

AFACI NEWSLETTER

Asian Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative

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11 current AFACI member countries

High-Level Symposium on the Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change



On November 5, 2012, twelve (12) high-level officials from 11 AFACI member countries gathered together in Bangkok, to review the impact of climate change over Asian agriculture and to call for AFACI members

to take joint actions to cope with the challenge.

Published by Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) Secretariat

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2012 Planning Meetings



Where are we going with AFACI New projects next year?

Visit for AFACI Project



A brief report on an Indonesian project by an RDA researcher.

Press Coverage



New AFACI member country on the horizon - Kyrgyz Republic.

Visit the AFACI Website at : www.afaci.org

Sponsored by RDA



2012 Principal Investigators Meeting for 6 New AFACI Projects

September 10-14, 24-28, 2012, RDA, Suwon, Republic of Korea

Background & Overview



Participants for the three new AFACI projects are taking part in the Opening Ceremony of the 1st PI meeting on Sept. 11, 2012.

As the AFACI projects launched in July 2010, are supposed to be terminated in June 2013, AFACI member countries decided to launch 8 new Pan-Asian/Regional projects for next three years during the second General Assembly in 2012.

In this context, Principal Investigator meetings for New 6 projects were held on September 10~14 and September 24~28, 2012, in Suwon, Republic of Korea. These meetings were conducted over two sessions, each lasting 5 days. The meetings were organized, aiming at a) to develop the implementation plan of projects and b) to conclude the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP)

Highlights of the Meeting

The total attendance for the planning meetings reached 56, 29 participants for the first meeting and 27 for the second, respectively. Following the opening ceremony, the principal investigator meetings for each project were separately organized at the each designated place of responsible institutions of RDA. During the meeting, participants reported on the current status regarding the projects and tried to draw out the common background for the provisional project to be launched. Through a close consultation with RDA researchers, in the meetings that lasted two days, each Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) was drafted and signed.



Participants for the three new AFACI projects are taking group photo after the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd AFACI PI meeting.



Participants are visiting melon farm and listening to cultivation method of melon

On the third day, all the participants for the meetings took a field trip to related sites in Korea.

The tour included typical agricultural household and agricultural cooperatives of fruit processing in Buyeo (APC) and also Saemangeum Reclaimed Land in Buan.



Participants are listening to post-harvest process of melon in Gyuam Agricultural Products Processing Center in Buyeo, Korea.

2012 Principal Investigators Meeting (Cont.)

TCP for 6 New projects were signed

In these meetings, TCP for 6 AFACI projects were discussed and finalized for implementation from September, 2012.

1. Development of rice production techniques for increase of self-sufficiency of staple food in Asia

Mechanize rice production and develop rice varieties adaptable to South-east Asian countries to improve income of rice growers and realize self-sufficiency

2. Agricultural land management for improving soil fertility and irrigation efficiency

Establish a system utilizing organic resources and managing soil nutrients and also sharing water management technologies to attain self-sufficiency in food production

3. Establishment of network and manual on postharvest technology of horticultural crops

Build a cooperative system and practical knowledge targeted at post harvest quality maintenance and food safety of horticultural crops. Also aims at developing practical model manual post postharvest handling of horticultural crops

4. Enhancing Agricultural Mechanization Technologies for Crop Production and Post Harvest Processing of Cassava

Develop and establish appropriate sets of cassava crop production technologies, low-cost postharvest processing systems and economic viability of cassava post harvest technologies suited to the cassava famers and their local conditions

5. Production and service of agro-meteorological information for the adaptation to climate change

Collect local agro-meteorological data and analyze agro-metrological variation and classification of agro-climate zones according to crop, thereby achieving agro-meteorological observation system

6. Development of Locally Appropriate GAP Programs & Agricultural Produce Safety Information System

Introduce and promote national Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) programs for safety of agricultural produce, indentifying chemical and biological contaminations





High-Level Official Symposium on the Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change

November 5-7, 2012, Bangkok, Thailand



In the Opening Ceremony, participants are listening to the congratulatory remarks by Dr. Nguyen Van Bo, AFACI Chair and President of VAAS (right)

To raise awareness in impact of climate change and take joint actions, Symposium on Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change in Agriculture was organized on November 5, 2012 at Miracle Grand Convention Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. With 26 participants, the opening ceremony (was graced by) commenced with the welcoming remarks by Dr. Manthana Milne, Deputy Director-General of Thailand's Department of Agriculture and congratulatory remarks by Dr. Ngyuen Van Bo, the AFACI chairperson and president of Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), and Dr. Seung-Yong Ra, president of National Academy of Agriculture Science (NAAS).

The symposium consisted of two technical sessions. The eleven AFACI Member Countries presented the current status in their respective countries. During the discussion, each participant

shared their views on the issues.

In the closing session, Dr. Dharmarsree Wijeratne, Sri Lankan Additional Secretary in Ministry of Agriculture and Vice-chair of AFACI, summed up the issue. "The most important issues are rising temperature and change in rainfall pattern. We need to develop and share technologies for adaptation and mitigation and also build forecasting system. Developing and



Dr. Dharmarsree Wijeratne, Vice-chair of AFACI and moderator in symposium

sharing these technologies will contrib-

ute to increasing resistance of small-scale farmers to climate change." In response, the Secretariat explained that some of the issues were already being covered by the new and existing AFACI projects such as ATIN Project and Soil Fertility and Water Management Project. Dr. Bo stressed the necessity of building network in order that participants continually propose and exchange ideas even after the meeting.

The symposium provided the members opportunity to identify the issue by sharing information on the current challenges and seek the solutions against climate change, which affects agriculture in significant and unexpected way.



Dr. Seung-Yong Ra, President of NAAS (Second from the left), and Ms. Sung-Hyun Park, RDA Interpreter (Far left), are listening to the local farmer



(From the left) Dr. Abdul Hamid (Bangladesh), Dr. Muhrizal Sarwani (Indonesia), Dr. Thavone Inthavong (Lao PDR), Dr. Hira Kaji Manadhar (Nepal), Dr WMADB Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka). Dr. Nguyen Van Viet (Vietnam), Ms. Maria Rosario Lourdes Em, Ms. Ana Abejuela (Philippines), Mrs. Erdenejargal Tumurbaatar (Mongolia) and Mr. Cheattho Prak (Cambodia)



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

June 26-28, 2012, VAAS, Hanoi, Vietnam



Nguyen Van Tuat, Vice President of VAAS, delivered welcoming remarks

On June 26, 2012, thirty researchers from eight (8) AFACI member countries visited Hanoi, Vietnam to attend IPM expert workshop, which was jointly held by Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) and AFACI. This three-day workshop from

June 26 to 28 was organized to review its second-year achievements and establish network for the management of migrating rice planthoppers (RPH) and associated rice viruses.

In country reports, the participants reported on weekly occurrence of RPH in each fields. They provided field information from light trap and yellow sticky trap to measure occurrence and population. Various mechanical, biological and chemical controlling methods were introduced during the presentations. Then, the participants shared information and idea on issues and strategies.

The following break-up session covered two different issues : how to monitor RPH/ virus better and how to improve an online-based surveillance system named 'Asia migratory insects and viruses surveillance system (AMIVS)'. Dr. Hong-Hyun Park, researcher from National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS), suggested that all of the researchers from member countries join in the system and put the data. But some participants pointed out some defects such as instability of the system, difficulties in registering data and insufficient functions and called for the improvement.

On the third day, participants took a field trip to Quang Linh Province to identify RPH and virus in fields .

For Improving AMIVS

“All researchers from AFACI member countries should join the system and record field data.”

Dr. Hong-Hyun Park from Korea

“Raise the limit of data entry and add a function of distribution map of planthoppers.”

Dr. Ho Van Chien from Vietnam, South

“Difficult to enter the monitoring information”

Mr. Suniyom Tarap from Thailand

“Need to simplify the system considering the internet environment in the member countries.”

Dr. Il Yong Choi from IRRI



AMIVS Webpage

For Better Monitoring of Planthoppers & Virus

“Keep Protocol for Better Monitoring with Yellow Sticky Traps and Send High-Resolution Pictures of Yellow Sticky Trap In Sharp Focus”

Dr. Yoo-Han Song from Korea

“Need to Simplify the Monitoring Method by Yellow Sticky Trap”

Dr. Pham Hong Hien from Vietnam, North

“How to Solve Quarantine Issues in Preparing and Sending Virus Samples? Any possibility for AFACI to offer training programs for member countries?”

Dr. Baidya Nath Mahto from Nepal



Country Report



Field Trip to Quang Linh Province



Asian Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (ANSOFT)

BSWM and AFACI Co-hosted ANSOFT Workshop

July 1~4 2012, Quezon City, Philippines



Participants for the Workshop

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) and AFACI co-hosted a workshop entitled "Asian Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (ANSOFT)" from July 1 to 4, 2012 at Fernando Lopez Hall, Quezon City in Philippines. Since its implementation in 2009, ANSOFT, one of the Pan-Asian Projects, has been conducted with a pursuit of promoting organic agriculture, sharing technologies and enhancing networking among country members.

The keynote speech was delivered by Bernadette Romulo Puyat, Undersecretary for Special Concerns of the Department of Agriculture, Philippines. Including three lecturers from Philippines, total attendance reached 19 participants. Each participant from eleven AFACI Member Countries gave country presentations on progress of the project and current status in organic farming.



*Ms. Bernadette Romulo Puyat
Undersecretary, DA*

The Korean speakers, Dr. Youn Lee and Dr. Sang-Min Lee explained about Korean organic agriculture, focusing on roles of internet in technology dissemination. At the end of the presentation, he demonstrated the ANSOFT webpage, a platform for networking among member countries.



MINSOFS webpage

As a successful example, Philippines' MINSOFS (Mindanao Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Systems), a network among government, non-government organizations and civil societies, drew much attention from other Member Countries. Describing AFACI-ANSOFT as a 'catalyst' for the establishment of MINSOFS, the network envisioned becoming a permanent network in the long term.

On July 3, one-day field trip to the Mangarita Farm in Capas and Tarlac was organized. Participants took a look of traditional organic farms in Philippines.

ANSOFT Workshop was Held to Share Successful Cases

October 18~20 2012, Gwangju, Republic of Korea

As a part of International Organic Agriculture Symposium, AFACI and Korea Association of Organic Agriculture (KAOA) co-hosted the fourth workshop on Asian Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (ANSOFT) from October 18 to 20, 2012 in Gwangju. Under the theme of "Success story of small organic farms in Asian countries", each participant shared successful cases of their countries. In country report for Korea, Dr. Youn Lee proposed six elements successful small-scale farmers have in common; Grouping, Networking, Value adding, Venture, Focus and Niche Market.

In discussion, participants unanimously agreed with the extension of ANSOFT. Participants also suggested that the direction move from exchanging information to nurturing model farms in respective countries. Participants expressed their wish to make an applicable manual on organic agriculture written in English.



Participants for the Symposium



Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Management

November 7-11, 2012, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Conserving Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) as a global commons



Principal Investigators are participating in the opening ceremony of the PGR Workshop at Richmond Stylish Hotel, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Loss of Plant Genetic Resources is magnified with the impact of climate change. With increasing impact of climate change on our doorstep, Integrated Management system for Plant Genetic Resources is as important as ever and crucial for our food security .Acknowledging the significance of PGR stated above, the expert workshop for “Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Management System” was held on 7-11 November 2012, in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

The workshop was co-hosted by the Biotechnology Research and Development Office (BIRDO) of Thailand and AFACI Secretariat. In the absence of Dr. Dumrong Jirasutas, Director General of Department of Agriculture, Dr. Alongkorn Kornthong, Director of Biotechnology

Research and Development Office (BIRDO) under DOA instead commenced the workshop by delivering the welcoming remarks. Dr. Seung-Yong Ra, President of National Academy of Agriculture Science (NAAS), RDA also addressed the meeting and emphasized the significance of PGR management system and encouraged member countries to use duplicate conservation service at RDA Genebank in National Agrodiversity Center (NAC), RDA.

During the workshop, principal investigators made presentation of the current status of PGR management system in each country and the progress of the project during the first phase. The participants also appraised the progress of the project during the first year, shared the feedback on the PGR management in each member countries, and discussed the direction of the project for the remaining project period.

Particularly, the presentation of the invited speaker, Mr. Surakrai Sungkasubuan on “Current Status of Law and Legislation on PGR in Thailand” and the visiting program to the genebank, Department of Agriculture (DOA) in Thailand gave participants insight on the PGR management system. On the 2nd day, the participants shared views on the main issues and challenges during the discussion session moderated by a Korean principal investigator and), Dr. Sokyung Lee, Head of PGR Management Team of National Agrobiodiversity Center(NAC) of RDA.



Principal Investigators are taking group photo after the Opening Ceremony

(Dr. CHO, Yang-Hee (third from left), Dr. Alongkorn Kornthong (middle), Dr. Seung-Yong Ra (third from right))



Participants are visiting Genebank of of Department of Agriculture(DOA), Thailand



Agricultural Technology Information Network (ATIN)

November 26-30, 2012, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Focused on spreading Agricultural Technologies



In the Opening Ceremony, Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena giving a message

The 2nd Workshop for “Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN)” was held in Peradeniya, Sri Lanka on November 26-30, 2012.

Through the workshop, the participants discussed the achievements of last three years through ATIN Project, and future aspects for another three years.

H.E. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane, Minister of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, welcomed the participants and showed special appreciation to the KOPIA and AFACI during his speech. Dr. Cho, Yang-Hee, Secretary General of AFACI, congratulated on the achievements of projects by the member countries and requested the demand for the new crop calendar for preparing the climate change.

Dr. Rohan Wijekoon, Director of Information and Communication Center of Department of Agriculture (DOA), expressed his appreciation to RDA, AFACI, and DOA in Sri Lanka, and importance of ATIN Project in his welcome remarks.

The participants communicated about the challenges and aspect for the next phase of ATIN. As a project deliverable, most of the member countries published the Agricultural Books, and they presented those books during the workshop. Also, the participants presented their country reports on their achievements and the challenges for the ATIN Project. Many principal investigators (PI) asked about “how to use the ATIN Web-site” and acquired the User guide for the Homepage. Also, they suggested the complete platform of homepage.

During the last session, the participants selected the crop calendar as the next phase of ATIN Project. Also, all the members agreed to hold the annual ATIN Workshops from 2013 to 2015 in Cambodia, Philippines, and Nepal.



Delegates took a photo at the Opening Ceremony

Agricultural Books

Around 33,000 copies of nineteen (19) agricultural books were published in twelve (12) languages as part of ATIN Project in 2012.



Agricultural books from 10 countries displayed



Participants visited the planting garden in KOPIA Center



Brief Report of on-the-spot evaluation for Country Project



Dr. Won-Young Han (Scientist, NICS, RDA) visited Indonesia from 3 to 11 July 2012 for on-the-spot evaluation on the AFACI's project of Indonesia, 'Variety Development and Improvement Production Technology of the Tropical Soybean'.

Background

In June 2009, Indonesian government declared the plan '2014 Soybean Self Sufficiency', aiming to increase self sufficiency ratio of the soybean from 47% up to 100% by 2014. In order to increase its cultivation, the government wanted to expand its cultivating area toward sub-optimal land such as the acid soil (pH4.5-5.5) and drought-prone area and plant shade-tolerant soybean in the orchard. In this connection, AFACI country project for Indonesia has been implemented since 2010.

Dr. Han had already visited Indonesia for the AFACI project three times before. Dr. Han recalls "Every time I visited, I was surprised at the rapid changes such as increased vehicles, many construction sites, new restaurants and heavier traffic jam on the road. I think this country as 'dynamic and speedy developing nation'."

Tofu & Tempeh

Soybean in Indonesia is used as **tofu** and '**Tempeh**' which is a traditional Indonesian soy product. It is produced by a natural culturing and controlled fermentation process that binds soybeans into a cake form, similar to a very firm vegetarian burger patty.



Inspecting growth of soybean in the field

The Field Visits & Evaluation

The implementing agency for Indonesian country project is Indonesia Legume and Tuber crop Research Institute (ILETRI) (head : Dr. Adie). The soybean field in Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Island that he visited was an acid soil. The majority of the 40 soybean pedigree lines tested showed poor growth, while 3 lines among them showed very good growth and adaptation to acid soil.

Visit to Local Farms & ISARU

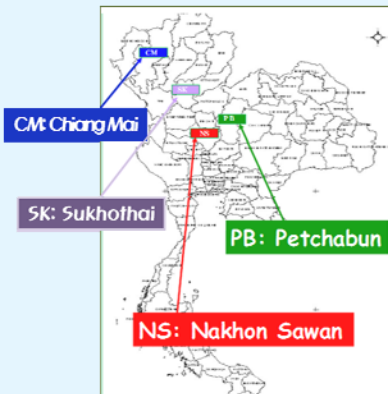
In the Farm visits to Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Region, Dr. Han noted that he spotted stink bugs and pod suckers in the soybean pods which are main insects to decrease the soybean yield and also very troublesome in Korea. Dr. Han also visited the Indonesian Swampland Agricultural Research Institute (ISARU). In 1953, it has been established in order to develop the agricultural technology of the rice and soybean adaptable to the swampland, which covers about 43.4 million hectares of the country. The Institute has made plenty of attempts and achievements. To name a few, the rice variety, Pandak, has been developed which is adaptable to one-meter depth of the water. Lawit and Meyapa, soybean varieties adaptable to the swampland, are also one of their achievements.



Soybean varieties developed by ISARU

Country Project : A Success Story from Thailand

[Country Project] Maize Seed Village in Thailand



Map of the Project Area

Implementation of Project

In October 16, 2012, Daily News, a Thai newspaper, reported AFACI's country project of Thailand named 'Maize Seed Village in Thailand' on its first page. In Thailand, "maize", one of the important crop but not sufficient to meet the domestic demand, had been imported from neighboring countries. In this regard, the AFACI country project of Thailand started in five provinces including Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Nakhon Sawan and Phetchabun in July, 2010. The principal investigator (PI) of this project is Dr. Chutima Koshawatana, senior researcher in Field and Renewable Energy Crops Research Institute (FCRI).

Visit to RDA and Maize Experiment Station

In order to encourage her dedication to the project and promote the current collaboration, AFACI invited her and colleagues. Thai people. During their three-day stay from August 22 to 24, Thai delegation visited RDA and its subsidiary organizations including Maize Experiment Station in Hongcheon and Agricultural Technology Service Center in Sejong City. In Maize Experiment Station, they showed great interest in seed production. The extension services conducted at a municipal level such as leasing machineries and training farmers also gave them good impression.



Field visit to Maize Experiment Station

While discussing the future process, they expressed their willingness to extend the project. AFACI promised to support the experts dispatch if the project was approved by Thailand's Department of Agriculture (DOA). Recently, DOA informed that the project has been approved by DOA research fund and would be continued by 2015. In order to enrich the outcome from the project, AFACI is going to shoulder the expenses for Thai scientific visit to Korea.

Project Achievement and Next Phase

During the implementation of the project, ninety-five (95) farmers were trained and 175 farmers experienced seed production field management. The project, which enabled farmers to produce the seed by themselves has made the cost of seed reduced by 40 %. Furthermore, NS 3 hybrid, maize variety which government certified and released, were available and

disseminated in the communities. Parent inbred seed was produced totally 2,950kg which were 2,200 kg of female and 750kg of male. This volume was for farmers' production, demonstration plots, training/ display and spare. Overall, income of participating farms increased around 2.4 fold.



Parent Seed Production at The Nakhon Sawan field Crops Research Center (NSFCRC), 2010



At Chiang Mai, rainy season 2011

New National Representatives

[Mongolia]



Mr. Kh.Zoljargal, Acting State Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Agriculture (MOIA), has been nominated as a national representative for AFACI, succeeding to Mr. Gantulga Tudevkhoo, the previous representative from 2010 to 2012.

[Korea]



Mr. Eung-Bon KIM has been appointed as Director General of Technology Cooperation Bureau in Rural Development Administration (RDA), hosting agency for AFACI Secretariat. He came from Animal, Plant and Fishery Quarantine and Inspection Agency (QIA), one of affiliated organizations of Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MOFAFF).

[Nepal]

Mr. Jaya Mukunda Khanal, Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MOAD), has taken a role as an AFACI national representative after Mr. Nathu Prasad Chaudhary had retired.



[Thailand]

Mr. Dumrong Jirasutas has been appointed as Director General of Department of Agriculture (DOA), succeeding Mr. Jirakorn Kosaisawe and took responsibility as AFACI national representative.



[AFACI Secretariat]

Mr. Cho, Yang Hee, Secretary General of AFACI, is among the recipients of medals from Vietnamese



Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development that were presented in September this year. He was awarded during the 60th anniversary of the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences for the cause of agriculture and rural development of Vietnam.



Press Coverage

[DailyNews]

Maize seed village in Thailand

On Nov. 6, 2012, Dailynews, a Thai newspaper reported AFACI's country Project of Thailand, 'Maize Seed Village in Thailand' on its first page. The news was also released through online.



[Thai rath]

High-level Symposium & PGR Workshop

On Kaset Gossip column in Thai rath newspaper on Nov. 6 2012, an article about High-Level Symposium and Export Workshop on PGR was released.



[The Nation]

High-level Symposium

On Nov. 30, 2012, The Nation, an English Newspaper in Thailand, introduced 'High-Level Symposium' in social scene section on page 4.



[Thailand]



[The KABAR]

Kyrgyz A New AFACI Member



[Kyrgyzstan]



The KABAR, Kyrgyz newspaper, reported that Kyrgyz Republic became a member of Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) this year. After receiving approvals from AFACI member countries and signing MOU, the country will be officially one of the AFACI member countries

[Vietnam Plus]

AFACI PGRM Project as National Projects



[Vietnam]



The article about AFACI's "Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Management" project being approved by government is posted in Vietnam Plus, on Nov. 13. This article is also introduced in Xinhua News Agency, one of the most famous news broadcaster in the world.

2012-2013 AFACI Workplan of Cooperation

SECTION	TITLE OF PROJECT
PAN-ASIAN PROJECTS (8)	Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Network in Asia (ATIN)
	Construction of the Asian Network for Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (ANSOFT)
	Integrated Management System of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)
	Agricultural land management for improving soil fertility and irrigation efficiency
	Establishment of network and model manual on postharvest technology of horticultural crops in Asia
	Production and service of agrometeorological information for the adaptation to climate change
	Development of locally-appropriate GAP programmes and agricultural produce safety information system
	Animal Genetic Resource value and Productive performance in Asia
REGIONAL PROJECTS (4)	Collaboration network for the management of migratory rice plant-hoppers and associated virus diseases of rice in Asia
	Development of rice production techniques for increase of self-sufficiency of staple food in Asia
	Enhancing agricultural mechanization technologies for crop production and postharvest processing of cassava
	Establishing Cooperation System of Sericulture Technology in Asia
*COUNTRY PROJECTS (9)	(Bangladesh) Development of variety, cropping system research and technology transfer of major cereals for sustainable food security in Bangladesh.
	(Indonesia) Variety Development and Improvement of Production Technologies of the Tropical Soybean
	(Laos) Direct seeding mulch based cropping systems (DMC)
	(Mongolia) Development of hybrid seed production of tomato for greenhouse production in Mongolia
	(Nepal) Promoting conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of food and agriculture for enhancing food security in Nepal
	(Philippines 1) Bio fertilizer Technologies for sustainable agriculture
	(Philippines 2) Establishment of a Lignocellulosic Feedstock Data Bank and a Single Agriculture and Forestry Bioenergy Network
	(Sri Lanka) Improving income of rural farmers through establishing a food processing factory
	(Thailand) Maize Seed Village in Thailand
SYMPOSIUM	High-level Official Symposium
TRAINING	Plant Genetic Resources Management

* 9 Country Projects for 3 years will be ended by June, 2013

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