

SEPTEMBER 2003

## Putting theory into action: Columbia University students at IIRR's Regional Center in Latin America

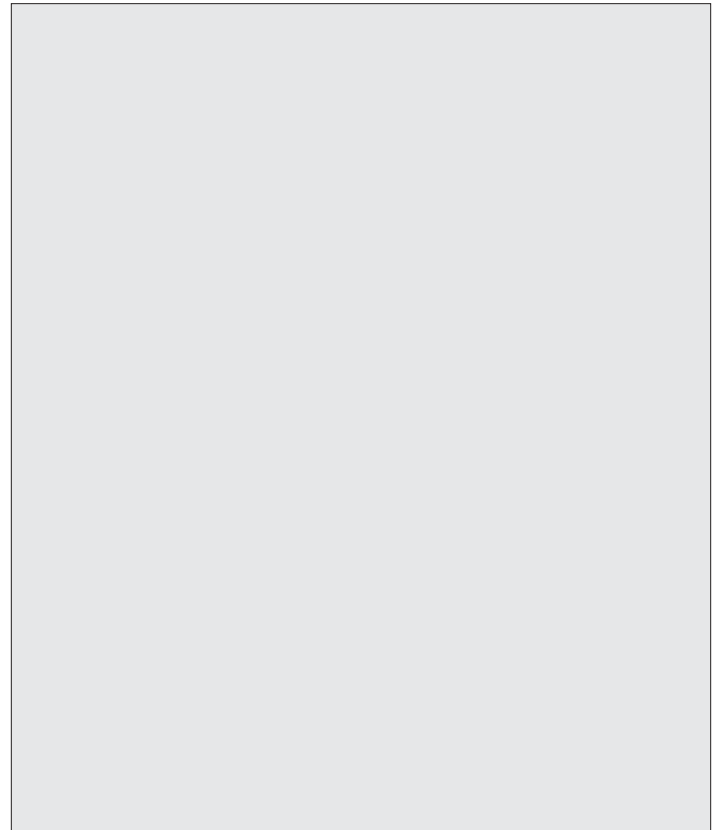
IIRR and students from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University are helping to train a new generation of development practitioners. In April 2003, IIRR's President, Pratima Kale, gave a presentation on participatory development at SIPA, which inspired several graduate students to express an interest in interning with IIRR.

Two interns from SIPA spent two months at the Institute's Latin American Regional Office in Quito, Ecuador. Erika Helms is a candidate for a Master of Public Administration degree, focusing on non-profit management. Rica Asuncion-Reed is a candidate for a Master of International Affairs degree, focusing on economic and political development.

Erika and Rica assisted with research and information gathering about farmer-to-farmer extension and participatory agricultural research projects by writing case studies on the topics of expansion and institutionalization. The case studies will assist IIRR in monitoring and evaluating projects, and in documenting the contribution IIRR makes to development in Latin America. Project documentation will also help in the Institute's action research, learning and training agenda and in fundraising for continuation and expansion of IIRR projects.

The interns learned how IIRR's participatory strategies are implemented, both in the communities where it works and in internal organizational development. They helped the Regional Director, Rusty Biñas, in conducting training for regional office staff in Participatory Learning and Action (PLA). The training session was followed by information-gathering trips to the field, where IIRR staff put PLA techniques to use.

SIPA's economic and political development program includes coursework that explores the growing focus on local-level and participatory development. "Working with IIRR has proved to be a good opportunity to put participatory concepts and methodologies into practice, to examine their effectiveness in the field, and to connect the local aspects of IIRR's work to the international development arena", said the interns.



**IIRR President, Dr. Pratima Kale, speaking to students of Columbia University, New York.**

Another SIPA student, Annie Singleton, has been working as an intern this summer at IIRR's U.S. office, where she has been helping to design and implement resource development strategies for the office. Erika and Rica plan to work with Annie and with IIRR Board member Tony Gooch, who is also doing graduate work at SIPA, to further expand the relationship with SIPA through regular internships at various IIRR offices around the world, and possibly through more lectures by the President to SIPA students and an expanded relationship with SIPA's program in economic and political development. ●

# In Kenya, IIRR works with GAA to support food security

German Agro Action (GAA) has approved a second phase of IIRR's Kenya Micro Fund project. The project, which aims to generate and demonstrate positive impact on the quality of life of the poor and the disadvantaged communities in Western Kenya, covers five districts in western Kenya namely, Kisumu, Nyando, Kakamega, Vihiga and Kericho.

The first phase of the project involved working with 9 grassroots partner organizations or CBOs, comprising 270 direct beneficiaries, 80% of them women. The 9 partners organizations are involved in beekeeping, horticulture, dairy goat keeping, poultry farming, and oil processing.



The project has so far indirectly benefited 2,160 people. These are the immediate family members/direct dependents of the group members. The other indirect beneficiaries include community members that have been introduced to sunflower seed growing for oil processing businesses, farmers utilizing the irrigation services on hire from the horticultural project holders, others have benefited from group services like purchasing and using sunflower oil, seed cake for animal feed, and eggs.

The project has facilitated experience sharing and cross learning among the partner organizations. For example, during the joint capacity building activities, the members from different partner organizations worked together around common problems in group-works bringing in more practical sharing. Establishing a field office in Kisumu has made it easier for members of the partner organizations to hold joint meetings. In these meetings, they deliver quarterly reports in clusters of similar businesses/projects. There are also cross visits within different clusters. ●

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## IDRC approves new grant for IIRR's Community Forestry Project

The International Development Research Center (IDRC) has approved a three year grant of US\$ 260,000 for the second phase of IIRR's Community Forestry project in the Philippines. The project is implemented in partnership with the Regional Community Forestry Training Center(RECOFTC) based in Bangkok, Thailand. The project has 3 components; A community driven policy pilot, advocacy, and experiential training and learning.

The community driven policy pilot aims to anchor the project in the realities of the primary stakeholders in community forestry, community members, with fixed study sites in Quezon province and additional participatory case studies developed with other communities in the Philippines. The supporting advocacy processes will promote positive policy changes through multiple stakeholder for a and publications. The new international training course on Participatory Action Research

(PAR) for Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) is a fee based course which tries to advance the use of systematic learning principles and techniques among senior professionals working with CBNRM.

The supporting policy advocacy and education and training initiatives were developed out of a recognition during the first phase of the project that there was a need to remove barriers among the various stakeholders in the forestry sector of the Philippines if community forestry is to advance. The new international training course, PAR for CBNRM aims at assisting senior forestry professionals to incorporate systematic learning techniques into their work.

The first PAR for CBNRM international course will take place in December at IRR in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. ●

# Local governance capacity building: IIRR receives grant from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation

IIRR has received a grant of US\$ 10,000 from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation for strengthening Local capacities for Community-based integrated watershed Management. Supported through the Rockefeller Brother Fund, the grant will be utilized to implement a six months project in the Bicol Region of the Philippines aimed at strengthening the capacities of communities and municipal governments to jointly plan, implement, monitor and evaluate local watershed resources management initiatives in a participatory manner.

IIRR will work with community representatives and local government personnel to develop their skills in carrying out assessment (situational analysis) of watershed areas, identification of problems with communities and devising possible solutions to the watershed problems and issues.

Participants to the capacity-building activities will be drawn from watershed communities and local governments covered by the IIRR Learning Community Program in Bicol. These

will include the municipalities of Libon, Polangui, Oas, Jovellar, and Ligao in Albay province; Bato, Lagonoy, San Jose and Goa in Camarines Sur province; Donsol in sorsogon; San Jacinto and San Fernando in Masbate province.

A total of 25 participants will be selected to go through the training. To ensure the effectiveness of the training project and to demonstrate its results, a participatory monitoring and evaluation system will be developed based on the key result areas identified with the communities and local government agency.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation was established in 1957 to manage the giving of annual awards to outstanding individuals and organizations in Asia in various fields of human development, in memory of President Ramon Magsaysay of the Philippines. The prestigious awards are commonly referred to as the 'Nobel prize' of Asia. IIRR is a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award. ●

## Trade liberalization and the poor

IIRR has embarked on several activities aimed at enhancing awareness about trade liberalization and the poor. In the Philippines, IIRR is working with a group of NGOs to study the effects of trade liberalization on poor farmers and how they are coping. Case studies have been prepared from all parts of the country and will be reviewed during a writeshop to be held in October, and subsequently a publication will be produced. The partners are; Heifer Project International (HPI), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Catholic Relief Services

(CRS), Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHARRA), Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC), Philippine-German Development Fund (PhilGerFund) and Alternate Resource Center (AFRIM). IIRR is undertaking a similar project in Latin America with the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) of the Netherlands. In the Mekong Region, IIRR is working with Oxfam America and other partners on a study that will culminate into a publication on gender and trade liberalization. ●

### Up coming IIRR training courses

Course title	Dates	Venue
Rural Development Management	October 13th to November 7th, 2003	Philippines
Farmer Led Extension	November 3rd to 18th, 2003	Kenya
Community-based Integrated Watershed Management	November 10th to 25th, 2003	Philippines
Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation	November 24th to December 5th, 2003	Kenya
	March 8th to 26th, 2004	Philippines
Participatory Action Research for Community-based Natural Resources Management	December 8th to 19th, 2003	Philippines
NGO Leadership, Development and Social Change	January 19th to February 6th, 2004	Philippines and Kenya
Sustainable Agriculture Training of Trainers	November 24th to December 12th, 2003	Philippines

## Documenting gender best practices in Asia

IIRR and InterAction's Commission on the Advancement of Women (CAW) are working on the development of Asian Innovative Practices, a participatory process for compiling and publishing a collection of successful strategies on gender integration in Asia. It will feature new and innovative ways to mainstream gender equity in processes and projects of development agencies in the region, and enhance the sharing of lessons on what works. Over twenty development organizations have indicated willingness to participate in this process. A writeshop will be held at IIRR in 2004 to review and consolidate the documented best practices into a publication. However, IIRR still welcomes those interested in sharing best practices through the publication. More information is available on [www.iirr.org](http://www.iirr.org). ●

## IIRR at the Global Forum on Agricultural Research

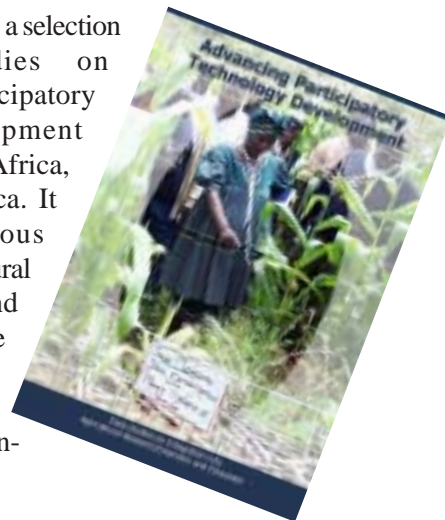
IIRR participated in the 2nd triennial conference of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) held in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2003. The conference, with the theme "Linking Research and Rural Innovation to Sustainable Development", drew 400 participants from 75 countries. The mission of GFAR is to mobilize the world scientific community in their efforts to alleviate poverty, increase food security, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Under the GFAR, partners are developing Global Partnership Programs (GPP), one of which is the "rural knowledge systems", aimed at mutually addressing learning and sharing among various agricultural research for development (ARD) stakeholders. IIRR is participating in two of such initiatives. One is the Promoting Local Innovations (Prolinnova) and the Intersard, both of which are aimed at documenting and sharing good practices through web-based and other formats. ●

## New publication

**Advancing Participatory Technology Development: Case studies on integration into agricultural research, extension and education.** 2003, pp257

This publication includes a selection of 12 case studies on institutionalizing Participatory Technology Development (PTD) approaches in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It shows how various organizations in agricultural research, extension and education have attempted to integrate PTD into their day-to-day operations, decision-making and culture.



The case studies included in this publication were generated as part of a study conducted in 2001, and were presented at international workshop held at IIRR in the Philippines. IIRR worked in partnership with ETC Ecoculture of the Netherlands in producing this publication, with funding support from the ACP-EU Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). ●

**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.

IIRR gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Readers Digest Endowment for Publications to the publication expenses of IIRR.