

## Promotion of sustainable agriculture benefits farmers in Asia

Over 120 agriculture extension workers in Asia have been trained by IIRR under the Sustainable Agriculture Training of Trainers' Project (SATTP) funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The five-year IIRR project, which ended in August this year, was aimed at improving the quality of training in sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security and sustainable use of natural resources by farmers and extension workers.

This project brought together twelve training and research organizations involved in sustainable agriculture (SA) training from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. During each year of the project a four-week course for SA trainers was conducted, and the experiences gained in the process have been documented into a resource book to be used by SA trainers worldwide. In addition, numerous learning exchanges have taken place among the participating organizations. Books, videos, CD ROMs and SA training materials have been distributed to partner organizations.

A new curriculum for the international course on SA has also been developed and will be offered annually by IIRR. *"There is a high demand for this course and given that it is rather unique to find the process focus, IIRR should offer the course for some years to come,"* says Willem van Weren, SA Extension Specialist for ETC Ecoculture in the Netherlands, who provided technical support to the project.

To farmers in Asia, this project certainly sets a firm foundation in the use of SA. *"We expect better relationships between farmers and extensionists, and the extensionists becoming more effective in their work. Eventually they should be able to increase the number of farmers using SA technologies,"* concludes Willem.



Sustainable agriculture training of trainers course.

For IIRR, the project has been very beneficial. One of the goals was to strengthen IIRR's capacity to respond to needs of SA trainers. Through the project, IIRR has purchased training equipment, books and videos on SA and many of the staff have been trained. This has made IIRR more capable to offer an annual course for SA trainers, in addition to providing critical support to field workers.

The partner organizations have also benefited from best practices gleaned through exchange visits to farmers in other parts of Asia. It is expected that the Asian partnership networks will be maintained even after the completion of the project. ●

## Messages from out-going Chair and a Trustee of IIRR Board



Alfred Mudge

“After six years as Chair and 11 years as a trustee, I stepped down with fond memories and confidence in the future of IIRR under the combined leadership of Mike Gerber as Chair of the Board of Trustees and Pratima Kale as President. I am sure IIRR’s trustees, staff, partners

and donors will continue to support IIRR under this dynamic new leadership.

The strength and future of every NGO depends on its ability to engage capable people to execute its mission. New people bring new commitment, energy and ideas—critical at all levels to the success of an NGO.

IIRR’s strategic Plan 2000 committed IIRR to a flexible policy rotation and term limits for trustees. We have now implemented that policy in 2002, electing three new trustees and Mike Gerber



Leo Clemente

“As a member of the Board of Trustees of IIRR for the past fifteen years, it was a privilege to have personally witnessed the way the Institute’s integrated rural development program helped uplift the lives of peoples basically through their own effort.” ●

as Chair. Mike brings enormous energy, a real understanding of IIRR and wide experience in development work to his new position as Chair. The three new trustees add multiple talents and perspectives and new vision to the Board.

The past accomplishments of IIRR will be more than matched by the future impact of its work to improve the lives of the rural poor in the developing countries, thanks in part to the efforts of the new trustees and the new Chair.” ●

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## Messages from new IIRR Chair and new Trustees



As Alfred Mudge stepped down as Chair of the IIRR Board in May 2002, Dr. Michael Gerber, an experienced development leader, was appointed the new Chair. Until retirement in 1999, Dr. Gerber was Director General of the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), an international medical relief foundation based in Nairobi.

“When I was asked a few months ago, ‘Will you consider serving as Chairman of the Board,’ I looked back at my reasons for becoming a Trustee in 1999. I firmly believed then, and still believe today, that the Institute has two distinct characteristics setting it apart from many other organizations.

Firstly, it has had a history of over 80 years, committed to integrated rural development. IIRR can trace its roots to integrated approaches back to the work of Dr. Yen with Chinese laborers in France during World War One. That led to his founding of the Mass Education Movement and a holistic approach to development in China during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. From these forerunners, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement evolved in 1952. IIRR’s birth in 1960 and our work since then have been influenced by all of these events. Few, if any NGOs, can claim such a foundation to learn from and build upon.

Secondly, NGOs have often moved away from their original missions for various reasons, not least of which has been an easier access to resources when adopting popular causes. But IIRR has remained true to its mission of helping the

disadvantaged through integrated strategies. It has been singly committed from the beginning and has not wavered from this path. IIRR’s latest strategic document entitled “Plan 2000” highlights and reinforces the commitment to integrated development strategies.

Both its remarkable history and commitment to integrated approaches weighed heavily in my decision to become a Trustee.

When invited to accept the Chair, I re-examined the above reasons for joining the Board from a somewhat different perspective. In any organization, a lengthy history with incumbent traditions can lead to conservatism, complacency, and a resistance to change. Also, a singular commitment to integrated rural development might seriously inhibit an organization’s ability to generate resources from donors who tend to refocus their priorities every few years.

How to capitalize on the traditions and experiences gained from over 80 years of history while adapting these to creatively finding solutions for the emerging needs of the 21st century are critical and major tests. For me, taking part in helping IIRR pass these tests offers an exciting opportunity and challenge.

Under the leadership of Pratima Kale along with her senior management and staff, the Institute has emerged as a modern and professionally managed organization. It is primed to take off. This is an exciting time for IIRR.

As Chair, hopefully I can in some small way contribute to these challenges of blending the past with the future and devising inventive approaches to resource generation as IIRR moves forward in its efforts to help those most in need.” ●



Anthony Gooch

**I** have been interested in IIRR's work since I first started to learn about the Institute from Jimmy Johnson in the 1960s. I began to participate in the legal work that Cleary Gottlieb does for IIRR under Jimmy's supervision when I was an associate with the firm, and I took over general responsibility for that work when

he retired. During the past two years, I have had the pleasure of serving as IIRR's General Counsel. I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue working with the Institute, now with a broader focus, as one of the new Trustees." ●



Joanne de Asis

**I** was honored to have been recommended by Mr. Washington Sycip, a dear friend and a professional I greatly admire. It was through his introduction to IIRR, that I later realized my affiliation with this organization indirectly goes back decades via my husband's family, the Benitezes.

I understand that Dean Conrado Benitez, my husband's grandfather, was involved in the early days with Jimmy Yen. His involvement is continued on to this day by his daughter, Senator Helena Benitez, who is with the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

It is in this vein that I am happy to be one of the newest members of the IIRR Board. The desire for continuity in this worthwhile endeavor gives me the opportunity to give back to the two societies I feel akin with – the community of my birth, the Philippines and the community of my professional affiliations, the U.S." ●



Francis Ssekandi

**I** was introduced to IIRR by Eugene Marans, Vice Chair of IIRR Board of Trustees. As soon as Gene told me what IIRR does, I was immediately on board. I have had interest in rural development for a very long time. My work in the

United Nations was principally as Legal Advisor to UNDP and UNICEF. I worked on the debt swap for social development promoted by the Inter-American Bank and the World Bank. UNICEF was principal beneficiary of this program in Latin America, where it designs and implements social programs funded by Governments with local currency as trade off for debt relief.

I would like to be involved in the work of IIRR as I believe the only way to advance the fight against poverty in developing countries is to extend support to the rural population through programs that assure better production and marketing for their farm produce and betterment of their health and education facilities." ●

## New faces at IIRR



Felicia Khan is the new Program Officer in the U.S. Office. Prior to joining IIRR, she worked at the Ford Foundation on program analysis, organizational learning, globalization and community development issues. She also worked with UNICEF on planning and evaluation, and as an engineer with

AT&T and Lucent Technologies. She holds a master's degree in International Development from Harvard's JFK School of Government, and an MS in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications from the University of Colorado.



Florence Nyagah is the new Organizational Development Officer at the Africa Regional Center. Prior to joining IIRR, Florence was working with CARE-International in Kenya as the program manager for the Basic Education Fellowship Project. Florence has a wealth of experience, having

worked with various development agencies for the past 10 years. She has a master's degree in gender and development from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University and a Bachelor of Education Degree from Kenyatta University, Kenya.



Jane Oteba joined IIRR in March 2002 as the monitoring and evaluation officer. She was previously with ETC-East Africa, a Dutch consultancy firm, where she worked for three years as a consultant. Jane, who holds a master's degree in Social and Medical Anthropology from the University of Nairobi,

has also worked with DFID in Kenya as a monitoring and evaluation officer for field based projects. Jane also holds a diploma in NGO management.

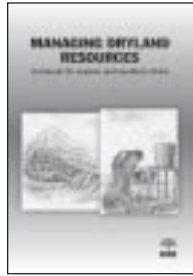
### 2002-2003 international training courses to be held in the Philippines

<i>Course</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Farmer-led extension	October 7 to 25, 2002
Community-based integrated watershed management	November 25 to December 13, 2002
NGO leadership, development and social change	January 20 to February 7, 2003
Participatory monitoring and evaluation	March 5 to 7, 2003 (Preparatory Session); March 10 to 28, 2003

## Recent IIRR publications

### Managing dryland resources: **A manual for Eastern and Southern Africa**

This manual was published in July 2002 by IIRR's Regional Center for Africa. It was produced through the writeshop process pioneered by IIRR and now used widely by other development partners. The manual is intended for use as a field guide by development workers of community-based and non-governmental organizations, churches, government agencies and research institutions.



It provides an overview of selected issues in dryland resource management in eastern and southern Africa. It examines attempts by individuals, communities and development organizations to overcome these problems, providing specific examples of technologies and approaches, including selected experiences of individual farmers.

Development of this manual was funded by Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Ford Foundation, Dutch development agencies CORDAID and ICCO, and SIDA's Regional Land Management Unit (RELMA).

### Public Awareness: **A manual for agricultural NGOs and research institutions**

This manual, produced by IIRR's Regional Center for Africa, is targeted at influencing policy formulation and agricultural strategy development. Commissioned by the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), an organization formed under the ACP-EU treaty, it focuses on leaders of organizations and communication professionals.



With this publication, CTA aims to enhance institutional links and to promote access of rural development workers to research and development experiences.

The idea for the book was borne out of a series of workshops conducted by CTA on public awareness. The workshops were themselves a response to the increasing need for development organizations to publicize their work and strengthen links with the constituencies they serve.

### Agroecological knowledge: **Six practical lessons**

Six practical lessons (*Saberes agroecologicos: Seis lecciones practicas*) has been produced by IIRR's Regional Center for Latin America. It is a documentation of IIRR's farmer-to-farmer program activities in the Andean zone of Ecuador. Using the participatory documentation approach, the experiences of six small-scale family farms are described in the farmers' own words, as well as comments from others who have seen improvements on each of the farms.



The innovative practices and their impacts on the household food production systems are detailed through color photographs. Each case tells the story of how the farmer promoters, working individually and in groups, struggled to slowly make significant improvements on their farms, and how they have actively shared their experiences with other farmers.

**To order IIRR publications please contact:**  
**Bookstore@iirr.org**

IIRR website: [www.iirr.org](http://www.iirr.org)

IIRR is a global development organization. The headquarters and the Regional Center for Asia are in the Philippines. The African regional center is in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Latin American regional center is in Quito, Ecuador. The annual report of IIRR is available upon request. Contributions may be sent to the U.S. office of IIRR and are tax deductible for U.S taxpayers to the full extent allowed by law.

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