

▶ ROUNDUP

Policy Advisory Council reviews draft plans



Members of ACIAR's Policy Advisory Council visit the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Station to learn more about ACIAR's funding of this important industry.

The Policy Advisory Council of ACIAR met in Adelaide and Brisbane from 16-19 April 2005. Meetings of the Council are an opportunity for representatives from ACIAR partner countries to present their perspectives on, and discuss issues relating to, agricultural research in developing country contexts. Council members provide advice to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and ACIAR, on agricultural problems in developing countries and solutions to resolve these problems. This advice includes identifying problems, constraints to solving them, national and regional research priorities and modes of operation to match Australian expertise to these priorities.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Alexander Downer, met the Council at a dinner on Saturday evening (16 April), following the formal Council meeting.

A key component of the meeting was discussion and feedback on ACIAR's draft Corporate Plan 2006-10 and the 2005-06 Annual Operational Plan. Council members are well placed to offer input into the development of both plans through their strategic involvement with agriculture or natural resource management.

Council meetings are also a forum to

inform members on agricultural research being conducted in Australia. During the meeting the Council visited institutions in Adelaide and Brisbane.

This included visiting facilities at the South Australian Research and Development Institute in Adelaide, the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Station, the Maroochy Research Station, the University of Queensland and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Visits to these institutions allowed the Council to familiarise themselves with the Australian components of a number of ACIAR projects.

ABOUT THE POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Policy Advisory Council is established by s17 of the ACIAR Act and fills a valuable overview role, advising the Minister, the Board of Management and the Centre on matters including:

- national and regional development constraints;
- opportunities for research and development collaboration;
- national and regional research priorities, particularly those of ACIAR's partner countries;

- the matching of Australian expertise with these priorities – Australia's comparative advantage;
- modes of operation for ACIAR; and
- sources of national and international expertise.

NEW ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN

ACIAR's 2005-06 Annual Operational Plan (AOP) has been released and is available on the ACIAR website.

The AOP outlines strategic research priorities by country for the coming financial year, and provides a focal point for project development around these priorities.

Three new features are included in the 2005-06 AOP. The first is a restructuring of project documentation to emphasise adoption pathways and how to achieve impacts. Second is prioritising research projects that will have impact in the shorter-term (within five years).

Third is the provision of advice on the key program priorities and how these programs work within a particular country. In addition, there is information on ACIAR's engagement with non-government and community organisations.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

SIMON HEARN

Simon Hearn is ACIAR's Senior Adviser, responsible for representing ACIAR at national and international policy and planning discussions and coordinating ACIAR's contributions to national and international reviews of development assistance. The position also oversees preparation of whole-of-agency planning documents.

Dr Hearn, who has a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture and Economics from Reading University and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from London University, has worked in agricultural and mining policy development and economic analysis both nationally and internationally. He has also occupied a number of senior research and executive positions and led government and industry delegations negotiating trade and commodity matters in Europe, Asia, America and Africa, including as the Australian Agricultural Minister in the Australian Mission to the European Union.

He has served on a number of boards and councils including the Energy Research and Development Corporation, the BHP Coal Research Council, the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. Dr Hearn has also worked for ABARE, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia; and as adviser to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training. Most recently, he was managing director of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

LISA WRIGHT

Lisa Wright is Manager, Communications and Secretariat Unit. She is responsible for ensuring the communication of information, generated through ACIAR's activities, to stakeholders in Australia and partner countries. Ms Wright is also responsible for liaising with the Minister's office and portfolio agencies, and providing support to ACIAR's Board and Policy Advisory Council.

Ms Wright has a BA (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and has worked as an industry economist in Government Affairs and Regional Programs for the Ford Motor Company of Australia, starting through the graduate program. She has managed the Industry Association Division of the South Australian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry and worked in China for two years as a training consultant and lecturer. She joins ACIAR from the Department of Finance, where she was most recently Acting Director of the Communications and Public Affairs groups.

NEW PROJECTS

- ADP/2002/015** Managing groundwater access in Tay Nguyen (Central Highlands), Vietnam
- ASEM/2004/011** Evaluating domestic tuna fisheries projects
- ASEM/2003/052** Improving financial returns to smallholder tree-farmers in the Philippines
- AS2/2004/005** Improving smallholder crop-livestock systems in eastern Indonesia
- AS2/2003/054** Feeding village poultry in the Solomon Islands
- CIM/2004/024** Better crop germplasm and management for improved production of wheat, barley and pulse and forage legumes in Iraq
- CP/2004/034** Diagnosis and management of wilt diseases of banana in Indonesia
- CP/2003/036** Managing pest fruit flies to enhance quarantine services and upgrade fruit and vegetable production in Indonesia
- FIS/2003/051** Improving sustainability and profitability of village sea cucumber fisheries in Solomon Islands
- FIS/2003/027** Planning tools for environmentally sustainable tropical finfish cage culture in Indonesia and northern Australia
- FIS/2002/077** Improved hatchery and grow-out technology for marine finfish in the Asia-Pacific region
- FST/2003/025** Community partnerships for plantation forestry: enhancing rural incomes from forestry in eastern Indonesia and Australia
- PHT/2003/071** Integrated pest management and supply chain improvement for mangoes in the Philippines and Australia
- PHT/2003/046** Integrated control of powdery mildew and other disease, weed and insect problems in squash in Tonga and Australia
- PHT/2003/015** Enhancing PNG smallholder cocoa production through greater adoption of disease control practices

PROJECT VARIATIONS

- ASEM/2001/055** Improving yield and economic viability of peanut production in Papua New Guinea and Australia using integrated management and modelling approaches
- AS1/2000/029** Production of a vaccine for the control of Jembrana disease in Indonesia
- AS1/1998/026** Lucerne adapted to adverse environments in China and Australia
- CIM/2001/027** Adaptation of low-chill temperate fruits to Australia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam
- CIM/1996/006** Wheat improvement in Sichuan Province: application of modern breeding technologies
- CP/1994/043** Virus-indexing and DNA-fingerprinting for the international movement and conservation of taro germplasm
- CTE/2000/162** Scientific communication in Papua New Guinea
- FIS/2001/013** Culture-based and capture fisheries development and management in reservoirs in Vietnam
- SMCN/1999/094** Improving the productivity and sustainability of rain-fed farming systems for the western Loess Plateau of Gansu Province

NEW PUBLICATIONS MONOGRAPHS

NITROGEN FIXATION IN ACACIAS

Over the past two decades scientists have learnt a great deal about acacias, their symbiotic micro-organisms and the development of methods to exploit efficient symbioses.

John Brockwell, Suzette D. Searle, Alison C.

Jeavons and Meigan Waayers. ACIAR

Monograph 115, 132pp, price \$25 (plus postage and handling).



CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY

This book discusses several of the key agricultural and rural development policy issues faced by China in the first years of the 21st century, including reform of rural fiscal policy, grain marketing and grain reserve management reform, trade liberalisation and poverty, and food security.

Bernard H. Sonntag, Jikun Huang, Scott Rozelle and John H. Skerritt (eds). ACIAR Monograph 116, 510pp, price \$44 (plus postage and handling).



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ACIAR BOOKS ONLINE

The ACIAR website has a new online bookshop, a one-stop shop to find, download or purchase the latest scientific publications.

For the past 20 years ACIAR has produced a range of scientific publications, designed to disseminate the results and outcomes of research to relevant stakeholders.

The Scientific Publications series features Monographs on dedicated research topics; Proceedings, capturing papers delivered at ACIAR-supported workshops; Technical Reports to assist end-users; and Research Notes, providing an overview of how to implement simple and practical research results.

ACIAR's Impact Assessment Series publications, detailing the economic and other outcomes from suites of projects on a particular research area, are also available.

The online bookshop allows researchers, end-users and interested visitors to access all available publications for each of these categories. Clicking on the link to Monographs will display the full list of available books for purchase. Electronic versions of many publications are available for free download (a number of early publications are only available in hard copy).

Each publication page includes a summary of the content, pricing and author details. Electronically available publications are included as attached PDF files.

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- agricultural policy and systems economics;
- animal health;
- animal production;
- crop improvement;
- crop protection;
- fisheries and aquaculture;
- forestry;
- land and water resources;
- impact assessment; and
- post-harvest technology.

The latest five releases are listed on the bookshop homepage which is regularly updated.

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TECHNICAL REPORTS

BUILDING ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITIES OF CHINESE WOOL TEXTILE MILLS

With rapidly changing markets, technology, ownership and governance structures, the managers of wool textile mills throughout China are under mounting pressure to make decisions in a more rigorous way. A series of models, approaches and analyses conducted as part of an ACIAR project to help facilitate economic decision-making by Chinese mill managers are presented in this technical report along with a CD containing the CAEGWOOL mill model. A parallel version of the report has been prepared in Chinese. Colin Brown, Scott Waldron, John Longworth and Zhao Yutian. ACIAR Technical Report 60, 108pp, price \$30 (plus postage and handling).

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES FOR LOW-CHILL TEMPERATE FRUITS

Production of temperate fruits in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world is rapidly increasing. Along with long-term support from many other organisations, ACIAR has funded research and development in low-chill temperate fruits since 1997 in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam to help develop a sustainable low-chill temperate fruit industry. This research and development is presented and discussed in these reports from the Second International Workshop on Production Technologies for Low-chill Temperate Fruits.

Alan P. George and Unaroj Boonprakob (eds). ACIAR Technical Report 61, 120pp, price \$22 (plus postage and handling).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SERIES

REVIEW OF ACIAR'S RESEARCH ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 31, author David Pearce.

SHELF LIFE EXTENSION OF LEAFY VEGETABLES: EVALUATING THE IMPACTS

ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 32, authors Tingsong Jiang and David Pearce.

RESEARCH INTO CONSERVATION TILLAGE FOR DRYLAND CROPPING IN CHINA AND AUSTRALIA

ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 33, author David Vere.

IDENTIFYING THE SEX PHEROMONE OF THE SUGAR CANE BORER MOTH

ACIAR Impact Assessment Series 34, author David Pearce.

The impact assessment series reports are freely available as PDF files at www.aciar.gov.au

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