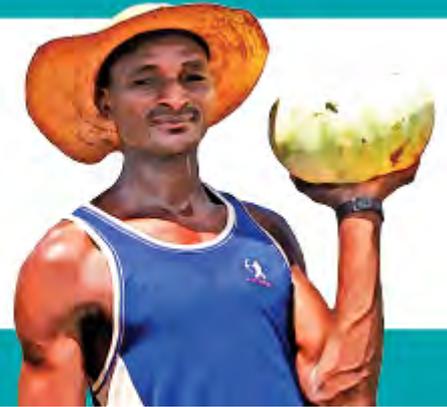


# fresh

News from AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center



14 September 2012

[www.avrdc.org](http://www.avrdc.org)

AVRDC breeding lines  
**CLN-2498E** and **CLN-2498D**  
are the proud parents of new  
triple disease resistant tomatoes  
in India.

page 4



CLN-2498E



CLN-2498D

## The new golden rule: grow vegetables at school

A project to promote  
school gardens in  
Africa and Asia aims  
to raise community  
awareness of health  
issues and decrease  
malnutrition



Vegetables go to school in Klongpaklak, Bangkok, Thailand. Not in uniform: **Robert Holmer**, Regional Director, AVRDC East and Southeast Asia.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, students in Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines will soon find a new subject on the curriculum: vegetable cultivation.

“Vegetables Go to School: Promoting Food Security and Nutrition through School-based

Approaches,” the opening phase of a planned 8-year project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), began building national capacities in the six countries to plan, implement and monitor vegetable school garden programs during an expert consultation on **Home, School**

**and other Public Facility Vegetable Gardens in Southeast Asia** held in Bangkok from 27-30 August 2012.

The event, hosted by the ASEAN-AVRDC Regional Network for Vegetable Research and Development (AARNET) with funds from the Taiwan Ministry of

(...continued from page 1)



Home, school, hospital and other public facility vegetable gardens are getting a boost in Southeast Asia. 35 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan discussed strategies and designed projects to promote these types of gardens in the region during the recent ASEAN-AVRDC Regional Network for Vegetable Research and Development (AARNET) expert consultation in Bangkok.



Foreign Affairs (MOFA), brought together country representatives, teachers, researchers, gardening specialists and others to discuss strategies for developing and promoting home and public vegetable gardens with a focus on nutrition. Vegetable gardens can contribute to food and nutritional security as the global climate changes and causes fluctuations in agricultural and horticultural productivity.

After being welcomed by Regional Director **Robert Holmer**, the session of keynote speakers was opened by **Jacqueline Hughes**, Deputy Director General – Research, who set the overall framework of the consultation with

a presentation on the contribution of vegetable gardens to the Millennium Development Goals. **Reynaldo Laguda**, Assistant Secretary of the Philippine Department of Education, gave an overview of past and present school garden programs in the country and how those connect with the specific educational and health objectives of the department. **Gayarti Rana**, Director of the Center for Consumption Diversification and Food Safety, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia, shared how her agency successfully addresses food security through the establishment of several thousand home gardens in the country. **Jintana Yhoun-Aree** of the

Community Nutrition Division, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University gave valuable insights on experiences with community-based nutrition programs in Thailand, while **Hsueh-shih Lin**, Director of the Taitung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station of the Council of Agriculture, explained how the community-based “Citizen Farm Gardens” developed in Taiwan and contribute to domestic vegetable consumption. **Katinka Weinberger**, Director, Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission

(...continued on page 3)

(...continued from page 2)



of Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) closed the morning session by discussing policy interventions for promoting home and public facility gardens in Southeast Asia. In the afternoon, different country presentations on best practices for vegetable gardens were given by **Trinh Khac Quang**, Director General, Fruits and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hanoi, Viet Nam; **Ho Putha**, General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

**Bounnueng Douangboupha**, Director, Hatdokeo Horticulture Research Station, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR; and **Myint Shwe**, Director, Horticulture and Biotechnology Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. **Mandy Lin**, Assistant Specialist, AVRDC Global Technology Dissemination, shared recommended practices and appropriate technology options for home gardening in Southeast Asia.

Additional regional insights were given by **Nakorn Limpakuptathavon** (Thailand City Farm Project), **Perfecto Rom** (Urban Container Gardening in the Philippines), **Dennis Lesnick** (Sowing the Seeds of Cambodia's Future: Helping Address Rural Vulnerabilities and Ecosystem Stability through Home and School Gardens) and **Priscilla Pinky L. Castillo** (Onslaught Racing Dragons: Promoting Healthy Lifestyle through Physical Activity and Better Nutrition).

On the second day, the participants brainstormed ideas and developed small model projects to support the adaptation and promotion of nutrition-focused home and public facility gardens in their national environment, which will be implemented in the following months.

On the last day, the group visited two successful urban public facility gardens: the Rooftop Garden Learning Center of the Lak-Si Government Office and the Klong Pak Lak School Garden.



The Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided financial support for the event. Robert Holmer expressed confidence that home, school and other public facility gardens will get a strong boost from the consultation, and Reynaldo Laguda closed the event with the remark: "Vegetable gardening not only contributes to food and nutrition security, but is also dignifying."

## The legacy continues...

For 40 years breeding lines developed by AVRDC plant breeders have contributed to the improvement of vegetable varieties around the world. The legacy continues: On 5 September 2012, the **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)** in Bangalore, India celebrated the occasion of its Foundation Day by introducing 'Arka Samrat' and 'Arka Rakshak,' two new triple disease resistant tomato hybrids. AVRDC breeding lines CLN-2498E (male parent of 'Arka Samrat') and CLN-2498D (male parent of 'Arka Rakshak') were used in the breeding program to create the new hybrids, which resist *Tomato leaf curl virus*, bacterial wilt, and early blight, three of the most serious problems in tomato production. AVRDC tomato breeder **Peter Hanson** supplied the breeding lines and worked with researchers at IIHR to stack multiple resistance traits into the hybrids. By planting varieties bred to be resistant to diseases, farmers can reduce pesticide use when growing crops of high-yielding, nutritious vegetables and ensure more of the harvest can be marketed.



## The Center in the news



Lorraine Wong

Summer intern **Lorraine Wong** interviewed Deputy Director General-Research **Jackie Hughes**, Head of Global Technology Dissemination **Greg Luther**, and World Food Prize intern **Michelle Laterrade** during her time at the Center for the radio program "Health on Earth." The program was aired on 11 September 2012 On CKUT 90.3, Montreal, Canada:

<http://archives.ckut.ca/128/20120911.20.32-21.01.mp3>



Jackie Hughes



Greg Luther



Michelle Laterrade

## Welcome

The Center's ability to monitor and evaluate projects and develop strategies to ensure farmers can bring more of their harvest to market will be strengthened with the arrival of two new AVRDC staff members on 1 October 2012:



**Pepijn Schreinemachers** will join AVRDC as an Agricultural Economist at headquarters. Previously he was the Scientific Coordinator of the University of Hohenheim's Uplands Program in Thailand and Vietnam, which aimed to make a scientific contribution to the conservation of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions of the rural population in mountainous regions of Southeast Asia.

He has a particular interest in *ex-ante* and *ex-post* impact assessment, farm management economics, and integrated modeling of farming systems, and has taught university courses on economic modeling, policy simulation, and land use modeling. Pepijn took his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn, Germany.



**Ngoni Nenguwo**, the Center's new Postharvest Specialist, will be based at the Regional Center for Africa in Arusha, Tanzania. Ngoni, a horticultural development consultant, has more than 20 years of experience working on sustainable production and postharvest handling systems for agricultural producers in developing countries.

His research examines techniques and practices for farmers with limited resources, including treatments to reduce postharvest diseases, and evaporative and charcoal coolers. Ngoni holds an MSc and M.Phil in Postharvest Technology from Silsoe College, Cranfield University, UK.



**Haksoon Choi**, Visiting Scientist from Korea's National Institute of Horticultural & Herbal Science (NIHHS), Rural Development Administration (RDA) arrived at AVRDC headquarters on 4 September 2012 for a one-month stay under the supervision of Genebank Manager Andreas Ebert.

Haksoon will be involved in research activities under the RDA-AVRDC collaborative project "Multiplication and evaluation of tomato genetic resources for breeding for disease resistance and food-related functional traits."



**Moritz Blanke**, MSc student in Environmental Governance at the University of Freiburg, Germany, joined AVRDC East and Southeast Asia on 20 August 2012 to start a three-month internship. Moritz's

particular interest is to deepen his understanding of food and nutrition security in urban areas of developing countries, with a specific focus on the contribution of home, school and community gardens.

## Seminars



**Til Feike**, Postdoc at the University of Hohenheim, Germany spoke to staff at AVRDC headquarters about his research on “Grasping the complexity of intercropping: Developing and testing an integrated decision support system for vegetable production in the North China Plain” on 10 September 2012. Intercropping—growing two or more different crops at the same time on the same plot of land—has long been a feature of small-scale agriculture in China, but the practice is in decline as agriculture becomes more mechanized and less labor is available in rural areas. Dr. Feike’s modeling methods can be used to compare variables such as row width and crop height to determine optimum intercropping strategies, which will help farmers make full use of their land, generate more income, and reduce disease pressure that may occur with monocropping.



**Sanjeet Kumar**, AVRDC Pepper Breeder, updated colleagues on research in male sterility in peppers on 13 September 2012. Male sterile plants do not produce functional pollen, and do not self-pollinate; they are used as female parents in breeding programs for new hybrid development and hybrid seed production. The technique has been used successfully with peppers, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, radish, carrot, and melon. Using male sterile plants significantly reduces seed production costs, as labor-intensive hand-pollination of crops is eliminated.

In recent weeks AVRDC staff at headquarters had the opportunity to meet candidates for various job positions and hear them speak on topics related to their previous research and work experience:



*August 22, Postharvest Specialist:* “Vegetable postharvest technology: Connecting farms and people, creating health and wealth” by **Antonio Acedo, Jr.** (left); “Development of vegetable postharvest systems for increased market access by small-scale producers” by **Ngoni Nenguwo**.



*September 5, Genetic Resources Scientist:* “Plant genetic resources in use for humanity: the case in Bulgaria” by **Tsvetelina Stoilova** (left). *September 6:* “Genetic resources of vegetables: seed, germplasm – and my potential to add value to AVRDC activities” by **Brita Jensen**.



*September 7, Postdoc in Agricultural Economics:* “The effect of agricultural policy incentives and technology on sustainable land management and income of small farm households: a case study in northwestern Ethiopia” by **Yitayal Anley Mengistu** (left); “Agricultural production and marketing nexus: implications of empirical analyses” by **Srinivasulu Rajendran** (center); “Socioeconomic analysis tools in project management” by **Ken Chamuva Shawa**.

Visitors



(top): Emile Frison (center), Director General, Bioersity International meets with AVRDC Director General Dyno Keatinge (left) and Director of Finance Kolade Olatifede during a discussion with AVRDC staff.



(right): AVRDC Genebank Manager Andreas Ebert briefs Emile Frison on current research activities.

**Emile Frison**, Director General, Bioersity International, visited the AVRDC campus on 9 September 2012 to meet with staff and discuss cooperation between the institutions on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGRFA), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) Diversity for Development initiative, the upcoming Second

Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD II) in Uruguay on 29 October – 1 November 2012, and other matters of interest. Dr. Frison sees opportunities for collaboration in delivering messages on the need to diversify landscapes, agriculture and diets, and he also shared some of Bioersity’s experiences in introducing indigenous vegetables

to supermarkets in Kenya. His visit was the second in a series entitled *Networking to Enhance International Cooperating Vegetable Research and Development* sponsored at AVRDC headquarters by Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).



Forty-four members from **farmer organizations** and **rural women’s leadership federations** in **Korea** toured the AVRDC campus on 6 and 13 September 2012. The study tour organized by the Cheongju City Agriculture Technology Center was led by Myeong-Cheoul Cho, Pepper Breeder seconded to AVRDC from the Korea Rural Development Administration (RDA). The two groups of 22 members visited the genebank and Demonstration Garden.

**Chairit Damrongkiat**, Director General of the Rice Department, Thailand led a delegation of six visitors to AVRDC headquarters on 6 September 2012. The group was briefed by Maureen Mecozzi, Head, Communications & Information, and toured the Demonstration Garden with Willie Chen from Global Technology Dissemination.

# International training course begins



Grafting practice.



AVRDC's **31st International Vegetable Training Course** (IVTC) "Vegetables: From Seed to Table and Beyond" officially opened on 10 September 2012 at AVRDC's East and Southeast Asia Research and Training Station, located on the Kamphaeng Saen campus of Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand.

Regional Director **Robert Holmer** and Administrative & Training Officer **Sheila de Lima** welcomed 23 participants from 11 countries who enrolled in Module 1, "From Seed to Table." The participants hail from government

agencies, nongovernmental organizations, research institutes, and the private sector from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The one-month long module focuses on the essentials of integrated vegetable production within the framework of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). An introduction to crop improvement as well as relevant technologies on seed production, seed health and seedling management will be shared with participants. An

overview on how to facilitate and manage farmer education programs is included in the training activities.

The IVTC aims to enhance the technical, scientific and managerial skills of the participants, who will contribute to the sustainable development of their countries by increasing the production and consumption of health-promoting vegetables.

Module II begins on 8 October and Module III on 5 November.



(l): Participants introduced to fruit quality testing at KU Postharvest Laboratory.



(r): Participants introduced to online catalogues at KU Library.

31<sup>ST</sup> IVTC Participants (Module 1: From Seed to Harvest, 10 September to 5 October 2012)

**Mohammad Mazharul Karim  
(Bangladesh)**

*Present Job/Position:* Scientific Officer  
*Employer:* Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)  
*Main responsibilities:* Research on vegetable and fruit crops in hilly region



**George Thomas Meprthu  
(India)**

*Present Job/Position:* Research Scientist for Okra and Oilseed  
*Employer:* Maharashtra Hybrid seeds Company Limited  
*Main responsibilities:* Manage and support key aspects of okra and oilseed crops commercial breeding program



**Md. Rabiul Islam  
(Bangladesh)**

*Present Job/Position:* Scientific Officer  
*Employer:* Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)  
*Main responsibilities:* Collection and evaluation of vegetable crops



**Arul Murugan Palanichamy  
(India)**

*Present Job/Position:* Assistant Manager for field research and development  
*Employer:* IAP Farm Services Private Limited  
*Main responsibilities:* Research and development activities for the cultivation of gherkin, tomato, onions, dill weed and banana



**Taslima Jahan  
(Bangladesh)**

*Present Job/Position:* Scientific Officer  
*Employer:* Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)  
*Main responsibilities:* Collection and evaluation of vegetable crops



**Ida Bagus Ketut Suryawanta  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Agricultural Extension staff  
*Employer:* Bali Food Crops Offices, Ministry of Agriculture  
*Main responsibilities:* Provides extension services specifically on planning, implementation and evaluation of agricultural projects



**MOK Che-ki  
(Hong Kong)**

*Present Job/Position:* Senior Field Officer  
*Employer:* Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Horticulture Section, Tai Lung Experimental Station  
*Main responsibilities:* Supervising the overall administration and maintenance of AFCD wholesale food market and processing applications for tenancy agreements and contracts



**Anak Agung Istri Inten Wiradewi  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Head (Development section)  
*Employer:* Department of Food Crops, Bali Provincial Government  
*Main responsibilities:* Implementation of programs of the department



**I Gusti Made Widianta  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Agricultural Extension staff  
*Employer:* Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology AIAT- Bali  
*Main responsibilities:* Provides extension services specifically on planning, implementation and evaluation of agricultural projects

**An Vannak  
(Cambodia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Kbal Koh Vegetable Research Station, Department of Horticulture and Subsidiary Food Crop  
*Main responsibilities:* Collection and evaluation of vegetable crops

(...continued from page 9)



**Ida Bagus Aribawa  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology AIAT- Bali  
*Main responsibilities:* Research activities on cacao plants



**Phathana Seng Ounkeo  
(Lao PDR)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Haddockeo Horticulture Research Center  
*Main responsibilities:* Vegetable seed production and research



**Yotti Hadiana  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Staff (Horticultural seeds)  
*Employer:* Department of Agriculture, Sector of Horticulture, Blitar Regency, East Java  
*Main responsibilities:* Horticultural seeds and seedling management



**Christiaan Mauritz Lombaard  
(South Africa)**

*Present Job/Position:* Agronomist  
*Employer:* EMVEST  
*Main responsibilities:* Monitoring of agricultural protocols and production processes and provides assistance to farm managers.



**Eli Korlina Edisaputra  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology AIAT- East Java  
*Main responsibilities:* Plant protection



**Hsiu-fung Chao  
(Taiwan)**

*Present Job/Position:* Assistant researcher  
*Employer:* Tainan District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan  
*Main responsibilities:* Traditional agricultural breeding on cucumber for greenhouse; application of biotechnology for agricultural breeding



**Heri Harti  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Center for Tropical Horticulture Studies, Bogor Agricultural University  
*Main responsibilities:* Development of technologies



**Min-li Liu  
(Taiwan)**

*Present Job/Position:* Assistant researcher  
*Employer:* Kaohsiung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station Council of Agriculture  
*Main responsibilities:* Research and implementation of agricultural technology improvement on vegetable breeding



**Chandra Hidorat  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Technical Staff  
*Employer:* Food Diversification Division, Center of Diet Diversity and Safety Food, Food Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture  
*Main responsibilities:* Promotion of the programs and activities of the Center



**Nakorn Limpacuptathavon  
(Thailand)**

*Present Job/Position:* Director  
*Employer:* Kaohsiung Veggie Prince City Farm Learning Center  
*Main responsibilities:* Provides capacity building through training to urban and rural communities on sustainable agricultural practices.



**Dhany Hermansyah  
(Indonesia)**

*Present Job/Position:* Technical Staff  
*Employer:* Food Diversification Division, Center of Diet Diversity and Safety Food, Food Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture  
*Main responsibilities:* Implementing food diversification programs



**Khuyen Thi Bui  
(Vietnam)**

*Present Job/Position:* Researcher  
*Employer:* Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute  
*Main responsibilities:* Research on quality control for fruits and vegetables

## South Asia's improved field research facilities



(l): AVRDC South Asia staff **Tomar Omvir Singh** (l) and **Aqil Mohammed** in new nethouse.

(r, left to right): AVRDC South Asia Legume Team in mungbean trials at the new site — Scientific Officer **Giri Rajkumar Rahod**, Research Technician **Tomar Omvir Singh**, and Legume Breeder **Ram Nair**.

**AVRDC South Asia**, located on the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) campus in Hyderabad, India, moved its research field and 500 m<sup>2</sup> net house facilities to a new site in July.

AVRDC's former trial site was located toward the back of the campus. After five years of continuous intensive use its clay soil was showing increasing problems of disease and pest build-up, and the need to rotate out of vegetables. Moving to a new site with sandy soil has proven ideally suited to

legume trials. **Ram Nair**, AVRDC Legume Breeder, said the legume breeding team has had prolific production in its mungbean, vegetable soybean, yard-long bean and cowpea trials this season. Research Technician **Tomar Omvir Singh** said the site provides more uniform soils for trials, but requires careful management to avoid erosion and weed problems.

The improved facilities for trials, seed production and demonstrations are helping to raise the profile of AVRDC with campus visitors, as the new site

is easily visible from the campus entrance road.

A temporary fence made from net is keeping out rabbits and the odd porcupine that have taken an interest in the new opportunities for dietary diversification. To the relief of field staff, the net fence also has kept out a couple of curious cobras in recent weeks. A permanent mesh fence will be installed at the end of this season to complete the new research facilities.

## Who's eating vegetables?



AVRDC summer students (l to r): **Wei-Lung Chen**, **Yen-Ting Tung**, **Chia-Che Li**, **Yi-Sin Hong**, **Xin-Yi Lu**, and **Tsai-Han Yao** dress for success in the Center's famous T-shirt emblazoned with the word "vegetables" in 40 languages.

Where do *you* eat vegetables? Wear your AVRDC "Eat your Vegetables" T-shirt, take a photo, send it to Kathy Chen <[kathy.chen@worldveg.org](mailto:kathy.chen@worldveg.org)>, and we'll include it in a future newsletter. Need a shirt? Order one for US\$ 7.80 from Shiu-luan Lu <[shiu-luan.lu@worldveg.org](mailto:shiu-luan.lu@worldveg.org)>.

## Feed the Future: USAID representatives and US congressional staff visit AVRDC project sites in Bangladesh and Mali

### FEED THE FUTURE

*Feed the Future*, the US government's global hunger and food security initiative, is focusing on 20 countries based on five criteria: level of need, opportunity for partnership, potential for agricultural growth, opportunity for regional synergy, and resource availability. AVRDC is participating in several *Feed the Future* projects, and in recent weeks two **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** delegations have visited project sites to familiarize themselves with the ongoing activities.



### Bangladesh

On 1 September 2012 a USAID team visited activities under the **Horticulture Project** in Churamon Kahti village, Jessore Sadar Upazila in Jessore District, Bangladesh. The delegation included **Paul Weisenfeld**, Assistant to the Administrator for Food Security; **Denise Rollins**, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Asia; **Amit**

**Mistry**, USAID Washington DC; **Richard Greene**, Mission Director, USAID Bangladesh; **Ramona El Hamzaoui**, Director, Economic Growth Office, USAID Bangladesh; and **David Leishman**, **Anar Khalilov**, and **Nazmul Bhuiyan**, USAID Bangladesh. The visitors were accompanied by project partners including **Shawkat A. Begum**,

Chief of Party; **Mohammad Hossain**, Sector Leader, Potato and Sweet potato; **Shahabuddin Ahmad**, Sector Leader, Vegetables; **Shofiur Rahman** and **Zahir Ullah**, Field Coordinators; **Firoz Ahmad**, Chief Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) Jessore; **Md. Rafiuddin**, Senior Scientific

(...continued on page 13)

## CORNUCOPIA

(...continued from page 12)



Officer, BARI Jessore; and **Sitesh Chandra**, Agriculturist, BRAC.

The team toured two commercial vegetable gardens established by project farmers on adjacent plots. Ashrafal Islam grows bottle gourd on his 15-decimal (607 m<sup>2</sup>) garden plot. He sowed seed of three different varieties during the first week of June 2012 and started harvesting in mid-July. So far, Ashrafal has sold 1065 bottle gourds in the market. Hashem Ali established his brinjal (eggplant) garden on a 10-decimal plot (404 m<sup>2</sup>). He sowed seed of two different

varieties in mid-May and started harvesting during the first week of August. To date he has harvested 32 kg of brinjal, which he has sold to local traders.

Ashrafal and Hashem talked with the visitors about their participation in the project, their motivation for joining project activities, the performance of their gardens, and their future plans.

After the tour, the team had a meeting with 22 farmers in an adjacent open field. The women farmers grow vegetables and



multiply sweet potato vines in their home gardens, and also graft and raise summer tomato seedlings to sell to commercial farmers. The men grow vegetables and potatoes for commercial markets. One of the women farmers gave a demonstration of summer tomato grafting, a technology disseminated by AVRDC. The visitors also enjoyed a mini exhibition of vegetable crops produced by the project farmers, including bottle gourd, bitter gourd, snake gourd, ridge gourd, yard-long bean, brinjal and summer tomato.

(...continued on page 14)



(front row, l to r) USAID's Paul Weisenfeld, Denise Rollins, and Richard Green met with farmers in Jessore district, Bangladesh.

USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

আলোচনা সভা  
আলু, মিষ্টিআলু ও সবজি উৎপাদনের মাধ্যমে কৃষকের আয় ও পুষ্টি বৃদ্ধি  
স্থানঃ গ্রামঃ চুড়ামনকাটি, ইউনিয়নঃ চুড়ামনকাটি, উপজেলাঃ সদর, জেলাঃ মগেরা  
তারিখঃ ১লা সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১২  
ইউএসএআইডি হাটিকালচারাল প্রজেক্ট  
brac

AVRDC  
The World Vegetable Center

(...continued from page 13)

## USAID in Mali



A delegation of 10 people representing the United States government visited AVRDC's on-farm activities in Finkolo-Ganadougou (near Sikasso in southern Mali) on 20 August 2012.

The delegation included **Janet K. Stormes** of the US Senate Appropriations Committee and member of the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee; **Dorothy J. Rayburn**, a Senior Appropriations Advisor at the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, US Department of State; **Rebecca Black**, United States Agency for International Development USAID/Mali Mission Director; **Stephanie Garvey**, USAID/Mali Governance and Communications Team Leader; **Mary Norris**, USAID Mali Economic Growth Team Leader; **Ibrahima Sissoko**, USAID Mali Education Acting Team Leader; **James-Evan Butler**, USAID Mali Governance and Communications Team Member; and **Moussa**

**Doumbia**, USAID Communication Officer and Public Relations.

With funding from USAID/Mali under the USAID Feed the Future Initiative, AVRDC launched an ambitious project in December 2011 to improve vegetable production and consumption in Mali, with an initial focus on the Sikasso region. The project establishes best practice demonstration and dissemination hubs where new varieties, crop management practices and water delivery systems are showcased in collaboration with local communities and Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali (IICEM), a large local NGO. IICEM provided support for fencing and tools to collect water; the communities ensure maintenance of the experiments. **Keriba Coulibaly**, AVRDC-Mali Junior Vegetable Breeder assisted by **Amadou Marico**, Farm Operations Supervisor and AVRDC

field staff explained to the delegation how the 80 women currently working at the Finkolo-Ganadougou Hub look after the experiments and are the primary assessors of performance of the showcased production options.

Following a guided tour of the ongoing hub activities, the visitors met the District Mayor and AVRDC partners, and interacted with people from local communities, particularly members of the women's associations working with on the project with AVRDC.

The delegation also visited the USAID Africa RISING project in Northern Ghana, another initiative in which AVRDC is active.

### Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali

<http://www.iicem.net/>

### Africa RISING

<http://africa-rising.net/news/>

*Fresh*, 14 September 2012

*Fresh* is published bi-weekly by

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center  
P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199  
Taiwan

*Editor:* Maureen Mecozzi

*Graphic design:* Kathy Chen

*Photographic guidance:* Ming-Che Chen

*Contributors:* Ukm Shawkat Ara Begum (Chief of Party, USAID Horticulture Project), Sheila de Lima, Warwick Easdown, Peter Hanson, Robert Holmer, Abdou Tenkouano

Comments, ask a question, add a name to our mailing list: [info@worldveg.org](mailto:info@worldveg.org)

[www.avrdc.org](http://www.avrdc.org)