



GlobalHort Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

April-June, 2008

Coming Events

27th May 2008

GlobalHort Board Meeting, Paris, France

27th to 30th May 2008

International Fruit and Vegetable Summit, Paris, France.
(www.sommetfruitsetlegumes.com/)

30th May to June 6 2008

IFAP World Farmers' Congress, Warsaw, Poland
(www.ifap.org/en/newsroom/WorldFarmersCongress.html)

13th to 17th Jul 2008

Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning: "Access to Learning for Development", London, Eng.
(www.pcf5.london.ac.uk/)

5th to 9th Oct 2008

International Symposium on Banana and Plantain in Africa, Mombasa, Kenya. (www.banana2008.com)

3rd to 7th Nov 2008

IV International Symposium on Tropical and Subtropical Fruits, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. (www.ifs2008.info/)

A Thailand Forum on Public-Private Partnership to Enable Modern Techniques in Vegetable Production in Tropical Asia

Following the International Symposium on Socio-Economic Impact of Modern Technique in Vegetable Production in Tropical Asia (Chiang Mai, 3-6 Feb. 2008), recommendations issued from there were proposed and discussed amongst a panel of public and private actors for improving innovation transfer and adoption by the tropical Asian vegetable producers.

nical package of good and simple practices should accompany the genetic improvement.

As a demonstrative example, a few pictures taken in February by GlobalHort in Chiang Mai, Thailand (left hand) and in Arusha, Tanzania (right hand) on a similar cucumber crop: planting in row, on benches, using plastic mulching, rational sticking, watering in fur-

rows are commonly used in Thailand and could help Tanzanian farmers manage more efficiently water, weeds and labour.

Recommendations for vegetable public-private sector improvements and the presentations during the ISHS symposium are available:

www.globalhort.org/network-communities/tropical-vegetables/

Much has been talked about breeding, seed production and marketing, but choosing improved varieties is not the single technology needed to increase producers' benefit. A tech-



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GlobalHort Participates in the Development of the High Value Crops Challenge Program Proposal

GlobalHort is an active player in the development of the High-value Crops Challenge Program proposal. Its staff participated in both meetings of the core

members, and in particular contributes to the Capacity Building Virtual Working Group. The GlobalHort Portal is the official source of information on this pro-

gram proposal: www.globalhort.org/network-communities/high-value-crops/

This proposal will be built on diverse and exciting partnerships that open up new opportunities for research and impact focused on the needs of the poor.



First Meeting in Arusha



Second Meeting in Tainan

Staff News



Dr Jürgen Anthofer, a German citizen, will join GlobalHort secretariat at Arusha in June 2008 as Portfolio Manager. He studied International Agriculture (B.Sc.) and Environmental Protection (M.Sc.) at the University of Kassel. From 1996 to 2000, he worked as an agricultural advisor for the Sedentary Farming Systems Project (FSFP) in Ghana, a development project supported by the German Development

Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Development Service (DED). During that time, he carried out adaptive research for which he earned a PhD in Agricultural Sciences by the University of Hohenheim. Later, he worked as scientific co-worker at the Universities of Kassel and Hohenheim as well as consultant in various short to medium term assignments in the fields of agricultural research and development in Asia and Africa. During the last two years, he worked as Researcher on Integrated Natural Resource Management for the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), based in Aleppo, Syria.

An Interview with Dr. Anthofer

GlobalHort: What have you been doing in the past 2 years that makes you involved in the issues targeted by GlobalHort?

J.A.: During the last two years I was working as Researcher on Integrated Natural Resource Management at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). I was mainly involved in the Livelihood Resilience Project in the Karkheh River Basin in Iran where I served as the deputy project manager. This project was part of the Challenge Program for Water and Food. It was designed as a multi-stakeholder project bringing together efforts of various research institutes in Iran as well as the agricultural extension department, policy makers and a very active NGO to improve the livelihood of the rural poor in the harsh environment of dry mountains. It is often not easy to bring actors together but we need to harmonize these different activities in order to achieve our targets more efficiently. Given the challenges of increasing food insecurity in many parts of the less developed world we need to develop more efficient ways to collect, manage and disseminate knowledge. In the end, we need to achieve impact. In that regard, GlobalHort appears to me as a very innovative and unique initiative. It is looking at the underexploited potential of high value crops like vegetables and fruits and the added value of their processed products to reduce poverty. At the same time, horticultural crops consumed by poor farming households can alleviate malnutrition and improve the diet. GlobalHort can help to bridge the gap between research and its practical application and as a facilitator to synthesize various activities in the horticultural sector it is expected that GlobalHort will develop towards a focal point for horticulture. I can see many possibilities for synergies, which we can exploit. The CGIAR's Challenge Programs also look beyond the pure research aspects but intend to achieve impact through new partnerships. At present, GlobalHort together with AVRDC and ICARDA is working on a proposal for a new Challenge Program on High Value Crops. I am sure that my previous experience with a Challenge Program in Iran will help me to manage such a project most effectively.

GlobalHort: How do you see your role in GlobalHort as a portfolio manager?

J.A.: GlobalHort is still young. In order to function well and to provide a platform for all actors working on and interested in horticultural crops, we need to increase our funding capacity. Since GlobalHort is also bridging the gap between horticultural research and development efforts, we will actively approach donors who fund research as well as donors who fund development cooperation. Once a project can be initiated with our partners, I will be in charge of the overall project management, starting with project planning, timely project initiation and followed by financial supervision, project monitoring and reporting. However, this will not be a one-man show. I see myself as a team member of GlobalHort and the work with our project partners will also be based on participatory principles and mutual respect.

GlobalHort: Any experience of East Africa?

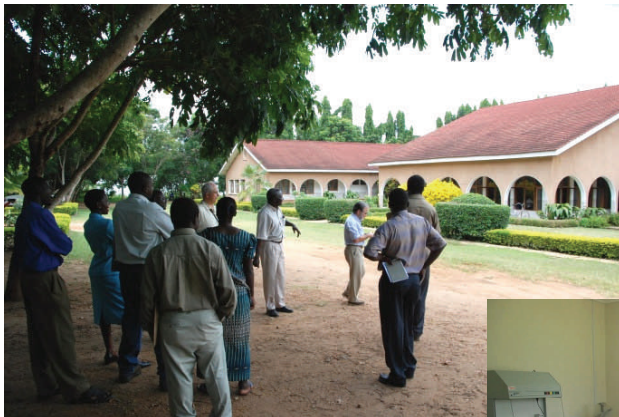
J.A.: It will be my first time working in East Africa and I am looking forward to it. I have been working for several years in a development project in Ghana, which I enjoyed very much. This project had also a component to improve the post-harvest sector, including processing and marketing of vegetables. It was quite evident that there is a high potential in that sector especially for the poorer households in rural areas. Coming back to your question, Africa is not an unknown spot for me and in a certain way it will be like coming home.

The First All Africa Horticulture Congress Announced

GlobalHort was invited to an ISHS Council and Executive Committee joint meeting in Agadir, Morocco (12-15 April) to announce the organization of the first All Africa Horticulture Congress in Kenya, April 2009. ISHS and GlobalHort will facilitate this continental event to ensure audience and high quality performances.

News from Tanzania

GlobalHort has been invited to officially visit **Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)**, and discovered a unique Tanzanian, East African and pan-African institution for capacity building in horticulture. Pr. Amon



Maerere, Director of the Dept. Crops Science and Technology, was guiding Francophone delegates: Dr Jacky Ganry, CIRAD/ISHS, Jerry Miner and Dr. Remi Kahane, GlobalHort (above). After fruitful discussions with several heads of department of SUA, an agenda of research topics to be targeted and addressed in common has been established: city supply in fresh fruits and vegetables, fruit fly control, genetic improvement of vegetatively propagated species (banana, garlic, vanilla), post-harvest constraints in fruits and vegetables (food processing in particular).

Pr. Maerere has agreed to organizing the African Anglophone workshop of FAO-WHO initiative for the promotion of fruits and vegetables (production and consumption), as a parallel to the Francophone event of October 2007 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. CIRAD and GlobalHort were committed in facilitating the organization of such an event by SUA.

As an immediate outcome of this visit, SUA was invited to join two networks, one regional program on plant protection in the Indian Ocean zone, managed by CIRAD in Reunion Island; and one international Master Degree in tropical horticulture, as a proposal for French or EU-granted program in capacity building. The French embassy is supportive in both projects.

GlobalHort discovered the Pan-African Plant Seed Health Unit hosted



at SUA by Pr. Maerere's Dept. (above) and its huge potential for training and conducting research and education activities at an international level. Together with the facilities of SUA, this presents collaborative opportunities for the vBSS program of the World Vegetable Center on vegetable breeding and seed systems.



The Executive Secretaries of **Tanzanian Horticulture Association (TAHA)** and GlobalHort have met in Arusha in April, and agreed on several points:

- TAHA and GlobalHort work together on the promotion of horticulture, at different levels only (national/international). Both are complementary and should develop common views and projects for their own efficiency.
- Capacity building and knowledge management has appeared to be a key area for immediate and strong partnership. GlobalHort will deliver all kind of information of interest for TAHA regarding existing networks, on-going projects and programs in preparation. For example: ISHS reference to become a member, CTA contacts for training supports and facilitators, PIP information newsletter, Challenge Program on High Value Crops in preparation.
- GlobalHort invites TAHA to become a member of ISHS, and to its farmers' organizations to become member of IFAP, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. The statutes of TAHA could be forwarded to IFAP to know its eligibility to become a member itself.
- TAHA invited GlobalHort to participate in the launching of the Horticulture Development Council of Tanzania (HORDECT), a national public-private platform for stakeholders in horticulture, 24-25 April in Arusha.
- TAHA will inform GlobalHort about its regional assessment of the needs of the Tanzanian horticulture industry in terms of training and education for its staff, and its business plan to be implemented. Joint efforts at the national and sub-regional levels could better succeed in raising funds to support this plan and potentially develop a wider program.

“Fruits” Journal now Indexed by ISI

Since January 2008, the scientific journal “Fruits”, edited by CIRAD and recognized by ISHS, is now indexed by ISI. Please visit the website (www.fruits-journal.org), submit original articles or review papers (chantal.loison@cirad.fr), and get subscription (subscribers@edpsciences.org) or free access with AGORA. “Fruits” is publishing in two languages (English or French). Scientific papers related to tropical or sub-tropical fruits (botanical fruits: vegetable fruits are eligible).

GLOBAL HORTICULTURE INITIATIVE

c/o AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center
Regional Center for Africa
PO Box 10, Duluti, Arusha, Tanzania

Phone: +255-(27)-255-3093, 255-3102
Fax: +255-(27)-255-3125
E-mail: jminer@globalhort.org



GlobalHort Portal is a dynamic website that is constantly refreshed with the latest in horticultural information worldwide.

For current events, news and knowledge please come visit us often.

The Global Horticulture Initiative acts as a global facility for coordinated horticultural research that provides solutions towards increasing health, productivity and safety in sustainable environments, to uplift the quality of life of the poorest populations in the world.

It will contribute to improve interest, support and resources to the horticultural sector, public and private, from donors, research and development agencies, and decision makers.

Its four key activities are:

- Promoting horticultural research for development
- A program of grants for horticultural research
- A knowledge hub for dispersed cooperating horticultural communities
- Facilitating horticultural training, education and capacity building

The GlobalHort Newsletter's Editorial Board is made up of Dr. Norm Looney, President of ISHS and co-chair of The Board; Raul Montemayor, IFAP; and Jerry Miner, Communications Officer.

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The Baobab: An Ancient Tree with Many Uses



The fruits of the baobab tree contain a sticky pulp that can be dried into a nutritious powder high in protein, vitamins, and minerals. The powder is stirred into warm water or milk to create a healthy drink, and also beaten and dried into thin pancakes for use months or even years later, aiding food security. During the rainy season, villagers often store water in the tree's trunk for later use. The sale of baobab fruits aids rural commerce, and the trees themselves -- which also yield a popular leafy vegetable -- are almost indestructible.

Its leaves are rich in vitamin A and used as an ingredient in sauces for family meals. To help reduce the pressure on the trees caused by intensive use of their leaves, research teams from the ICRAF and IER Mali have developed a technique for growing baobabs as a market garden crop *Valérie Savard, Alain Olivier, Steven Franzel, 2006. Baobab. In: Bois et Forêts des Tropiques, Useful Trees, 287(1)*. Although the technique is relatively recent, a study of its uptake potential was carried out in the Segou district in Mali, where dissemination activities have already started. Results indicate that despite some constraints, the technique is accessible to peasant farmers in terms of feasibility. Constraints include the availability of sufficient manpower, land and water, and the low rate of seed germination, which is also very slow. However, the fact that baobabs are sacred and associated with various taboos does not seem to affect the technique's acceptability. On the other hand, the fact that growing baobabs is likely to bring men into the mainly feminine area of market gardening may be-

come a cause of conflict. Uncertainties over the profitability of the technique may also be a major constraint. Several modifications to the technique developed by the farmers themselves as well as a number of innovations may open up perspectives for different methods to achieve the objectives set out.



Ground stained baobab fruit

Photo compliments of Michel Roux-Cuvelier, CIRAD