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New Volume of Sweetpotato Post-Harvest Research and Development

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The proceedings of an international workshop held in Sichuan, China, on November 7-8, 2001, will soon be published by CIP. The volume, edited by Keith O. Fuglie and Michael Hermann, is entitled "Sweetpotato Post-Harvest Research and Development in China." This article provides a summary and review of its contents. To obtain a copy of the complete volume, please visit the CIP-ESEAP Regional Office website at <http://www.eseap.cipotato.org/Index.htm>, or contact this office at P.O. Box 929, Bogor, Jawa Barat, Indonesia (fax number: [62-251] 316-264).

Over the last 25 years sweet potato has undergone a fundamental transformation in China. Sweet potato has changed from being a major staple food to become a major source of animal feed and raw material for food processing industries. While direct food use of sweet potato in China has declined dramatically, production has actually grown, as the new uses have generated more demand for the crop. In this way sweet potato continues to serve China's farmers well, and China continues to be by far the world's largest sweet potato producer, accounting for about 85 per cent of global production.

To help farmers adapt to these new outlets for sweet potato, Chinese agricultural research institutions have worked hard to develop better ways of utilizing sweet potato. In the late 1980s, the International Potato Center (CIP) began to collaborate with Chinese scientists on post-harvest utilization of sweet potato. Much of the early collaboration focused on Sichuan, then and still the largest sweet potato-producing province in China. Initially, this collaboration focused on introducing and improving machinery

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*"UNESCAP-CAPSA: Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops'
(Palawija = Indonesian term) Development in Asia and the Pacific"*

for small-scale starch extraction and noodle making. This collaboration achieved some success, and by the mid 1990s these improvements were being extended and adopted by machinery manufacturers and sweet potato processors. Previous CIP publications reported on this research and attempted to draw from it some general lessons for sweet potato processing and product development research (Scott *et al.*, 1992; Wheatley *et al.*, 1995). Later, CIP-supported research expanded to include aspects of organization and management of processing enterprises (Wheatley *et al.*, 1997) and the marketing of sweet potato processed products (Zhang, 1999).

By the late 1990s the households and small enterprises that had adopted sweet potato for animal feed and starch/noodle processing faced growing competition in China's rapidly advancing market economy. Household pig producers who relied heavily on sweet potato to feed their animals saw their market share gradually decline, giving way to larger-scale pig farmers who used primarily cereal grains and manufactured formula feed. Small-scale noodle makers faced growing competition from modern food manufacturing firms that could produce higher quality products and market them nationally. Research by Chinese and CIP researchers turned increasingly toward questions of scale and efficiency. In particular, scientists sought to develop technologies that were particularly suited to address the constraints faced by small-scale users of sweet potato in order to make them more productive and competitive. The present volume updates us on the progress of the research on post-harvest utilization

of sweet potato in China. The papers included in this volume were first presented at a meeting held in Sichuan in November, 2001. All of the papers were subsequently revised and updated.

Section I includes two general papers on different aspects of sweet potato post-harvest development in China. Chapter 1 by Huang, Jikun *et al.* provides an historical perspective on the evolving role of sweet potato in China's agricultural economy. By surveying expert opinion, the authors develop new estimates of the trend in sweet potato utilization in China over time. They show the rapid expansion of feed and industrial utilization of sweet potato following the reforms first introduced in 1978 to make the Chinese economy more market-oriented. Huang, Jikun *et al.* also show that farm yield of sweet potato, though improving, has lagged behind yield growth of major cereal grains over the past 30 years, a consequence of relatively low investment in sweet potato research compared with that of rice, maize and wheat. In Chapter 2, Zhang, Dapeng and Li Xiu-Qing review the rationale and feasibility of changing the principal nutrition quality traits in sweet potato through genetic means especially through the improvement of energy digestibility and raising dry matter/starch yield. Collaboration in sweet potato breeding between CIP and China is strongly oriented toward such post harvest utilization. The payoff from this international collaboration should start to be seen in farmers' fields before the end of this decade.

Section II of the volume focuses especially on utilizing sweet potato as feed in hog production. Li Xianglin lays the groundwork for the section in Chapter 3 by describing China's

role in the global "Livestock Revolution." The Livestock Revolution refers to the projected global doubling of demand for meat and animal products between 2000 and 2020, with most of this growth occurring in developing nations. China is clearly already in the midst of this revolution as evidenced by its rapidly rising consumption of animal products. China faces the prospect of large deficits in feed grain and protein supply to meet this rising demand. New technological innovations are needed to improve the productivity of animal production, especially to get more product per unit of feed.

The next two papers (Chapters 4 and 5) of Section II turn to economic analysis of sweet potato and pig production in China. In Chapter 4, Huang, Jikun *et al.* construct a Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) to compare the private and social costs of sweet potato and maize production in the two most important sweet potato-producing provinces in China, Sichuan and Shandong. In both provinces, sweet potato is widely employed as pig feed. They find that in the current policy environment maize is generally a lower-cost feed than sweet potato, but that its cost advantage disappears once

Message from the Director

The 60th session of the Commission was held at the Shanghai International Convention Centre, Shanghai, China, from 22nd to 28th of April 2004. The session comprised of two sessions. The Senior Officials Session was held from 22nd to 24th and the Ministerial Session from 26th to 28th of April 2004. The Exhibition of Regional Institutions was held as one of the varieties of side events. The Centre participated in this exhibition.

As one of the agenda items of the session, a draft resolution on the new statute of the Centre sponsored by the governments of Japan, Indonesia and Fiji was proposed and discussed. As I informed in the previous issue, the draft resolution includes proposals of a new name, and refocused objectives, functions and governing structures of the Centre. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously after discussion and modification. As a result, the name of the Centre has formally changed to "UNESCAP Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA)" as of 28th April 2004.

The objective and functions of the Centre were finalized as follows;

Objective: The objective of CAPSA 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 crop agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Functions: The Centre will achieve the above objective through undertaking the following functions, including:

- 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 with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations.

- Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction.
- Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures.
- Training of national personnel, particularly national scientist and policy analysts.
- Advisory services.

As I mentioned previously, the focus of the Centre's work has shifted 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 secondary crops. It is a shift of focus from crops to people. This shift is reflected in the new name of the Centre. Reflecting this refocusing, the Centre has elaborated its new plan of activities. Dr. Robin Bourgeois presents this plan in three issues of *Palawija News* (March, June and September of 2004). The Centre will continue its efforts to achieve its objective and contribute to alleviating poverty through the sustainable development of agriculture mainly based on secondary crops under its new name and functions. I do hope for the continuing support of the member countries and the donors to the newly named Centre.

Although the Centre's name has changed, there are no radical changes in its objectives and functions. Therefore, the Centre will continue to publish its periodical publications such as "Palawija News" and "CGPRT Flash" without changing the name of them. As is well known, "palawija" means "secondary crops" in Indonesian, and coarse grains, pulses, root and tuber crops (CGPRT) are major components of secondary crops.

I do hope these publications will be relevant and useful to all the stakeholders who will challenge global mandates such as eradicating hunger and poverty.

NOBUYOSHI MAENO

the effects of policy distortions are removed. The results show how policies may unintentionally favor one commodity over another with serious consequences for China's farmers. (For an expanded version of this analysis, see the separate publication by the authors published by CIP in 2003). In Chapter 5, Zhang Xiaohui and Agapi Somwaru draw upon a large and recent national survey of hog producers to examine feed utilization patterns and economies of scale in pig production. They find that while more than 80 per cent of pig production is by small-scale "backyard" producers, these farmers face a declining market share and are less efficient than middle-scale specialized producers. The importance of sweet potato as an animal feed varies widely by scale of operation and by region. Tuber crops (mainly sweet potato but also potato), which are classified here as a component of "fine grain" along with cereals, manufactured feed, and oilseeds, contribute a large share of total grain used for feed in the more isolated, interior provinces of China such as Sichuan and Guangxi. Sweet potato tops (the vines and leaves) are also fed to animals and are especially important because their per unit dry matter provide substantially more protein than sweet potato roots. Sweet potato tops make up a significant proportion of total feed among small-scale hog producers in Sichuan. But backyard pig producers generally achieve lower levels of feed-to-meat conversion compared with larger-scale producers. These findings indicate both a challenge and an opportunity. While small-scale producers face increasingly stiff competition in animal production, improving the sweet potato-pig production system may be a way

for policy makers and scientists to achieve "pro-poor" agricultural development. The sweet potato-pig production system appears to favor small-scale producers who tend to be relatively low-income rural households, often run by women. Prospects for improving the sweet potato-pig production system in Sichuan are investigated in Chapters 6 and 7. In Chapter 6, Zou Chengyi *et al.* report on conditions faced by households raising pigs from sweet potato in Sichuan. The authors find that pig nutrition is generally poor, with serious deficiencies in protein, lysine, and other nutrients. Significant increases in animal weight gain can be achieved by adding commercial protein concentrates to the sweet potato-based animal diet, but farmers often lack sufficient resources to purchase these ingredients. In addition to unbalanced diets, another inefficiency in the sweet potato-pig system is wastage following harvest since sweet potato roots and vines do not store well. In Chapter 7, Li Zouhua *et al.* report on experiments conducted with ensilaging sweet potato roots and foliage as a means of improving nutrient availability and storability. They find that through ensilaging, sweet potato can be stored as high quality feed for as long as six months. They report evidence from pig feeding trials showing that significant gains in feed-to-meat conversion are possible on diets composed of 20 per cent sweet potato silage and 80 per cent basal grains.

Section III turns to sweet potato utilization for food processing, especially for starch and starch-based products. Fuglie and Oates, in Chapter 8, describe the supply and demand of starch in Asian markets. Tropical root crops (sweet potato and cassava) supply about half of all the starch

consumed in Asia. This fact is often missed in government and industry statistics on starch since much of the processing from root crops is carried out by the informal sector. Root crop starch extraction tends to be done by small-scale enterprises located in farming areas because of the crops' bulkiness and perishability. Uses of starch are varied, although most sweet potato starch appears to be used for noodle production in China. The authors present evidence that the demand for starch is likely to grow very fast as Asian economies develop. In Chapter 9, Xie Jiang *et al.* review the research and development activities of the Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences on sweet potato processing and product development. While work initially concentrated on improving small-scale starch and noodle processing, it has since expanded to include process and product development of instant noodles, snack foods, and flour products. The sweet potato processing industry is also undergoing structural changes, with large-scale modern food manufacturing companies playing an increasingly larger role in sweet potato processing. Interestingly, much recent product development has been inspired by traditional Chinese recipes. Traditional batch-wise village processes needed to be translated into continuous large-scale processing suited to industrial conditions.

In this market environment, small-scale starch and noodle processors face similar challenges to those faced by small 'backyard' pig growers: will they be able to compete with more efficient larger-scale producers? Chapter's 10 and 11 report on research aimed at improving the efficiency and quality of output from small-scale sweet potato starch processors. In

Chapter 10, Hu Jianjun examines the effects of different combinations of milling methods, starch separating meshes, and starch precipitation methods on starch extraction rates and starch quality. He finds that there may be a tradeoff between achieving higher extraction rates and starch quality – getting more starch out of the tuber may also let in more impurities. In Chapter 11, Piyachomkwan *et al.* report on a series of experiments designed to establish protocols, or best management practices, for small-scale starch / noodle processors. The key to supplying a consistently high-quality starch noodle is to use a starch with the appropriate characteristics (especially, high purity and high amylose content). However, Piyachomkwan *et al.* find wide variations in sweet potato starch quality from samples taken in a survey of small-scale processors in Sichuan and Shandong provinces. They recommend using a consistent sweet potato variety, consistent post-harvest handling and storage methods, and consistent best management extraction methods to upgrade starch quality for noodle making.

One of the outcomes of the November 2001 workshop was an agenda for future sweet potato post-harvest research and development in China. One key research area is to continue sweet potato breeding for post-harvest utilization, especially for starch and also for animal feed. CIP is playing a crucial role in developing enhanced sweet potato germplasm with high starch yield and introducing this germplasm into China for use as parent material to develop locally adapted lines. To improve feed utilization, we are fortunate to have the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) joining this effort. In 2001, ILRI

established a scientific liaison office in China and expanded its research interest to include monogastric animals such as pigs. Beginning in 2002 ILRI established a research site in Sichuan as part of the Asia-based Crop-Animal Systems Research Network (CASREN) to conduct applied research in sweet potato-pig systems. CIP-ILRI-China collaboration in crop-livestock systems' research brings a wider set of scientific and technical strengths to bear on addressing the constraints faced by small pig growers. Regarding starch utilization, CIP and SAAS initiated a new study to understand the structural changes taking place in the sweet potato food processing sector. Results of these and related studies should be forthcoming in the near future.

References available upon request. ■

Structuring CAPSA Activities with a Results-based Logical Framework Approach

*Robin Bourgeois**

This article is a presentation of the CAPSA logical framework for programme activities. It is the second of a series of three. The first one presented the rationale and content of the Centre's programme revision. In the upcoming September issue of Palawija News, the projected activities of the Centre and its work plan will be presented.

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Background

The rationale for revisiting the Centre's programme corresponds with 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 by 50 per cent by 2015 and to ensure environmental sustainability through the integration of sustainable development principles into policies and programmes (see "Revisiting the CGPRT Centre Programme: Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development", Palawija News, Vol 21-No1). In the 60th session of the UNESCAP held at Beijing, China, the CGPRT Centre name was changed to CAPSA, Centre for Poverty Alleviation through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific. This change of name reflects some readjustments in the mandate of the Centre, with a redefinition of its objectives and functions as described in Message from the Director previously.

The Centre's programme is 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. This article presents the logical framework of the Centre's programme and the related institutional arrangements to make it operational.

A results-based logical framework

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, CAPSA has readjusted its objective and target group to match with the thematic area of poverty reduction by focusing on good practices and policy recommendations.

CAPSA's logical framework is designed to contribute to the realization of the expected achievements of UNESCAP, with a particular focus on its contribution to expected accomplishments¹ 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.”

Furthermore, this logical framework is designed to be results-oriented as requested by the new reform of the UN. This new framework can be characterized simply as an effort to ensure that results are measured and not activities when evaluation is performed. The structure of the framework lays on a goal-outcome-outputs-activities sequence where these four items

correspond respectively to a specific question as indicated below:

- Goal: What the target group is expected to achieve?
- Outcome: The changes in the target group's behaviour that will lead to the expected goal.
- Outputs: What CAPSA has to achieve so that target group's behavior will be modified?
- Activities: What CAPSA must do in order to produce the necessary outputs?

In addition, the logical framework includes verifiable indicators and assumptions or risk assessments. Indicators are designed to be clearly measurable and related to the outputs, outcome and goal. The risk assessment and assumptions help to identify external factors that might hamper the accomplishment of the goal independently from the management capacity of the Centre.

CAPSA's framework

Programme goal

Member and Associate Member Countries design and implement national development policies and programs to improve the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas.

Target group

High-level research managers and policy analysts/planners in ESCAP countries.

This goal is fully consistent with the expected achievements of the Poverty and Development Division sub-programme and with the analysis of the situation. The sub-programme targets policy makers as does the Centre, MDGs and the international community recognizes that poverty is more

widespread and acute in rural areas, especially in fragile areas where agriculture is often the only development opportunity.

Outcome

The Target Group promotes effective measures for improving the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas.

This outcome directly contributes to the goal since the target group has the capacity to both influence policy makers and to act in favour of rural poor populations.

Outputs and main activities

The achievement of the outcome is directly dependent of two factors that are considered as the key outputs of the programme: acquisition of knowledge by the target groups so that they know what is required to improve the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, and acquisition of skills by the target groups so that they can effectively advocate and act towards enhancing the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas.

A third output was added as a necessary contribution of the Centre to the achievement of the outcome. It consists of developing a strategic approach for poverty reduction in disadvantaged areas. This output will enable the Centre to perform a strategic function as a think tank and a source of new ideas that will serve both for improving the quality of the other two outputs and strengthening the Centre's comparative advantage in the region.

Detailed activities as related with the three above-mentioned outputs are presented below.

Output A: The Target Group has knowledge of effective

¹ As indicated in the Biennial work programme for 2004-2005.

measures for improving the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas

Activities:

A.1. Coordinating and conducting socio-economic and policy research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities for the improvement of the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas and on secondary crops.

A.2. Production, packaging and dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures.

The combination of these two activities enables relevant information to be developed and reach the target group.

Output B: *The Target Group (high level research managers and policy analysts/planners) has the required skills to promote effective measures for improving the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas*

Activities:

B.1. Networking and partnership with key stakeholders.

B.2. Training of TG on communication and networking with key stakeholders.

These two activities will enable the target group to acquire the necessary skills to reach and convince policy makers on the need and ways to improve the living conditions of rural poor

populations in disadvantaged areas.

Output C: *A strategic approach towards the use of secondary crops for poverty reduction in disadvantaged areas is available*

Activities:

C.1. Coordinating and conducting socio-economic and policy research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities for the improvement of the living conditions of rural poor population in disadvantaged areas and on secondary crops.

C.2. Networking and partnership with key stakeholders and other international organizations.

C.3. Production, packaging and dissemination of guidelines, strategy documents and updates.

These three activities will allow the Centre to work with a prospective or outlook focus to share and discuss its visions with the target group and thus become more proactive and competitive in the field of improving living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas.

Assumptions and risks

Assumption for the programme goal:

Poverty alleviation is a priority policy objective not just a political game to ensure international donor commitment.

This assumption is key for the success of the Centre. It has to be clear that the realignment of the Centre with the Poverty and Development Division will yield

expected results only if member countries are genuinely committed to achieve the MDGs. If this is true, then the Centre can make a contribution to its achievement. If governments play political games within the international community to receive funds and loans and do not act for the accomplishment of the MDGs the Centre's efforts will be useless.

Risk assessment: Along with the pressure from international donors and international organizations, there is a growing capacity within the country to mobilize for reforms in order to reduce inequalities, challenging the paradigm of market and globalization as the means to alleviate poverty. It is therefore reasonable to expect that advocacy based on sound information and recommendations may alter existing policies and orientations toward more consideration and action to improve the living conditions of rural poor populations.

Assumptions for the Outcome:
Stability of the TG (turnover)

The rate of turnover directly affects the link between the Centre's outputs and expected outcomes. High-level research managers and policy analysts/planners are close to the political sphere. This is both an asset and a weakness.

Risk assessment. The links to political power make the target group more likely to influence decision but at the same time it reduces the duration of the position held by its members, a fact that can limit the impact of developing the knowledge and skills of the

target group. However, turnover affects mainly the most senior staff and the highest ranking position, and therefore, the core staff remain internal to the same sphere of activities so that it can be considered that direct losses through the definitive exit of skilled people is unlikely. A mitigation measure can be implemented by systematically targeting also high-level staff that are not directly linked to power.

Commitment of the policy makers to poverty alleviation

See Assumption/Risk assessment for Centre's programme above.

Other agencies in participating countries have strategies that are consistent with poverty alleviation in disadvantaged areas

National policies encompass the full dimensions of a national economy and are thus not solely focused on the situation of the poorest marginalized groups such as the rural populations in disadvantaged areas.

Risk assessment.

Agencies whose target or objectives are different or biased in favour of the most prominent interest groups or pressure groups, may limit the possibility for the target group to succeed in advocating pro-poor policies. For instance, finance and/or trade agencies may push for measures that may strongly and adversely affect the living conditions of poor rural populations. Mitigation of this risk could be envisaged through lobbying with alternative stakeholders such as citizen organizations, trade-unions, pro-poor

institutions, and international organizations in order to build a counter power for including more pro-poor concerns in the national development agenda.

From the logical framework to operations: management arrangements

At the Centre's programme level

The Centre is organized with a three-programme structure: Human Resource Development (HRM), Information Services and Data Base (IS/DB), and Research and Development (R&D).

While these programmes work in coordination, HRD is responsible and accountable for the results of training activities, IS/DB is responsible and accountable for the production and dissemination of information to and from the target group, and R&D is responsible and accountable for the coordination of in-country studies and the realization of scientific and policy workshops and networking. The programming of the Centre's activities is conducted according to the procedure in use within the Poverty and Development Division (PDD) at UNESCAP Bangkok. As to planning procedures for the work programme 2006-2007, instructions from New York are expected towards the middle of this year. The work programme will be developed in the latter half of the year and submitted, as a first draft, to UNHQ by the end of the year. The Centre will develop, with PDD, a number of "Outputs" and "Activities" to be included in the work programme. In 2005, after initial reviews by New York's Programme Planning and Budget Division, the work programme will be submitted to UN Offices in New

York, before being submitted to the 5th Committee and the General Assembly towards the end of 2005.

At the projects level

CAPSA is currently in the process of the elaboration of project proposals (see "Revisiting the CGPRT Centre Programme: Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development", Palawija News, Vol 21-No1). In a multi-country prioritization workshop, funded by the Indonesian Government, to be held in June at CAPSA, high-level research managers and/or policy analysts from more than ten member and associate member countries will help the Centre's staff to identify the most relevant proposals. The results will be presented in the next issue of Palawija News.

All these proposals share common features in terms of management arrangements. They are all conceived to be implemented by a core team of staff based at the Centre in Bogor. This core team will coordinate and provide support to teams in the participating countries whose members belong to partner institutions in the framework of the project design. These teams and their organizations are responsible and accountable for the implementation of the work in their own country under the supervision and with the support of the core team. National teams have the same scientific composition as the core team for each project. This composition may vary according to the topic.

Participating countries are expected to contribute with institutional resources and funding for a significant share of the cost of the in-country activities. External funding will be used to provide support for the operation of the core team, including salaries, some in-country activities and

cross-country activities, including publication.

The core team through regular visits, joint seminars, joint training workshops, and joint publications ensures coordination between the national teams.

Inputs of UNESCAP and Other Collaborating Partners

The proper implementation of the Centre's programme realignment to fit with UNESCAP new orientations and work programming systems will depend on the level of inputs and support this realignment will generate.

Two issues are at stake: human resources and financial resources. As far as human resources are concerned, given the limited number of staff currently working at the Centre, far below any critical mass, it is of paramount importance that UNESCAP allocates some professional staff from Headquarters to the Centre.

This effort will go hand in hand with the implementation of the full-scale projects, which should also become a source of staffing. A minimum of four staff would be a good start in order to strengthen the Centre's programmes. Furthermore, UNESCAP support is expected to negotiate with member countries the staffing of national scientists at the Centre's on a NRL basis.

As far as financial resources are concerned UNESCAP support is expected through the reversion of part of the contribution of ESCAP member countries for the Centre's support programme cost. Negotiations of full-scale proposals will be the second major source of income for the Centre, providing operational resources as well as administrative cost support.

In spite of the withdrawal of Japan for the funding of the Director General position, the commitment of member countries

through direct pledges remains, with a strong contribution from Indonesia as the host country.

Conclusion

The new logical framework sets up the general orientation of CAPSA in line with the reform of the UN and the UNESCAP priorities. It also provides an operational frame to develop concrete proposals and activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Centre's target group. The current process of priority-setting with the participation of member countries will ensure further relevance of the proposals to be implemented and hopefully bring a higher level of commitment from the participating countries towards the significant reduction of poverty through sound and efficient pro-poor policies' design and implementation. ■

CAPSA News and Activities

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According to the conclusion of the discussions with country study teams through the interim reviews during February to March 2004, the revised proposed outline of country study reports was shown to the national experts as a common guideline of report writing. The country studies for phase I were completed in May 2004. Draft country study reports entitled "Enhancing Sustainable Development of Diverse Agriculture in Participating Countries" have been submitted by respective national experts and are currently under review by the regional advisor and CAPSA's staff.

As for the regional study, literature on the industrial importance of CGPRT crops and the contribution of CGPRT crops in preserving sustainable and diversified agriculture are being reviewed to extract information to discuss the potential of product diversification to meet environmental issues and consumption changes in the region.

A draft report meeting (phase I) and planning meeting (phase II) will be held on 20-22 July 2004 at CAPSA. The meetings aim to (i) discuss the draft country reports for the phase I study; and (ii) discuss the work plan of the country studies for phase II and plan other activities during phase II. ■

IS/DB

The Centre's Database staff have developed its Local Area Networking system. The re-arrangement of the systems will be maintained by using a combination of Linux and Microsoft products. It will give clients more secure information sharing systems, more efficient information management and better services.

The change of the URL from www.cgprt.org to www.uncapsa.org will be effective very soon. The change is aligned with the change of Centre's name from UNESCAP CGPRT Centre to UNESCAP-CAPSA (more detailed

information; see: Message from the Director).

On 17-19 May, 2004, two IS/DB staff participated in E-Commerce Training, held in Jakarta, Indonesia. It was first initiated by IDRC, which entered into a partnership agreement with the ASEAN Foundation, in which the ASEAN Foundation will take over and continue to grow the Collaboratory's scope of activities under a new set-up called the "ICT4D ASEAN Collaboration's".

The training was participated by 14 institutions from 10 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka). The training covered different aspects, including: how to set up an e-shop on the new E-Mall, migration steps and procedures, familiarization on the business, legal and other aspects of selling on-line, and reviewing the terms and conditions of the new e-commerce agreement. ■

CAPSA and Government of

Indonesia held a Priority-setting Workshop

In the course of establishing a sound strategy in line with its renewed mandate, CAPSA, with the support of the Government of Indonesia held a two-day workshop in Jakarta. With the participation of invited high-level research managers and policy makers from twelve different member countries, this event reflected the willingness of the Centre to strengthen its relationships with the regional community of decision makers and to work closely with member countries. Participants came from Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. UNESCAP Bangkok was also represented as well as JIRCAS, ICRAF and CIRAD. Representatives of international donors, though also invited, did not attend the workshop.

The purpose of this workshop was to use a transparent and participatory method for the prioritization of programme proposals elaborated by the

CAPSA staff. The method, -the Analytical Hierarchy Procedure- is an expert-based method allowing the establishment of assessment criteria and comparisons among complex options. It was well accepted by the participant and used successfully. The workshop programme also included room for discussion of the results and some strategic thinking about implementation issues, such as scope and funding, member country commitment and following steps. A detailed report of this workshop will be elaborated and made available to the participants and the people interested in CAPSA activities. As indicated in an earlier issue of Palawija News, the result of this report will be incorporated in the third of a three-article presentation of the new Centre's strategy, in the next issue of Palawija News.

CAPSA is particularly thankful to the Government of Indonesia for supporting the cost of the organization of the workshop. Dr. Memed Gunawan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture opened the workshop and reiterated the strong commitment of Indonesia to CAPSA. ■

