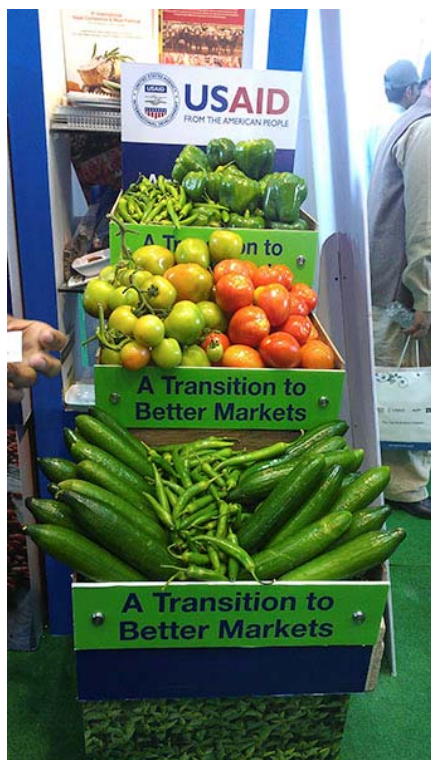


CORNUCOPIA



A LOOK AT PROTECTED PRODUCTION: The **Agriculture Innovation Program (AIP)** participated in the Dawn Sarsabz Agri Expo and Conference 2014 held on 13-14 March in Lahore, Pakistan. At a booth set up in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) pavilion, AIP program staff demonstrated various aspects of protected agriculture to farmers and agribusiness professionals. Visitors showed keen interest in protected production methods and many would like to participate in the AIP, which aims to expand the use of modern technologies in Pakistan’s agriculture sector. Visitors received briefing materials about project activities and partners—including AVRDC—along with pens, shopping bags and mugs with the AIP logo.

STRONGER SEEDLINGS: Under the AIP, AVRDC Pakistan organized three training sessions on producing healthy vegetable seedlings for 20-25 farmers each; several female trainees joined each session. The first session was held at the National Agriculture Research Center in Islamabad from 10-13 February 2014; the second and third trainings were held at the Barani Agricultural Research Institute, Chakwal (Punjab) and Agricultural Research Institute (South), D.I. Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) on 26 March. The hands-on training covered compost preparation, seed sowing, soaking, germination, care of seedlings, and protective measures to control pests and diseases.

Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP)

At least 50 percent of Pakistan’s population derives most of its income from farming, processing and/or marketing of agricultural products. Yet agriculture contributes just 20% of GDP and is growing at the rate of 1.5%, compared to 5.8% growth in the overall economy.

The Agricultural Innovation Program is led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and features active collaborations with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the University of California-Davis and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

Agricultural research for development (ARAD) principles are being used to foster a demand-driven, results-oriented science research community to ultimately increase the contribution of agriculture to Pakistan’s GDP, thereby aiding overall economic growth and poverty alleviation within the country.

- Boosting agricultural productivity:** Increase farmer incomes via improved livestock value chains; innovations in annual and perennial horticulture; and enhanced cereals and cereal systems. The AIP commissioned projects portfolio is supporting outcome-focused projects, implemented by novel alliances of public and private actors, where results are measured in the number of farmers who adopt productivity- or value-enhancing technologies.
- Facilitate innovation:** Create a dynamic, responsive innovation structure via a PARC-led competitive grants system with agricultural research boards in provinces. Based on ARAD principles, this will encourage new lines of scientific inquiry and novel partnerships.
- Enhance AIP impact and sustainability:** through extensive human resources development to train the next generation of Pakistani scientists; vesting them with the skills and expertise needed to be leaders within a more dynamic, competitive and responsive agricultural innovation system.

For further information, please contact: Director AIP Project Director Dr. M.A. Saeed (msaeed@cip.gov.pk) Ph: (+92) 81-409932-33-34



WHO’S EATING VEGETABLES? Spring has arrived in Trunkelsberg, Upper Bavaria, Germany and **Ludwig Friedrich**, agricultural advisor at the Bavarian Ministry for Agriculture and a passionate beekeeper, together with his son **Felix**, don the appropriate attire—AVRDC’s “Eat your vegetables” T-shirts—to plant the first batch of vegetables in 2014.



A PARTNER RECOGNIZED: AVRDC extends congratulations to **Dr. Segenet Kelemu**, Director General of the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), who was one of five outstanding researchers to receive the 16th Annual L’Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science, presented on 19 March 2014 at the Sorbonne in Paris. Dr. Kelemu’s research on how microorganisms living in symbiosis with forage grasses can improve their capacity to resist disease and adapt to environmental and climate change is providing new solutions for ecologically responsible food crop production, especially by small-scale farmers. *icipe* and AVRDC are founding members of the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA).