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an update on
the work & progress at
IFDC—An International Center for Soil
Fertility and Agricultural Development

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Netherlands Will Promote Peace and Environmental Stability by Intensifying Farm Production in the Great Lakes—Africa's Most Impoverished Region

The Netherlands Government is launching a project to promote peace and environmental stability by improving soil health, intensifying farm production, and increasing trade in one of the world's poorest areas: the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa.

The highest population density in Africa is in the Great Lakes Region: Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, western Tanzania, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Great Lakes region already has far more people than its fragile soils can support," says Dr. Amit Roy, CEO of IFDC, An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development. IFDC will implement the 5-year project.

"The region faces perpetual crises of poverty, social instability, war, and environmental degradation. The situation is rapidly worsening as deforestation intensifies and its soils are starved of nutrients."

Tiny Rwanda is typical. More than 340 persons are packed into each square kilometer, and population is growing by almost 3% annually. Almost all of Rwanda's population are subsistence farmers. Using existing technology, food production can be increased only by clearing and farming the ecologically important wetlands or, worse, the last

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The Abuja Declaration

Hanging a copy of the *Abuja Declaration* in the lobby at IFDC headquarters are Dr. Amit Roy, IFDC CEO (left) and Wendell Rhodes, IFDC Senior Technician—Maintenance.

Heads of state and governments of more than 40 African nations declared both mineral and organic fertilizers a "strategic commodity without borders"—meaning that all cross-border taxes and tariffs should be lifted—in the historic *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution.*

The historic document was written at the conclusion of the largest and most comprehensive effort to address Africa's soil fertility crisis—the Africa Fertilizer Summit—held June 9-13, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria. More than 1,100 leading African and international policymakers and agricultural experts highlighted the significant challenges that African farmers face as a result of declining soil fertility, and the potential productivity gains from even modest fertilizer use.

The Abuja Declaration also calls for the African Development Bank to establish an African Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism to support regional fertilizer procurement and distribution facilities, provide credit for fertilizer importers and distributors, and develop local fertilizer manufacture in Africa.

The complete Abuja Declaration is printed on pages 4-5.

Copies of the Declaration, in a format suitable for framing or display (17 x 42 cm or 11 x 17 in.), are available from the IFDC Information and Communications Unit.

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Thomas R. Hargrove
Layout/Design:
Donna W. Venable

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IFDC is a public international organization (PIO), governed by an international board of directors with representation from developed and developing countries. The nonprofit Center is supported by various bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, private foundations, and national governments. IFDC focuses on increasing and sustaining food and agricultural productivity in developing countries through the development and transfer of effective and environmentally sound plant nutrient technology and agribusiness expertise.

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The project will help maintain biodiversity, intensify farm production, and develop markets.

relicts of parks and reserves, including habitats of mountain gorillas and other endangered wildlife and plants.

The region is the watershed for the Nile and Congo, two of the world's greatest rivers. Rapid deforestation and soil "mining," or depletion of plant nutrients, have caused severe soil erosion and decreased the soil's capacity to absorb and hold water. That, in turn, decreases the stability of the Nile and Congo's water flow downriver.

The CATALIST Project

The Netherlands Government, through the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Rwanda, has committed €22 million (US $28 million) to the project Catalyzing Acceleration of Agricultural Intensification for Stability and Sustainability (CATALIST). The Dutch Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGIS) is providing another €1.5 million ($1.9 million) through the Strategic Alliance for Agricultural Development in Africa (SAADA).

The CATALIST project will help maintain biodiversity, improve environmental management, intensify agricultural productivity, and develop markets for both agricultural inputs and the crops that poor farmers produce, in the Great Lakes region.Local people, refugees, and demobilized ex-combatants will be employed in labor-intensive public works to plant trees and build terraces and roads. The goal is to accelerate economic growth, reduce poverty, and promote peace and stability, partly by establishing or strengthening the capacities of farmer and agri-input dealer organizations. IFDC will work through farmers' organizations, several national and international NGOs, the private sector, donors, and other consortia.

Dr. Henk Breman, an IFDC agronomist and environmental specialist with two decades of experience working with African farmers, arrived in Rwanda to launch the project in early October.

"Soil nutrient depletion in the Great Lakes region is among the world's highest," Breman says. "From 80 to 135 kilograms of plant nutrients are lost from each hectare of land yearly—and the use of mineral fertilizers, which can replenish those lost plant nutrients, is among the world's lowest."

Most of the Great Lakes population survives on less than US $0.65 a day, says Dr. Balu Bumb, IFDC Economist and Program Leader for Policy, Trade, and Markets. The average farm size is less than 1 hectare. There are few alternatives to farming for rural employment. Few yield-increasing technologies, such as improved seeds, have been introduced. Fertilizer use is 3-4 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha). In comparison, the world use is 93 kg/ha, and farmers in the "Green Revolution" countries of Asia use 100 to 150 kg/ha.

Local people will be mobilized in labor-intensive public works such as building terraces and roads and planting trees.

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"Agricultural markets are underdeveloped and fragmented in the Great Lakes region," Bumb says. "The project will strengthen markets for agricultural inputs and outputs by providing training for agri-input dealers and farmers' organizations. We'll also encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors to produce and market seeds, and to integrate fertilizer markets regionally."

The CATALIST project will holistically encompass areas in which IFDC has considerable experience and will work in a participatory manner with farmers and other stakeholders, "catalyzing" and facilitating stakeholder collaboration.

Farmers will be trained in integrated soil fertility management—the use of mineral fertilizers along with soil amendments such as crop residues, green and animal manures, and lime.

"The soil amendments interact with mineral fertilizers to improve soil quality, including the organic matter content, pH, and nutrient availability," Breman says. "That improves the efficiency—and thus, the profitability—of fertilizer use for smallholder farmers."

The Albertine Rift and Kagera River Basin

Agricultural intensification will be particularly important in the Albertine Rift and the Kagera River Basin, where social and environmental stability is most lacking.

The Albertine Rift, a steep mountain range with many volcanoes, stretches from the northern end of Lake Albert to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, and borders the Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. Soils are generally fertile, rainfall is abundant, and temperatures drop rapidly with increasing altitudes. Conservation International has named the Albertine Rift one of the world's "biodiversity hot spots"—home to more mammals, birds, and amphibians than anywhere else in Africa. Part of the region is still covered by tropical rain forest.

The Kagera Basin is in the border area of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and is the headwater of the White Nile. Elevation averages 1,200 meters. Rainfall is relatively low, temperatures are high, and most soils are infertile.

"Population pressure in the lower plateaus has forced wild animals to their last refuges—the Albertine Rift and the Kagera Basin—over the past 30 years," Breman says. "Then commercial farmers started growing coffee and tea in the easily accessible areas, and poverty forced small farmers to clear land in the more difficult areas.

War in the 1990s forced millions of refugees into the Great Lakes region."

Today, the region is generally peaceful—but with peace, pastoral farmers from Uganda and Tanzania are bringing in large cattle and goat herds to graze on the already-depleted soils.

"These factors all threaten the last relicts of extremely rich—but fragile—ecosystems," Breman says. "We will help harmonize efforts to feed the growing population of the Great Lakes region, while preserving its rich biodiversity and the ecosystem."

Texas A&M University Names Norman E. Borlaug Institute

Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug in a field with African children.

Texas A&M University established the Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture in September 2006. The new institute replaces Texas A&M's Office of International Agriculture.

Dr. Borlaug, often called the "father of the Green Revolution," received the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his development of high-yielding wheat varieties that have saved millions in Asia and Latin America. He served on the IFDC Board of Directors from 1994 to 2003.

Borlaug has called improved seeds the "catalyst that ignited the Green Revolution" and mineral fertilizer the "fuel" that powers it.

The Nobel laureate was among those calling for an *African Green Revolution* at the Africa Fertilizer Summit June 9-13, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria. "Fertilizer is not a cure-all—but it's essential," Borlaug said. "Let's not kid ourselves that we can produce the food that is needed without the use of fertilizer, in the right quantities and the right kind for the different soil types."

Borlaug, 92, is a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture at Texas A&M. Last year he was presented the U.S. National Medal of Science—the highest honor bestowed on U.S. scientists.

Africa Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution

African Union Special Summit of the Heads of State and Government Abuja, Nigeria, 13 June 2006

The New Partnership for Africa's Development has declared that the vision of economic development in Africa must be based on raising and sustaining higher rates of economic growth (7 percent per year). To realize this vision, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, which calls for a 6% annual growth in agricultural production, as a framework for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa.

Africa's farmers face a variety of constraints including low productivity, limited access to new agricultural technologies and weak markets. Without adequate inputs, farmers often cannot meet the food needs of their own families, much less those of a rapidly growing population. To feed themselves and their countries, farmers will need to shift from low-yielding, extensive land practices to more intensive, higher-yielding practices, with increased use of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation.

A move toward reducing hunger on the continent must begin by addressing its severely depleted soils. Due to decades of soil nutrient mining, Africa's soils have become the poorest in the world. It is estimated that the continent loses the equivalent of over $4 billion worth of soil nutrients per year, severely eroding its ability to feed itself. Yet farmers have neither access to nor can they afford the fertilizers needed to add life to their soils. And no region of the world has been able to expand agricultural growth rates, and thus tackle hunger, without increasing fertilizer use.

In Africa, use of fertilizer averages only eight kilograms per hectare. In short, Africa is trapped in a fertilizer crisis; this is only 10% of the world average. Addressing Africa's fertilizer crisis therefore requires urgent and bold actions. Africa is ready for the Green Revolution. Today, African leaders have convened to show their strong and unanimous commitment to achieving the African Green Revolution by taking immediate actions to solve Africa's fertilizer crisis.

The African Union Ministers of Agriculture convened in Abuja on 12 June 2006 for the Africa Fertilizer Summit:

Recognizing that Africa needs a Green Revolution which is long overdue and yet constitutes the way of getting African farmers out of the poverty trap by achieving food security and other relevant the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing that fertilizer is crucial for achieving an African Green Revolution in the face of rapidly rising population and declining soil fertility;

Realizing that most farmers in Africa are poor, have virtually no access to fertilizer and that the poorest of them urgently need special attention;

Recognizing the urgent need for a strategic investment program to increase the availability and use of fertilizer alongside with other inputs to usher in the Green Revolution on the African continent;

Declare fertilizer, from both inorganic and organic sources, a strategic commodity without borders; and

Resolve that the African Union Member States will accelerate the timely access of farmers to fertilizers:

1. Given the strategic importance of fertilizer in achieving the African Green Revolution to end hunger, the African Union Member States resolve to increase the level of use of fertilizer from the current average of 8 kilograms per hectare to an average of at least 50 kilograms per hectare by 2015.
2. By mid-2007, the African Union Member States and the Regional Economic Communities should take appropriate measures to reduce the cost of fertilizer procurement at national and regional levels especially through the harmonization of policies and regulations to ensure duty- and tax-free movement across regions, and the development of capacity for quality control. As an immediate measure, we recommend the elimination of taxes and tariffs on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials.
3. By mid-2007, the African Governments must take concrete measures to improve farmers' access to fertilizers, by developing and scaling up input dealers' and community-based networks across rural areas. The Private Sector and Development Partners are hereby requested to support such actions.
4. By 2007, the African Union Member States must take concrete measures to specially address the fertilizer needs of farmers, especially women, and to develop and strengthen the capacity of youth, farmers' associations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
5. With immediate effect, the African Union Member States must improve farmers' access to fertilizer, by granting, with the support of Africa's Development Partners, targeted subsidies in favor of the fertilizer sector, with special attention to poor farmers.
6. The African Union Member States should take immediate steps to accelerate investment in infrastructure, particularly transport, fiscal incentives, strengthening farmers' organizations, and other measures to improve output market incentives.
7. The African Union Member States should establish national financing facilities for input suppliers to accelerate access to credit at the local and national levels, with specific attention to women.
8. The African Union Member States, hereby request the establishment of Regional Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Facilities with the support of the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Economic Communities, and the Regional Development Banks, through strategic public-private partnerships by the end of 2007.
9. Given the extensive fertilizer raw material resources in Africa and the fact that they are underutilized in many parts of the continent, the African Union Member States undertake to promote national/regional fertilizer production and intra-regional fertilizer trade to capture a bigger market and take advantage of economies of scale through appropriate measures such as tax incentives and infrastructure development. This should be supported by the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Development Banks, the Regional Economic Communities, other Development Partners, and the Private Sector.
10. The African Union Member States should take specific action to improve farmer access to quality seeds, irrigation facilities, extension services, market information, and soil nutrient testing and mapping to facilitate effective and efficient use of inorganic and organic fertilizers, while paying attention to the environment.
11. The African Development Bank, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, is called to establish, by 2007, an Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism that will meet the financing requirements of the various actions agreed upon by the Summit. We, the African Union Member States, undertake to support the establishment of this facility and will pledge resources for its immediate operation.
12. The African Union Member States request the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this resolution. This should be done in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. The African Union Commission should give progress report to the African Heads of State at every sixth-monthly African Union Summit, starting in January 2007.

IFDC and GIS Help African Farmers

Inspecting maps of African countries, developed through use of GIS at IFDC headquarters in Alabama, U.S.A., are Flavia Rey de Castro (left), Paul Wilkins (center), and Julio Henao.

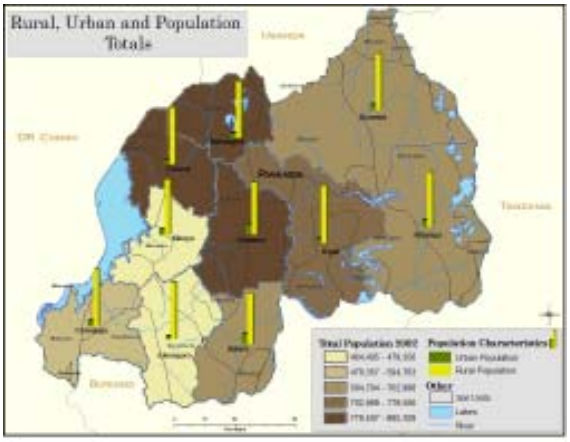
A Peruvian woman in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, is using geographic information systems (GIS) to develop maps that help African farmers improve soil fertility and increase harvests.

"I'm using GIS to make maps that support expert systems for fertilizer recommendations in sub-Saharan and northern Africa," says Flavia Rey de Castro, Associate GIS Specialist. She is from Arequipa, Peru. "I hope to expand the use of GIS and remote sensing imagery at IFDC. Both are powerful tools that allow us to see specific characteristics in the study areas. These tools, combined with scientists' expertise, are tremendous assets in our work in developing countries."

GIS is a "system of computer software, hardware, data, and personnel to help manipulate, analyze, and present information that is tied to a spatial location" (http://www.gis.com). Its applications include biology, hydrology, forestry, urban planning, business, and marketing. IFDC uses GIS to monitor research and farming sites and gather data such as weather, topography, land use, demographics and economic information, and soil type.

"GIS uses the power of the Internet and satellite technology to provide information technologies to address strategic objectives for the rural poor," says Dr. Julio Henao, IFDC Senior Scientist—Biometrics. The main objective is to improve agriculture through recommendations for increased and more efficient fertilizer use. This will benefit smallholder farmers and thus, the economies of regions, countries, and continents.

"After analysis and evaluation, IFDC updates geographic and attribute databases and exchanges this information with country collaborators and other agricultural organizations," Henao says.



Geographic information helps IFDC monitor nutrient mining in sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose is to develop guidelines for fertilizer recommendations and development strategies for crop production in soil fertility management projects.

"Much of the geographic information is used to monitor and improve country and regional markets and support fertilizer policies," Henao says.

"In Morocco, GIS maps show the best management recommendations for planting date, cultivars, and nitrogen fertilizers for bread wheat, durum wheat, and barley," says Dr. Paul Wilkens, Scientist—Programmer in IFDC's Research and Market Development Division. "This will help stakeholders reduce risks and improve cereal production. It will increase income and food availability and improve agricultural planning and decision-making."

Rey de Castro has also used GIS to map farmland in Malawi, Mozambique, and the Great Lakes countries of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda.

GIS thematic maps have already benefited a new IFDC project in the Great Lakes region: the CATALIST project (Catalyzing Acceleration of Agricultural Intensification for Stability and Sustainability).

"As a geographer, I find it fascinating to work at IFDC with people of varying ethnic backgrounds, languages, and disciplines," Rey de Castro says. "There is so much to learn from others, especially people who are different from me. The most rewarding aspect of my work is knowing that it's for a good cause."

One Peruvian woman in Alabama can, indeed, make a difference all the way around the world.

IFDC Sponsors Policy Workshop on Challenges in Developing Agricultural Input Markets in Africa

Fifty representatives of agro-input companies and government agencies from across sub-Saharan Africa participated in an international policy workshop on Challenges in Developing Agricultural Input Markets in Africa, held Aug. 21-25 in Arusha, Tanzania. IFDC organized the workshop in collaboration with the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, the East African Community, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Participants at the workshop on Challenges in Developing Agricultural Input Markets in Africa.

"Many factors constrain the use of modern inputs in sub-Saharan Africa, but underdeveloped input markets that limit accessibility remain the most critical bottleneck," explains Dr. Balu Bumb, Leader of the IFDC Policy, Trade, and Markets Program.

Fertilizer use in Africa is only 8 kilograms per hectare—less than 10% of the world average, and the proportion of farmland planted with improved seed is low. Crop protection products are generally applied only on cash crops for export.

The workshop objectives were to discuss issues concerning agricultural input markets, or AIMs, share lessons learned, identify ways to overcome constraints identified in AIMs assessments across Africa, and identify specific ways to implement recommendations made at the Africa Fertilizer Summit.[1]

"Participants denounced the politicization of fertilizer and concluded that the private sector must lead in the development of agro-input markets, with governments providing a supporting market environment," Bumb said. "They called for removal of tariffs and taxes on inputs, capacity building for producer organizations, development of input dealer networks, improved access to credit, policy incentives, and regional integration and harmonization."

Constraints and Successes

Country representatives gave specific examples of constraints on both the demand and supply sides, and of successes in developing agro-input markets, particularly for fertilizer.

- In Tanzania, for example, 77% of farmers apply no fertilizer and 84% of land areas are still being planted with conventional seeds. The government is trying to create a favorable climate for investment and to promote public-private partnerships.
- In Malawi, farmers are producing only a third of their potential yields. A new national fertilizer strategy aims to increase fertilizer availability and improve policies and infrastructure.
- Fertilizer use in Angola has dropped significantly in recent years. The problem is even worse than in other African countries because of an uncertain policy environment. This includes direct government imports of fertilizer, and the lack of dealer networks, credit, and adequate extension services.
- The Nigerian Government recognizes the need to develop the fertilizer industry through the private sector. It encourages domestic production and seeks to enforce truth-in-labeling.
- In Zambia agro-input dealers face problems in stock management. For example, the distance from urban centers to the rural interior means slow turnaround of stock. A possible solution being explored is for dealers to take orders from, and deliver inputs to, groups of farmers.

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[1]The Africa Fertilizer Summit, held June 9-13, 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria, focused on issues that limit fertilizer use in Africa. In the historic Abuja declaration on fertilizer for an African Green Revolution, government leaders designated fertilizer as a strategic commodity without borders and called for the elimination of all taxes and tariffs.

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Issues in Marketing and Market Development

The modern definition of marketing is "the process by which individuals and groups obtain what they need and want through creating and exchanging products and values with others," says Ian Gregory, IFDC Marketing Specialist. The "4 Ps" of marketing are: *product* (market needs, packaging), *place* (market segmentation, distribution channels, territorial management), *price* (cost plus standard markup, competitive, market supply and demand, introductory, skimming, niche, low cost supplier), and *promotion* (media, brand image, product positioning).

Participants discussed why fertilizer prices are high in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, markets are small, transport and handling costs are high, and policies are often uncertain.

Strategies to significantly improve fertilizer supply to smallholder farmers were discussed, including ways to reduce transaction costs and shift the supply curve to the right by focusing on the five key pillars of market development: *policy*, *human capital*, *finance*, *market information*, and *regulations*.

Key Recommendations

Key recommendations in policy and financing for AIMs development, capacity building, and regional integration of input markets included:

- Policy environments in most sub-Saharan African countries remain ad hoc and nonconducive for market development. Policymakers and donors should work together to remove distortions in the market place and encourage investment.
- Private sector actors have limited capacity for market development. Investment should be made in dealer development, market information, and regulatory systems to strengthen private sector capacity and to create entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- Regional trade in inputs is limited and is constrained by restrictive regulations, non-uniform standards, and quantitative restrictions. Business linkages among importers in different countries are limited, and private sector participants have incomplete knowledge of the benefits that can result from regional procurement and production. Efforts are needed in human capital development, business linkages, market information, and harmonization of regulations among countries to promote regional trade.
- The momentum of the Africa Fertilizer Summit should be maintained and progress in meeting the targets set in the Abuja Declaration monitored. For this IFDC, in collaboration with regional economic communities, should organize an Africa-wide policy workshop every year.

NPK Training Program Held in Bangkok

IFDC conducted an international training program on NPK Production Alternatives November 6-10 in Bangkok. The Thailand Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) served as co-organizer. The Thai Fertilizer Producer Trade Association and Thai Fertilizer and Agricultural Marketing Association cosponsored the program.

The 37 participants were from China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

The 5-day program included classroom presentations and field visits to NPK fertilizer production facilities. Presentations emphasized alternatives of producing granulated, compacted, blended, and fluid NPK fertilizers, and basics of NPK fertilizer production, handling, and storage. The participants gave the program high marks in their evaluations.

IFDC workshop coordinators were Jorge Polo, Senior Technical Specialist; and Ramón Lazo de la Vega, Senior Specialist—Engineering, and Dan Waterman, Director, Training and Workshop Coordination Department. Outside presenters were Pairoj Punyavut, Thai Central Chemical Public Company; Sanjeev Doshi, Fertiplant Engineering; Victor Granquist, ArrMaz Custom Chemicals; and Kukiat Soitong, DOAE.

IFDC has organized more than 670 workshops, study tours, and training programs for about 9,000 participants from 150 countries since 1974. The programs have included fertilizer marketing, production, distribution, and handling. Recent courses have covered sustainable agriculture, computer modeling and simulation, competitive agricultural systems and enterprises, market information systems, fertilizer recommendations, and environmental aspects of fertilizer production and use.

Participants wore hard hats during a visit to the Thai Central Chemical Public Company near Bangkok.

IFDC Presents New Awards to Outstanding Staff Members

Three newly established IFDC awards have been presented to recognize outstanding performance among internationally recruited staff, outposted general services staff, and general services staff at IFDC headquarters.

"IFDC does almost everything through team effort," says Dr. Amit Roy, IFDC President and CEO. "But some individuals work extraordinarily well with others to accomplish great things. We established these annual awards to recognize them."

The three criteria for each award include outstanding service that advances IFDC's purposes, innovative contributions to IFDC programs, and length of international work and at IFDC. Roy presented the awards at the 2006 IFDC Board of Directors meeting in September.

The Chairman of the Board's Award for Outstanding Internationally Recruited Staff Member went to Dr. Kofi Debrah, Chief of Party of the Market Information Systems and Traders' Organizations in West Africa project (MISTOWA), based in Ghana. "Kofi Debrah provides excellent leadership for the 4-year $15 million West African regional project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)," Roy said. Debrah provides administrative and technical leadership for 50 staff at project headquarters in Accra and offices in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. The agricultural economist has almost 20 years experience in 26 African countries. Debrah, a Ghanaian citizen, speaks two African languages and is fluent in English and French.

The IFDC President's Award for Outstanding Outposted Staff Member went to Gregoire Houngnibo, an agricultural engineer with the Marketing Inputs Regionally (MIR) project, based in Benin. "Gregoire Houngnibo has demonstrated excellent skills in liaising with the Benin Government to establish the regulation of inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers, and pesticides," Roy said. The Benin citizen has almost 25 years of professional experience and is fluent in four African languages plus French and English.

Ms. Lynda Young, Coordinator of the Word Processing/ Graphics Unit, won the President's Award for Outstanding Headquarters Staff Member. "Lynda Young has high standards of excellence, is highly organized, and often works under stringent deadlines," Roy said. "She makes sure that all documents submitted for word processing or graphics are of the highest professional quality—and delivered on time." Young, a U.S. citizen, joined IFDC in 1977.

Each year a committee of IFDC staff and external members will evaluate award nominations in a confidential and objective manner. To maximize opportunities for each employee to be recognized, an employee may receive an award only once.

Dr. Kofi Debrah (left) received the Chairman of the Board's Award for Outstanding Internationally Recruited Staff Member. To the right is Evado Mensah, Front Desk Manager at MISTOWA in Ghana.

Gregoire Houngnibo, IFDC's Outstanding Outposted Staff Member, in a cotton field in Benin.

Lynda Young received the President's Award for Outstanding Headquarters Staff Member.

IFDC
2007 International Training Calendar

Training Program/Workshop	Dates	Location	Program Fee
1. Competitive Agricultural Systems and Enterprises (CASE) Approach	March 12-16	Kigali, Rwanda	$1,000
2. Agribusiness Information Points and Market Information Systems	May 21-25	Kigali, Rwanda	$1,000
3. Phosphate Fertilizer Production Technology Workshop (with IFA)	June 18-22	Brussels, Belgium	$2,100
4. Agro-Input Marketing and Dealer Development	July 23-27	Pretoria, South Africa	$1,000
5. Agro-Input Policy and Regulatory Systems and Harmonization	Sept. 3-7	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	$1,000
6. Nitrogen Fertilizer Production Technology Workshop (with IFA)	Nov. 5-9	Port of Spain, Trinidad	$2,100

Note: A non-refundable deposit of $200 is required with each registration. The deposit will be credited towards the program fee which is due 4 weeks before the program is scheduled. Thereafter a Late Fee of $200 will apply. The program fee, less the deposit, will be refunded for cancellations made 2 weeks before the commencement of the program; thereafter, 90% of the paid fee will be returned and 10%, in addition to the deposit, will be charged to cover administrative costs. IFDC reserves the right to cancel any program or change the dates and/or venue of any program without liability for compensation.

IFDC—An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development — has held 670 workshops, study tours, and training programs for 9,000 participants from 150 countries since 1974. The programs have covered a wide range of subjects including fertilizer marketing, production, distribution and handling, and numerous specialized topics.

Additional information on our 2007 program agenda is available on our website (www.ifdc.org). We welcome your participation and encourage you to share this information with others.

Please visit our website (www.ifdc.org) for more information on training programs.

Announcements

Mr. Yves Duplessis joined IFDC September 30, 2006, as Agribusiness Team Leader for the Strategic Alliance for Agricultural Development in Africa (SAADA) Project, posted to Bamako, Mali. His prior professional experiences include serving as General Manager of Senefura Sahel in Burkina Faso; Sales Engineer of ALM International in France; and Manager of EUROMATICS, France. He is trained as a Specialist in Marketing of Tropical Products from the Institute for Overseas Applied Sciences in Agro-Development. His office telephone number is 226 50 37 45 03. His email address is yduplessis@ifdc.org.

Dr. Marjatta Eilittä returned to IFDC effective August 15, 2006. She and her family are posted to Accra, Ghana, where Eilittä serves as Program Leader - Agribusiness Program. Her office telephone number is 233 21 780830. Her email address is meilitta@ifdc.org.

Ms. Andrea D. Hovater began employment with IFDC effective September 1, 2006, as Specialist – Engineering in the Research and Market Development Division. She received her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering with concentration in Pre-Medicine from Auburn University in May 2004. Her previous work experience includes serving as Teacher's Aide at Mars Hill Pre-School in Russellville, Alabama, from 1997 to 1999 and as an Agent Assistant for State Farm Insurance in Sheffield, Alabama, in 2000. Her telephone extension is 244 and her office number is 172. Hovater's email address is ahovater@ifdc.org.

Dr. H. B. Singh is now posted to Headquarters as Senior Specialist – Marketing, Research and Market Development Division. Singh's office is in Room 246 and his telephone extension is 235. His e-mail address is hsingh@ifdc.org.

Dr. Thomas R. Hargrove began employment as Coordinator - Information and Communications Unit effective September 1, 2006. He had been Interim Coordinator since January 2006, and had done several prior IFDC consultancies. Previous positions include communication head at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Colombia, and the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Journalism from Texas A&M University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Hargrove's office number is 251 and his phone extension is 234. His email address is thargrove@ifdc.org.

Dr. Jean Mianikpo Sogbedji accepted employment with IFDC effective October 1, 2006, as Postdoctoral Scientist – Agronomy, Natural Resources Management Program (NRMP), in our Africa Division (AFD) with posting to Lomé, Togo. Dr. Sogbedji received his PhD in Soil Science – Agronomy from Cornell University in January 1999. Dr. Sogbedji's professional experience includes: (1) collaboration on the Participative and Integrated Management of Inland Valleys project with the Institut Togolais de la Recherche Agronomique (ITRA) in Lomé, Togo; (2) supervision of students' field research work for thesis performed under IFDC's program of Participative and Integrated Soil Fertility Management in Lomé, Togo; and (3) participation in seminars and group discussions addressing sustainable agriculture in developing countries organized by Cornell University. Dr. Sogbedji served as J. W. Fulbright Research Fellow (November 2004July 2005) and Visiting Research Fellow (August-November 2005) at Cornell University. His email address is jsogbedji@ifdc.org.

Dr. Henk Breman relocated to Rwanda, effective October 1, 2006. He serves as Principal Scientist and Expert Adviser Environment and Agronomy for the Catalyze Accelerated Agricultural Intensification for Social and Environmental Stability (CATALIST) project, Research and Market Development Division. His phone numbers are 250 5510 4211 (office) and 250 0830 5039 (mobile). Bremen's email address is hbreman@ifdc.org.

IFDC–An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development
P.O. Box 2040
Muscle Shoals, Alabama, U.S.A. 35662

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