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Tips for Realizing Sustainable Diversified Agriculture with Optimal Profit through Exploitation of CGPRT Crops

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The CGPRT Centre launched a three-year research project, "Identification of Pulling Factors for Enhancing Sustainable Development of Diverse Agriculture in Selected Asian Countries" (AGRIDIV), in April 2003. The project is funded by the Government of Japan. During February to March 2004, an interim review of phase I country study was organized in participating countries. In addition to reviewing the progress of study, there were opportunities to visit CGPRT crop farmers, traders and local markets through the courtesy of national experts in each country. This paper is an introduction to information that has been collected through our discussions with country study teams and interviews with farmers, traders, extension officials and other stakeholders concerning CGPRT crops in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Unfortunately, due to severe time limitations the information collected is not well organized our interview technique was a very informal one. However, in spite of these limitations, we believe that our report provides hints and suggestions to guide future discussions for realizing sustainable diversified agriculture in the AGRIDIV project.

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Indigenous knowledge for optimal profit

Crop rotation between green gram and rice is the most popular and can be profitable cropping pattern in the rainfed area of Thaik Tukan village, Yangon Division, Myanmar. To gain optimal output, farmers in the village utilize various kinds of indigenous practices. As irrigation is unavailable, local farmers can only crop rice during the wet season. The absence of irrigation does not, however, prevent the farmers from using their farmland after the harvest of rice. The farmers plant a suitable crop that can grow well but only uses the residual soil moisture left in the field after the rice harvest. Accordingly, green gram is planted in the summer, when the weather is dry and temperature is relatively hot. To minimize the loss of soil moisture, land preparation has to be conducted soon after the rice harvest and can only last a very brief period of time (at most 15 days after the rice harvest). If land preparation is late or prolonged, residual soil moisture would escape resulting in a poor harvest. To meet this strict schedule the farmers usually use tractors for the land preparation of green gram.

Draught animal power is sometimes used as a supplement for mechanical tractor power. However, it is very limited because of the belief that the hot weather during the summer will damage their cattle. Animal power is preferred for land preparation for rice in the

monsoon season as during this season there are not so severe time constraints or harsh weather. Another reason for not using tractors for rice crop land preparation is, according to local farmers, the yield of rice will decrease. This might be due to consolidation of soil by the pressure of tractor.

Productivity appears highly satisfactory. In addition, most of their production is exported to overseas markets, especially India. Since export markets are still growing, green gram farmers receive a good price for their product. According to their calculations, farming green gram is much more profitable than farming rice. They even argue that much more could be made from their green gram farming if they had access to formal credit. Their lack of capital has prevented them from intensifying their green gram cultivation by using modern inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides. Up until now, the government has only supplied credit for rice cultivation even though green gram cultivation is more profitable. This fact is good evidence of the government's bias towards rice cultivation in Myanmar. The farmers of Myanmar would, presumably, be economically better off if this preference was discontinued. The government should be promoting agriculture diversification.

Nevertheless, such biased government policy is not preventing local farmers from benefiting from the currently growing export markets for green gram. Although their indigenous knowledge is not yet

precisely formulated from an economic viewpoint, we believe it has enough rationality to optimize their economic return. We still have lots to learn from farmers' practices, which is based on their long experience.

Prosperity of potato farming in Northern Viet Nam

Potato has a great market in Viet Nam. However, local supply is still unable to meet the local demand, especially after winter. Since local potato production is only during the winter season, after winter Viet Nam has to import a lot of potato from the People's Republic of China, even though local consumers prefer local potatoes to imported ones.

The northern part of Viet Nam, including Que Vo district, is the major potato producing area. Farmers here cultivate potato in winter (October to January). Two factors apparently constrain local farmers in winter potato farming. Firstly, since potato cultivation is only carried out during winter, the storage of potato seeds becomes crucial and because the weather is quite hot during the summer, any stored potato seeds will become damaged if they are not kept at a cool temperature. For individual farmers, the provision of a cool storage facility for potato seeds is not only too expensive but is also non-profitable due to the smallness of the scale of the farming (on average, farm size is less than 0.5 ha per family). Secondly, farmers lack capital for cash inputs, such as fertilizers.

Message from the Director

The extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22 March 2004 to discuss renewing the statute of the CGPRT Centre, following up from the discussion of the 22nd Governing Board meeting held in January. The representatives of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand attended. The representatives from China, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam and FAO attended as observers.

In his opening statement, Mr. Kim Hak-Su, the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP welcomed the distinguished members of the Board and observers to this extraordinary session. He drew the attention of the participants to two aspects of the draft statute; the focus of the Centre's work and the institutional arrangements. He reiterated that the new statute should confirm the shift in focus from the development of production, utilization and trade of CGPRT crops, to the reduction of poverty among population groups dealing with the production, utilization and trade of CGPRT crops, as agreed during the 22nd Governing Board meeting. It is the shift of focus from crops to people. The shift should also be reflected in the new name for the Centre. To decide a new name that reflects the new focus, but is also easy to remember and pronounce was another purpose of this meeting. In addition, he emphasized that the objective and the functions of the Centre have to be reformulated, but as is the case with the focus, *there is no need for a radical change from the past. The Centre should build on its past experience, expertise and reputation.*

A proposal of the draft resolution on the new statute of the Centre was presented by the representative of Japan. The draft includes proposals of a new name, refocused objective, functions and governing structures. Active discussion between board members continued for more than one hour more than the allocated time schedule, and finally a draft was approved with several modifications. This draft will be submitted to the Commission Session which will be held in Shanghai in April.

Major points of the draft of the new statute are as follows;

Name of the Centre: Centre for Alleviation of Poverty Through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA)

Objective: The objective of the Centre is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on agriculture of secondary crops for their livelihood, and to promote socio-economic research and development on agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Functions: To achieve the above objectives, the Centre undertakes the following functions:

- Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops.
- Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders.
- Research and analysis of trends and opportunities in improving the economic status of rural populations.
- Production, packaging and dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures.
- Training of national personnel, particularly national scientist and policy analysts.
- Advisory services.

Governing structures; Governing Board will be changed to Governing Council, and Technical Advisory Committee will be changed to Technical Committee.

I am convinced that the CGPRT Centre has been working towards reducing poverty through enhancing sustainable agriculture in Asia and the Pacific during the past two decades. This is the philosophy and strategy of the Centre, and fortunately it is completely reflected in the new name of the Centre. Therefore, the Centre has to continue its efforts in line with its strategy shown in this new name. *"The name of a thing shows what it is."*

NOBUYOSHI MAENO

Potato traders in Que Vo district seem to have a good sense of entrepreneurship. They overcome the two constraints through the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with local potato farmers. A few years ago, some local traders in the district began a seed preservation service. They have developed a "cooling room" to provide local farmers with a storage service. The service charge is 100 dong/kg (7 cents/kg). According to a local trader, the number of farmers who use his storage service is increasing year by year. His facility was used by only 20 per cent of farmers in the area in 2001 but in 2002 and 2003 the number of users rapidly increased to 30 per cent and 50 per cent respectively and he is currently constructing a new storage house to meet the increasing demand.

In realizing the limited financial capacity of the local farmers, some traders have implemented a kind of contract farming with traders. Traders provide loans, which are in-kind loans, to farmers for inputs before potato cropping, including potato seeds and manufactured fertilizers. The loan is repayable after the harvest but the farmers have to sell their potatoes to their creditors with money subtracted as loan repayments.

As such, the farmers and their traders are involved in multi-faced personalized contracts. In contrast with the popular view, this kind of personalized contract does not seem to be disadvantageous for the farmers. Some local farmers interviewed during the visit said

they were very pleased to have such personalized contractual arrangements.

Traders recommend farmers to cultivate potato in spring since higher profits can be expected but because of technical difficulties, such as irrigation management, potato farming in the spring is still very limited in the district. Some progressive farmers are however trying spring potato cultivation with a new potato variety. The farmers did suggest that they had decided to begin spring potato cultivation off their own backs but we believe information about spring potato prosperity from traders worked as a driving force.

Coexistence rice self-sufficiency and agricultural diversification

In spite of a declining trend in the international rice price, rice is still the most important crop in many Asian countries and promoting rice production and improving self-sufficiency seem to have high priority in national agricultural policies. The major objective of the AGRIDIV project is, of course, poverty reduction through sustainable development of diversified agriculture, which is based on CGPRT crops. The expected outcome of the project should be that policy planners in participating countries promote effective measures for improving the living conditions of rural poor populations, especially in disadvantaged areas through agricultural diversification. To achieve this expected outcome, the product of the project will be

policy recommendations for agricultural diversification.

However, the real benefit of the AGRIDIV project will not be realized if the policy recommendations put forward by the study fail to address the possibility of the coexistence of rice self-sufficiency with agricultural diversity. If not, our study report may not attract the interest of target group, namely, policy planners who have strong preference for countries' rice self-sufficiency policies.

The effort by the Government of Lao PDR may provide us with a suggestion. According to the study team in Lao PDR, by 2005 the government aims to reduce rice production under "slash-and-burn" systems in upland areas by 60 per cent. Their basic strategy is "right crop for the right land". In upland areas, rice will be diversified into non-rice production systems, which are suited to the upland environment with more profitability and sustainability. Increasing rice production in lowland areas, which are more favorable for rice farming and have good potential for yield improvement, will compensate the reduction in rice production.

We think "zoning" of agricultural areas and inter-regional collaboration or national level diversification will be a key factor when considering agricultural diversity and rice self-sufficiency.

The interviews with farmers in Thailand also indicated the importance of this strategy. We met a head of a farmers' group to which 32 farmers belong in Pathuntani province, which is

located about 50 km north of Bangkok. Farmers belonging to this group practice integrated farming, integrating rice cultivation with poultry, and fish farming.

The group purchases feed for chicken from a nearby feed mill. Due to the soil type (clay soil) and high humidity it is difficult to cultivate upland crops like maize and soybean. The head reasoned that even if the profitability of these crops could meet or surpass that of rice and they could even contribute something to the reduction of her feeding costs, she wouldn't like to change her cropping pattern because she fully understands the agro-ecological conditions in her fields. In this area case, intensification of rice has the largest benefits to her local agricultural economy. ■

Revisiting the CGPRT Centre's Programme: Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development

*Robin Bourgeois**

This article is a presentation of the rationale and content of the Centre's programme revision. It is the first of a series of three. In the next issue of Palawija News, the logical framework of the Centre will be presented as it will stand after the conclusion of the 60th Session of the UNESCAP Commission in April. By this

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time, some changes will have probably occurred including the adoption of a revised mandate and a possible change of the name of the Centre. Then, the third article to be published in the September issue will present the projected activities of the Centre and its work plan.

Poverty reduction: a paradigm to be revisited

Poverty alleviation is the utmost development priority at the start of the 21st century. The expected achievement to halve extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015 was optimistically announced worldwide in international forums as one of the Millennium Development Goals. By 2004, the international community recognizes that this will not be achieved in many countries, including countries in Asia and the Pacific. Lack of practical and applied commitment at national and sub national levels, adverse shocks such as the financial and climatic crisis that struck Asia in the late 90's, and biases in addressing poverty are the main causes.

In particular, it was commonly accepted during the 80's and early 90's that poverty alleviation would automatically result from steady economic growth. Indeed, growth does lead to some improvements: the average income per capita increased by 50 per cent between 1980 and 2000; infant mortality was cut by 50 per cent (World Development Report, 2003). But in many countries, the effects of continuous growth on absolute poverty levels have been struck back down by a two-year crisis, when millions of

people fell into poverty. Today, East and South Asia still represent two-thirds of the world's poorest people. In addition unfair redistribution of growth benefits have resulted in maintaining or strengthening imbalances between economic groups. According to World Development Report (WDR) 2003, the gap between the average income in the richest 20 countries and the poorest 20 countries is twice as wide as 40 years ago. Similar increases in inequality are also found within countries.

The switch from addressing the endemic problem of poverty through macroeconomic measures to more programmatic approaches such as safety nets have not resulted in a significant improvement in the living conditions of the poor but it often introduced bias towards urban poverty against rural poverty, towards accessible areas against remote areas.

The urban bias

The poor, small and landless farmers represent one of the most deprived and widespread categories. Asian countries are home to the highest number of rural poor. However, for the economies of Asia and the Pacific, rural development "...in the rush to achieve other political and economic objectives, [...] has received a generally low priority in national development. (UNESCAP, 2003)¹" The incidence of poverty in rural

¹ Naseem, Syed M., 2003. Rural Development and Poverty in South Asia. UNESCAP Development Paper No. 23, Bangkok, Thailand.

areas shows clearly that biased political choices, as indicated above, did not permit to raise the living conditions of rural populations.

Rural populations living in fragile areas are estimated to make up more than 1.3 billion people, a number that according to the WDR 2003 has multiplied by two over the last fifty years. They constitute the majority of people in extreme poverty and have been consistently ignored by policy and decision makers. Even safety net measures do not reach them.

These populations are living in disadvantaged areas with harsh physical, climatic, economic, social and policy environments characterized by several of the following patterns:

- Limited natural resources (soil fertility, water availability)
- Hostile geography (slopes, altitude, remoteness)
- Poor infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy)
- Poor attention from development institutions (education, health, investment)
- Socio-cultural marginality (power, voice, land rights, tenure)
- Poor economic opportunities (agriculture, off-farm, markets)

Sustainable development

In addition and relation to poverty eradication, another MDG is to ensure environmental sustainability, in particular through the integration of sustainable development principles into country policies

and programmes and reversion of the losses of environmental resources. (MDG Goal 7, Target 9). This implies that poverty alleviation has to be addressed in a sustainable manner, paying particular attention to how decisions are made and their contribution to a genuine development process where human and natural resources development are equally considered.

Again, this calls for more and stronger attention to the situation of poor rural populations in disadvantaged areas. The rural poor have only access to resources that are "free", that are mainly natural resources such as water, natural plants and animals, and (usually marginal) non-appropriated lands. In disadvantaged areas, where most of the poor populations live, natural resources are usually scarce and fragile. Sloping dry lands are subject to rapid erosion and loss of fertility, scarce water sources can be rapidly exhausted or contaminated and the remaining forests that have not been illegally logged on a disastrous scale by national or international smugglers are exposed to the pressure of the poor.

Altogether, these orientations set the direction for refocusing the CGPRT Centre programme. In search for a significant contribution to a more sustainable development, the Centre will have to combine three issues that are not always immediately compatible: poverty reduction through promotion of pro-poor policies, improvement of productivity to sustain growth, and sustainability of

resources use to maintain the possibility of better redistributed growth. However, the Centre has a comparative advantage to undertake this programme due its regional research coordination mandate, its socio-economics and policy focus related to agriculture, and its network of and with research managers. In particular, through regional action the Centre is able to transfer knowledge and know how that is adapted to local situations; its socio-economics and policy focus on agriculture is the most relevant to address the question of the living conditions of the rural poor in disadvantaged areas who directly and indirectly rely on agriculture; its network of high level research managers enables a communication process with decision makers that contributes to reorient policies toward disadvantaged areas.

Realignment with UNESCAP

Since UNESCAP has embarked on a substantial restructuring of its programme and Secretariat structures to sharpen the focus of its work on three themes, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and emerging social issues, consequently, the CGPRT Centre as a regional institution linked to the Poverty and Development Division (PDD) of UNESCAP was asked to match the thematic area of poverty reduction by focusing on good practices and policy recommendations.

High-level research managers and policy analysts/planners are therefore

the target group of the Centre. This target group is considered as a key link between the reality of the conditions under which poor rural populations in disadvantaged areas struggle for survival and the policy/decision makers who are supposed to rule for the improvement of the situation of these populations. As analysts and or researchers they should have the capacity to identify and formulate in an understandable way the problems faced by the poor, as managers and advisers they should be able to convince and orient the choice of policy/decision makers.

The programme of the Centre is designed to contribute to the realization of the expected achievements of UNESCAP, with a particular focus on its contribution to expected accomplishments² of the Sub programme 1. Poverty and Development as stated below:

“Increased priority accorded to poverty reduction policies, with due attention to the gender dimensions of poverty, at the national and local levels.

More effective planning and implementation of poverty reduction programmes at the national and local levels.”

The Centre's strategy

The programming of the Centre's activities result from a combination of two clusters of guiding principles, one

influencing the operation of the Centre, the other the content of operations. These are presented below. In a third section a set of preliminary proposals is presented. It corresponds to the topic that the Centre could address in response to the situation analysis and according to its strategy, by implementing the activities as defined in the next chapter.

Using lessons from the past, being proactive and responsive

By applying this cluster of principles, the way the Centre intends to operate is as follows:

Firstly, the Centre operates through proposals (projects) that are strongly and logically related to the needs of the region either directly expressed by the member countries or rigorously evidenced by a strong background analysis performed by the Centre or other internationally recognized parties, and endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Governing Board (GB).

Secondly, all countries are potentially participating countries. Thus, activities are developed in the countries that have manifested their interest by offering at least institutional support and/or human resources for the conduction of the planned activities, either within the country or at the Centre's Headquarters. However, the particular situation of the poorest countries, especially landlocked countries and islands will be considered independently from their funding capacity but in relation to the extent to which

the rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas can benefit from the project implementation.

Thirdly, projects are result-oriented and integrated. This means firstly that all projects are designed to achieve their goals through practical and applied activities with measurable impact indicators. It also means that all projects include research and development, and training and information exchange components. Combined with research and development, whose purpose is to provide evidence needed to influence policy choices by target groups, training levels the capacity of the target group to match the required standards to properly implement the project, and database development and information communication ensure that target group use information for action.

Actually, one comparative advantage of the Centre is its capacity to combine several types of work and integrate them into a common framework. Therefore, its work implementation strategy combines the following activities:

- Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops.
- Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders.
- Research and analysis of trends and opportunities in improving the economic status of rural populations.
- Production, packaging, and dissemination of information and good practices concerning poverty reduction measures.

² As indicated in the Biennial work programme for 2004-2005.

- Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.

Fourthly, approved projects will become a major source for the increase of the Centre's human and financial resources. Through comprehensive proposals, the strategy is to recruit internationally selected scientists in charge of the full implementation of the programmed activities. As a corollary, the programmed activities should consider a longer time frame. Projects are usually designed to last two or three years but a staggered four- to six-year approach will be adopted.

The benefits from this new operational strategy are numerous:

- increased transparency in the geographical implementation of the planned activities
- match the projects' scope and scale to the Centre's resources
- enable the development of a real network of scientists supported by their own organizations
- improve the Centre's efficiency through reducing the staff turnover rate
- reduce the project writing routine
- enable a long term strategic vision based on member countries' needs and priorities
- allow to yield higher impact

- synergies and economies of scale between Centre's programmes
- synergies and economies of scale between Centre's programmes

As the overall scale and scope of project proposals are extended, resource acquisition evolves. Closer links with UNESCAP in the programming of activities and approach to donors constitute the basic institutional approach. The realignment of the Centre means that the proposed programme is included in the portfolio of UNESCAP activities presented for donor funding, and that UNESCAP directly supports the Centre through financial and human resources. This institutional approach supports a set of core activities at the Centre³, such as the maintenance cost, some staff positions and core shared programme activities such as the collection and dissemination of information and data.

A proactive approach complements this institutional approach. This consists of targeting special donor programmes and funds to complement or substitute the funding obtained from the institutional approach. For this purpose, the proposed projects as indicated in the following section have been based on a thorough analysis of the member countries' needs, the international development community's priorities and orientations, and analysis of the

current situation and trends for poverty alleviation and sustainable resource management in the disadvantaged areas of Asia and the Pacific.

Be consistent with mandate, scientific community and member countries needs

The renewed Centre's mandate in relation to UNESCAP's poverty sub programme's expected accomplishments is "to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops for their livelihood."

The relevance of the proposed activities is the key to the success of implementing the above-mentioned approach within the said mandate, since it will condition the ability to mobilize member countries and international donors to commit resources. It is directly linked to the capacity to address the needs of the member countries, the orientations of UNESCAP and the international donor and scientific community. The latter point has been discussed in the situation analysis and is summarized below.

- ❖ Focus on poverty reduction, productivity and resource use
- ❖ Income generation and satisfaction of nutrition needs must be combined

³ For instance the Indonesian Government, as representative of the host country, through the Ministry of Agriculture, sustains the maintenance of the Centre's building, the salaries of local staff, provides NRL staff, and is committed to some support to information and communication core activities. However, this contribution must be strengthened through more core resources.

- ❖ Include marginalized population (women, marginal areas)
- ❖ Ensure new technologies are components of pro-poor policies

Member countries' needs were surveyed and assessed in a separate document. The results of this assessment indicates that the Centre has to concentrate on the following points:

How national economies can benefit from the development of secondary crops

Provide relevant information on poverty alleviation, food security and growth opportunities based on the current and potential contribution of secondary crops, not only as food crops but also as sources for agro-industrial development and help define sound trade policies to promote growth and abate poverty.

Competitiveness and trade

Provide relevant information for assessing international markets for secondary crops with a comparative advantage and help design appropriate strategies for improving trade policies resulting in more favourable trade balance.

Farm economics

Raise the awareness of policy makers for more pro-poor

and pro-growth oriented agriculture, through policies enabling food supply and income diversification at farm level.

Developing skills and awareness

Contribute to increase Asian and Pacific scientists' skills as well as to provide information related to the above-mentioned domains, with a level-based approach⁴.

Design attractive and consistent proposals

The implementation of the Centre's strategy relies on the operation of full-scale projects presenting the characteristics as indicated previously in addition to specific ad hoc projects responding to specific needs. It is considered that a transition period is needed in order to complete the on-going projects and elaborate comprehensive frameworks for the full-scale projects.

Full-scale projects' and ad hoc projects' preliminary proposals are presented below. TAC and GB members discussed and improved them in order to endorse some of them to be then developed into full proposals.

Full-scale project preliminary proposals

These proposals have been reviewed by TAC and endorsed as a starting point for the development of full-scale

projects. They are grouped as recommended by the TAC.

- Alleviating poverty through valuation of biodiversity (**VALBIO**).
- Increasing poor farmers' welfare with biotechnologies (**BIOTECH**).
- Poor and marginal farmers access to value adding activities (**VALAD**).
- Poverty reduction and sustainable sources of energy. Substitution of fossil fuel by renewable biomass products (**RENEW**).
- Reducing trade deficits through comparative advantage (**COMPAV**).
- Equity and Growth: Consumption market prospects (**COMAP**).

Ad hoc project preliminary proposals

These proposals are based on specific requests from member countries and will be developed according to the resources that they will commit for their implementation.

- Development of small-scale agro-industries through branding (**BRAND**).
- Promoting pro-poor rural development policies through new information and communication technologies (**PRO-ICT**).

⁴ One can distinguish three levels of skills to be developed. Target groups in some countries (Myanmar, Lao, Nepal, Cambodia, Mongolia, Bhutan, Papua New Guinea and most of the Pacific Islands) still show rather low analytical and advocacy skills. For them, training focuses on basic data collection and analysis, scientific and advocacy writing. Then in some countries like Viet Nam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia for instance, training concentrates on improvement of analytical skills, information system management, and policy analysis. Target group in more advanced countries (China, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia) will benefit from advanced training in modeling, GIS and advanced policy analysis.

Conclusion

The rationale for revisiting the Centre's programme corresponds to the need for addressing the specific issue of poverty alleviation in rural disadvantaged areas as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to halve extreme poverty and hunger in 2015 and to ensure environmental sustainability through the integration of

sustainable development principles into policies and programmes. It focuses on contributing to the design of more pro-poor development policies that will improve the living conditions of rural populations in disadvantaged areas. It operates through empowering the target group, high level research managers and policy analyst/planners in orienting decision-making.

The Centre's programme will be implemented through comprehensive full scale projects

elaborated to respond to the needs of the member countries, targeted to address the key issues of poverty alleviation and sustainable development as defined by international organizations, and endorsed by the advisory and governing bodies of the Centre. In the next issue of Palawija News we will present the logical framework of the Centre's programme and the related institutional arrangements to make it operational. ■

CGPRT Centre News and Activities

FEED-SEA

The country studies from the project are still in progress by the national experts of the participating countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand). Chapters I through III have already been submitted and are then reviewed and commented on by the regional advisor and project leader.

The in-country seminar on "Prospects of Feed Crops in Indonesia: The Role of CGPRT Crops" was organized by the Indonesian study team to the FEEDSEA project and held at the UNESCAP CGPRT Centre, Bogor, Indonesia, on 30 March 2004. The aims were (i) to receive feedback on the relevance of the study, (ii) to identify the relevant stakeholders and the stakeholders' comments on the

study, and (iii) to maintain an active mailing list for the reports.

The speakers were Dr. Dewa K.S. Swastika, Senior Researcher of Indonesian Center for Agricultural Socio Economics Research and Development (ICASERD), who is also a national expert for the FEEDSEA Project from Indonesia, and Dr. Made Oka Adnyana Manikmas, Head of Programme and Evaluation Division, Indonesian Center for Food Crops Research and Development (ICFORD). The seminar were attended by Directors from the Indonesian Center for Food Crops Research and Development (ICFORD), the Indonesian Center for Animal Science Research and Development (ICARD); resource persons, team members of the FEEDSEA study from Indonesia; and the Director and staff of the CGPRT Centre. The seminar proved to be a fruitful forum for

discussion to seek better understanding on the feed situation in Indonesia. ■

IS/DB

The new homepage (www.cgprt.org) was launched in early February 2004 and is called "FOCUS". This website is the integration of the two websites previously maintained by the Centre: www.cgprt.org.sg and www.cgprtstat.org.

FOCUS is intended to be a multifunctional, one-stop site with regards to rural poverty, sustainable development and agriculturally related information. On this site can be found brief information regarding the Centre, database on-line, library catalog on-line, recent activities undertaken by the Centre and the Centre's products. ■

Ecopol- MAPSuD

In early 2004, two monographs were published as products of the Ecopol and MAPSuD Projects. These two publications will be disseminated very soon. Below is an abstracts of the newly published monographs:

Domestic Supply and Consumption Patterns of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in Asia and the Pacific

Bourgeois, Robin and Balerin, Yannick (eds.). 2003. CGPRT Monograph No. 45. 90 pp. ISBN 979-9317-38-X.

Poor, rural populations in Asia and the Pacific live mainly in disadvantaged areas, isolated, lacking infrastructure, with harsh climatic and ecological conditions. Coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers (CGPRT crops) often offer one of the limited options for development under these circumstances. Information on the situation of these crops in national economies is limited and becomes a constraint in the design of pro-poor measures for this target group with an objective of poverty alleviation.

This monograph presents and analyzes long-term trends and the evolution of CGPRT crops in ESCAP member countries. Its comprehensive, yet detailed, coverage of crops and countries make it a reference for

researchers, students and analysts involved with the development of CGPRT crops in Asia and the Pacific.

Focusing on domestic supply it provides more than a mere analysis of production trends. The discussion of consumption patterns gives additional insight and understanding into the current dynamics affecting these too-often forgotten crops. With this book, due attention is paid to an important and alternative source of food, feed and income for the poorest populations of the region.

Reconciling Actors' Preferences in Agricultural Policy – Towards a New Management of Public Decisions

Jésus, Franck and Bourgeois, Robin (eds.). 2003. CGPRT Monograph No. 44. 140 pp. ISBN 979-9317-37-1.

To attain sustainable development in the 21st century, the world's population still has to overcome many challenges; hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and depletion. Policy design in such a context is and will remain a complex task. On one hand, policy makers often lack information on stakeholders' strategies and constraints as well as on potential options for improvement. On the other hand, stakeholders do not always adhere to policies for lack of understanding of the pursued goals. It is not unusual to

observe that often, real policy effects are not those initially expected. Furthermore, existing decision-making mechanisms for public intervention are increasingly questioned due to pressure for market liberalization, decentralization processes and the increasing role of the civil society. However, while the classical role of government is challenged, few methods have been proposed to enable the design of viable alternatives.

The approach presented in this book is a contribution to the improvement of efficiency in public decision-making. Based on practical experience from Viet Nam, Indonesia and other countries, it proposes new methods for the identification of policy objective, stakeholders and issues at stake, and for the definition and implementation of concrete actions. It also provides means and guidance to foster progressive actors' participation and involvement in decision-making and policy implementation processes.

This handbook and its methods for designing efficient public decision management processes address the needs of public decision analysts, policy decision makers, agriculturalists and researchers working on agricultural policy and institutional support. ■



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Franck Jésus and Robin Bourgeois
CGPRT Monograph No. 44. 2003. 140 pp.
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Robin Bourgeois and Yannick Balerin
CGPRT Monograph No. 45. 2003. 90 pp.
ISBN 979-9317-38-X

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CGPRT Centre

The Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) was established in 1961 as a subsidiary body of UNESCAP.

Objective

In co-operation with ESCAP member countries, the Centre will initiate and promote research, training and dissemination of information on socio-economic and related aspects of CGPRT crops in Asia and the Pacific. In its activities, the Centre aims to serve the needs of institutions concerned with planning, research, extension and development in relation to CGPRT crop production, marketing and use.

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1. Research, which entails the preparation and implementation of studies covering production, utilization and trade of CGPRT crops in the countries of Asia and the Pacific.
2. Training of national research and extension workers.
3. Information and documentation which encompasses the collection, processing and dissemination of relevant information for use by researchers, policy makers, and extension workers.

Palawija News

Contributors are invited to submit articles that cover recent social, economic or policy aspects related to research or development of CGPRT crops in Asia and the Pacific. Submitted articles should be sent by e-mail to cgprt@cbn.net.id or by regular mail. Articles must be in English.

Submitted articles should not exceed eight pages, including graph, tables, references and author information.

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