular. The guide led the participants and explained its history. It was a good chance for them to understand Korea's history.

One day was a very short time to look around Seoul. However, it was valuable time to know not only Korea but also other participants.



*Group photo in Gyeongbok Palace*



*The guide explaining about Gyeongbok Palace*

## The way forward: Multinational efforts to manage rice pests and diseases facilitated by AFACI

I had a chance to attend at a workshop on the management of migratory rice planthoppers and associated virus diseases of rice in Asia hosted by AFACI in Suwon, Korea, between April 26 and 28. Holding such a workshop was very timely as the problems of rice crop losses due to planthoppers and virus diseases they transmitted have been aggravating in many Asian countries in recent years.

According the reports from AFACI member countries, it was fairly evident that each Asian country is facing or considerably suffering from the damages from rice planthoppers, although the degree of damage varies among the countries.

Overall, as far as I saw, the workshop was very successful in terms of affirming the common intention and willingness to manage the emerging problem of rice planthoppers among the representatives from the participating countries. However, the future success of this collaboration effort might be dependent on the continuous administrative support from AFACI, and the attentive technical support from RDA which is the leading organization of the project, so that the project participants can keep the momentum arising from the conclusion of this workshop.



*Dr. Il-Ryong Choi explaining about project plan for rice viruses*

Contributed by Il-Ryong Choi, Senior Scientist of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

# AFACI Research Project Principal Investigator Meeting

The AFACI Research Project Principal Investigator Meeting was held on 1–2 June 2011 in Suwon, Republic of Korea. The meeting was attended by 39 participants from 9 countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Korea.

The purpose of this meeting was to share the information on the current progress of the AFACI Research Project, to develop the implementation plans and to draw the long-term direction of the AFACI. Actually, it was hard to know projects of other countries because those are bilateral projects between a individual country and Korea. AFACI made a chance to know other projects and to exchange ideas on different areas of agriculture through this meeting.

In the Welcoming Remarks, Mr. Nahm–Su Kim, the Director General of Technology Cooperation Bureau of RDA, emphasized that the world has been facing challenges like population increase, global warming, energy shortage and soaring grain price. He urged that all AFACI members must work together to make our farms and industry more sustainable.

The meeting consisted of three session (Session 1. Country Report; Session 2. Individual Discussion; Session 3. Operating Committee). Before starting the first session, Mr. Sang–Jae Lee, the Director of International Technology Cooperation Center, RDA, presented the brief introduction on the Administration. He spoke about organization, achievement and research/extension system of RDA.

In the first session, country reports of each member were presented by all participants. Each report included the following information: 1) Project Introduction, 2) The progress of the project, 3) Future Plan, 4) Difficulties and Suggestions for AFACI. The issues and progress of project were very different depending on the situation and policy of countries. However, Project Investigators showed their enthusiasm in sharing their experience from the project. Subsequently, each participant had time for one–to–one discussion with Korean project researcher about the project.

The final session was 'organizing committee'. They discussed the operation plan of the project. The meeting concluded with this session.



*Organizing Committee Session*



*Participants of the meeting*



*Mr. Nahm–Su Kim delivering the welcoming remarks*

## Result of Organizing Committee

In general, the Organizing Committee recognized that:

- 1) Basically, operating budget should follow the guidelines of budget recipient organization.
- 2) Reallocation between budget items should meet the rules of recipient.
- 3) At the end of project year, AFACI will request for final expenditure statement from members. All receipts should be kept for the case that AFACI would need for possible audit. This statement should be included in the annual report.
- 4) Recipient should use the Final Expenditure Statement in ANNEX 3. However, the details of items may be modified under the rule of each organization.
- 5) The 1st Annual Report should be submitted to AFACI Secretariat (afaci@korea.kr) by the end of July, 2011.

## Field Study

The participants attended the Field Trip to National Agrobiodiversity Center and Plant Factory of National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS), RDA.

Korea-Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI) members who are attending the training course also joined in AFACI field trip.

At the National Agrobiodiversity Center, they were provided with comprehensive information on the conservation and management of genetic resources including plants, microbes, insects, and animals. Dr. Hyung Jin Baek, who is a senior researcher of the Center, led the group and explained its role and activities. The participants looked around the laboratories and observed the diverse genetic resources. They also watched the automation systems of massive seeding proliferation, and the automation of animal plant production process at the Plant factory.

The final destination was 'Namsangol Hanok Village (traditional Korean village)' for sightseeing. It seems that the participants may consider it interesting to find this area standing between the tall buildings. This village has five restored traditional Korean houses and a pavilion, a pond and a time capsule, which make it a perfect spot to take a walk and talk.

The workshop activities were finished with this trip.



*The participants observing diverse genetic resources*



*Group Photo in front of the National Agrobiodiversity Center building*

## Introduction of Country Projects

Bangladesh	Development of variety, cropping system research and technology transfer of major cereals (Rice and Wheat) for sustainable food security in Bangladesh
Indonesia	Variety development and improvement production system of the tropical soybean
Lao PDR	Direct seeding much based cropping systems DMC or SCV
Mongolia	Development of Vegetable Production Techniques in the Green House
Nepal	Promoting conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of food and agriculture for enhancing food security
Philippines	1. Bio-fertilizer technology for sustainable agriculture 2. Establishment of a Lignocellulosic Feedstock Data Bank and a Single Agriculture and Forestry Bioenergy Network
Sri Lanka	Post harvest management of fruits and vegetable
Thailand	Maize seed village in Thailand

## Impression of Participation

### **Bangladesh: Dr. Khalequzzaman A Chowdhury (Member-Director (Crops) of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC))**

AFACI opens a new platform of exchanging ideas on different areas of agriculture. It brings all 9 countries together in order to share knowledge, success and achievement in agriculture. I hope all the countries will be highly benefited through the implementation of AFACI Project. We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to AFACI and Korean government for financial support provided to us. I hope that the lessons and experiences you gained in this in the meeting could be applied to your country. Most of all, I hope that through AFACI we could further strengthen our partnership.

### **Indonesia: Dr. Heru Kuswanto (Researcher Indonesian Legume and Tuber Crops Research Institute (ILETRI))**

By AFACI Research Project Meeting, we can learn from each other to improve our knowledge for the future research projects. Hopefully, the AFACI Research Project Principal Investigator Meeting could be conducted regularly, so we can share our experiences and dissolve our difficulties

### **Lao PDR: Mr. Thisadee Chounlamonty (Deputy head of research unit, National Conservation Agriculture Centre (NCAC) )**

The meeting should be more longer than 2 days to present the result of each country project and discuss about the advantage and disadvantage of establishing the project between AFACI and members. AFACI should understand the real crop season in each country on different title of Country Project for transfer the budget to the members countries. Finally, is it possible to propose to have a meeting in local country at the end of country project to perform the result of the Country Project by invite the members countries and delegate from AFACI.

### **Mongolia: Ms. TS. Narangelger (Principal of Development Of Vegetable Production Techniques In The Green House)**

We are happy for Mongolian participation in AFACI research project and look forward this shall brought be new promotion on our further work achievement on protected vegetable growing. Also, this was my first visit to Suwon, as a research project participant of AFACI, representing Mongolia. The meeting of AFACI gives me many impressions on its international activities. I wish further success to AFACI's humanitarian activities throughout the Asian countries.

### **Nepal: Mr. Madan Raj Bhatta (Chief of National Agriculture Genetic Resource Centre (NAGRC), NARC)**

The presentation made by nine principal investigators from eight Asian countries on different projects was quite interesting and a great learning for

me. The AFACI supported projects covered wide range of issues such as food security, climate change, post harvest technology, agro biodiversity conservation and also bio-energy network. I personally feel that it was a good opportunity for me to expose myself in such a wide range of topics within a short period of time. I would like to thank and acknowledge AFACI for establishing such an excellent network among Asian countries to jointly work together and inviting me to attend the PI meeting and present AFACI supported project report. Look forward to further strengthening of our partnership and cooperation.

### **Philippines: Dr. Marilyn B. Brown (Program Leader, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH))**

The meeting was super productive. The AFACI Secretariat and organizer were very well organized, well prepared and super patient. We hope that we will be joining again AFACI meetings in the coming years to come. More Power to Korea.

### **Philippines: Dr. Rosario Monsalud (University Researcher, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH))**

Thank you very much for organizing the AFACI Meeting which was held on June 1-2, 2011. It was a good chance for us to know more about the other AFACI projects and learn from their experiences which could be helpful in implementing related activities in our own country. I hope for similar future gatherings to strengthen our collaboration and attain our common objectives towards development of sustainable agricultural and food technology.

### **Philippines: Dr. Maria Lourdes Q. Sison (University Researcher, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH))**

The venue of the meeting was very impressive. The AFACI staff or secretariat was super patient, considerate, very willing and all smiles in attending to the needs of the participants. In so short a time the meeting was fruitful, we were able to discuss with our Korean counterparts how the research could be improved further. We also formed new friendships and learned from the experiences of the other participants. The field trip gave us a glimpse of Korea's advances in agricultural science, and the hospitality, warmth and kindness of its people.

### **Thailand: Dr. Chutima Koshawatana (Agricultural research scientist of Field Crops Research Institute (FCRI))**

My impression is your kind and warm hospitality during the meeting especially an open floor for any questions from AFACI members including the individual discussion with the officers. There is no "command" but "friendship and enthusiastic" to help solving the problem.

# AFACI Pan-Asian Project Meeting for the Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network In Asia

The first meeting of the AFACI Pan-Asian Project, "the Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN)", was held on 8-9 June, 2011, in Ramada Plaza Hotel, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The meeting was attended by 14 participants from 10 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Korea.

This meeting gave the participants chances to share the information of the present status of the website related to agriculture and the current progress of the AFACI Pan-Asian Project in member countries and develop the implementation plans of the Project in the meeting.

In the welcoming remarks, Mr. Nahm-Su Kim, the Director General of Technology Cooperation Bureau of RDA, Korea, emphasized that the convergence of IT (Information Technology), BT (Bio-Technology) and NT (Nano-Technology) has given us tremendous chance to realize the 'Low-input and high-quality agriculture'.

Also, Mr. Sang-Jae Lee, the Director of International Technology Cooperation Center, RDA, presented the

brief introduction of Rural Development Administration (RDA), the hosting organization.

The first day consisted of two sessions. In the First session, the participants presented country reports on the present status of the website for agriculture in each country.

The second session was the time for discussing operation strategy of ATIN Project. Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) was investigated by all participants. They discussed how to carry out this project. One of big issue was to connect agricultural website of member countries. They agreed that AFACI website must become a counter of this connection in order to efficiently share information on agricultural technology. It was mentioned that as there are so many websites in each country, principal investigators should think deeply how they can identify valuable ones to be linked with others.

During the second session, the participants could share various opinions about ATIN project. The participants agreed to discuss the details of technical issues at technical meeting in November, 2011.



*Participants of the meeting*



*Mr. Sang-Jae Lee giving a presentation*



*Organizing Committee Session*

## Project Introduction

AFACI Pan-Asian Project for the Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN) was suggested and determined in the first General Assembly and carrying out in all member countries. This project primarily aims to focus on forging partnership with the already existing agri-based database systems and network of member countries in Asia. Secondly, ATIN aims to pursue the construction of a collaborative network to make available a standardized agricultural information platform for sharing agricultural knowledge and data gathering. Agenda of ATIN also include the publication of annual country reports and agricultural status, as well venue for sharing R&D and technology outputs for mutual understanding among Asian countries.

The standardized platform of ATIN will be directed and devoted to allow easy inter-country access to technology & information in agriculture and expand analysis of its database for user's needs. Information collected through ATIN expects to facilitate access of farmers, agricultural researchers as well other stakeholders to relevant information that aims to improve their skills and knowledge. The data expansion of ATIN will play an important role to policymakers, R&D managers, as basis for their decisions. Other envisioned outputs of ATIN include literatures reviews dealing with annual country reports and statistics in agriculture, global analyses of agricultural R&D system, and other information relevant to agricultural development of respective countries.



## Field Trip

The participants attended the Field Trip to 'Agricultural Research Center for Climate Change (ARCCC)', 'Foundation Seed Production Center (FSPC)' and 'Agricultural Research & Extension Service (ARES)'. The participants looked around the research facilities and research field. Especially, many of them were very interested in seed potato. The researcher from FSPC explained that the farmers prefer this seed potato even though it is more expensive than others.

In addition, the participants visited a farmhouse famous for mango in Jeju Island. Only Jeju Island cultivates the mangoes in Korea because of the climate. Therefore, all mangoes were grown in a plastic greenhouse. The participants had a chance to taste mangoes harvested from this farm.

Also, the participants visited 'Cheon-Je-Yeon waterfall, named 'The pond of God' and 'Joo-Sang-Jeol-Li', unique columnar joint. All the scheduled program was closed with this field trip.



Foundation Seed Production Center for potato



Greenhouse horticulture



Group photo in front of Cheon-Je-Yeon fall

## Impression of Participation

### **Bangladesh: Mr. Abeer H Chowdhury (Director of Computer & GIS Unit, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council)**

The AFACI Pan-Asian Project Meeting for Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN) was successful. The participants had a fruitful discussion on the implementation of the project and exchanged their views and ideas in this regard. The visit to different institutions was useful and the meeting venue was excellent.

### **Nepal: Mr. Shib Nandan Prasad Shah (Senior Statistics Officer of GIS Section, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives)**

It is a great opportunity to introduce and share our own knowledge and experience of research and development in Agriculture for establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia within AFACI member countries through AFACI Pan-Asian Project meeting held on 8-9 June, 2011 in Jeju Island, Korea. Further I have very much impressed to see the present status of research and development in Agriculture in Korea such as potato seeds production, horticulture and mango production, which has boosted up our technical capability and agreed to commit for establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia

### **Philippines: Ms. Melissa A. Resma (Head of Information Management Unit, Bureau of Agricultural Research)**

The AFACI meeting was a forum for the member countries to interact with each other on what should be done with the AFACI website. It would have been more fruitful if more time was given on the discussion regarding what information is needed for the AFACI website. The meeting was also the venue to update the member countries and AFACI on the respective websites that they have. Overall the meeting was very successful since some administrative issues and concerns related to the AFACI project was addressed.

### **Sri Lanka: Dr. Rohan Wijekoon (Assistant Director, Audio Visual Center, Department of Agriculture)**

The meeting was well organized and now we are well aware of project proposal and the activities that I have to perform. I find that most of our web sites must be translated into English language and I will immediately start on that assignment. I suggest that we must have a separate link in the proposed agriculture Information network to have video programs of different countries (a video data base) so that we will be able to study agricultural technical programs of different countries. This activity will be another deliverable in the project proposal. Check others opinion about this suggestion. Please visit our web site; [www.goviya.lk](http://www.goviya.lk) to see technical video programs and I will give necessary links to these videos in the future after we formulate common gateway.

## Upcoming Events

### The 2nd Training Workshop on Rural Development for High Level Officials of AFACI Member Countries, 22–26 August, 2011, RDA, Suwon, Korea

The 2nd training workshop on Rural Development for High Level Officials of AFACI Member Countries will be held on 22–26 August, 2011, in Suwon, Korea. It will be conducted at International Technology Cooperation Center (ITCC), RDA and Saemaul Undong Central Training Institute.

This Training Workshop on Rural Development for High Level Officials of AFACI Member Countries was suggested and determined in the first AFACI General Assembly Meeting as a training program of the Initiative. The main purpose of this training workshop is to build a leadership of high-level government officials for agricultural and rural development. It has been implemented under the following two subjects for two years: Strengthening National Agricultural Research and Extension System for first year (2010), and Rural Development to Improvement Quality of Rural Life for second year (2011).



*Field study of Saemaul Undong Central Training Institute*

High level officials of the research institute and the extension institute from 11 member countries will participate in this workshop. The participants will be introduced to the Saemaul Undong as the Korea's community development model and have case studies on rural development and community development. There will be also field trip programs to share the good agricultural practice.

This Training Workshop will give a bench-marking opportunity to the member countries along with sharing information on practical methods for rural development and community development. AFACI hope that the member countries can build capacity for agricultural and rural development policy through sharing of opinions and information on the application of the successful community development model.

### Workshop on construction of the Asian Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (ANSOFT), 26–28 September, 2011, Rural Development Administration (RDA), Suwon, Korea

The ANSOFT Workshop will be held on 26–28 September, 2011 at Rural Development Administration (RDA), Suwon, Korea. It will be the second year workshop of ANSOFT project, one of the AFACI Pan-Asian Project that aims to share sustainable organic Farming Technology in order to increase agricultural productivity of Asian region.

Organic agriculture is one of the fast growing agricultural business in worldwide. It requires new farming techniques, policy & regulation, certification and marketing system etc. Asian countries require their own systemic development in this area.

At the workshop, the researchers who are working at International Centre for Research in Organic Food System (ICROFS) and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL will give the keynote speeches on technology transfer and marketing for organic farming. The participants will present their country papers on current status of organic agriculture.

The final day of the workshop, the participants will attend the Opening Ceremony of 17th IFOAM Organic and World Congress and World Organic Fair 2011.

### Technical Meeting on the establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network In Asia (ATIN), sometime in November, 2011

AFACI Pan-Asian Project Meeting for ATIN was held at Jeju island, Korea, during 8–9 June, 2011. There was a limit to discuss technical factors for organizing contents of agricultural technology information platform without the working group in the meeting.

Therefore, AFACI will host 'Technical Meeting on the establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network In Asia' in coming November, 2011. The working groups from each member country are expected to participate and share their idea on contents of ATIN platform. The specific program will be informed as soon as the schedule is confirmed.