

## **Information and Knowledge Exchange**

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The Project  
Research Progress in 1997  
Next Step Activities  
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Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Information and Knowledge Exchange ID-1 Public awareness and general publications

### THE PROJECT

There are many diverse “publics” who need to be regularly informed about IRRI, its research activities, and the impact of its scientific achievements. In this project, IRRI works to create positive public awareness (PA) about these activities among selected critical audiences: donors, policymakers, media, national agricultural research systems (NARSs), advanced research institutions, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), farmers’ organizations, academia, and other groups. In search of this goal, articles about IRRI and rice production-related activities are written and placed in prominent newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and Web sites, and broadcast on radio and television stations around the world. Public information audiovisuals are produced, and other public information activities are carried out.

### ACTIVITIES IN 1997

- Produced and distributed 74 press and photo releases to local and international media; 4 issues of Hotline; 25 concept notes and promotional flyers for potential donors used and distributed mainly during International Centers’ Week in Washington; one tabloid on Questions and Answers about IRRI in Pilipino; one tabloid documenting the 1996 Ambassadors’ Day; 33 Facts About Cooperation booklets describing collaborative activities between IRRI and its donors and IRRI and partner NARS. In addition, 13 international media articles featured IRRI and three international in-flight magazines also ran articles on IRRI’s work.
- Distributed releases and Hotline articles electronically via IRRI’s Web sites.
- Initiated and coordinated 8 Philippine radio interviews involving IRRI nationally recruited staff members over countrywide radio stations.
- Organized interviews of internationally recruited staff members with 5 visiting international radio networks.
- Produced Japanese versions of Facts about IRRI; Facts about Cooperation: Japan and IRRI; and the IRRI briefing slide show, Filling the World’s Rice Bowl.
- Developed and coordinated the program of visits for 16 journalists (12 foreign and 4 local) for feature stories on IRRI; 4 foreign producers of video programs and documentaries.
- Provided responses to 77 media-related major information requests (local and international); and 35 nonmedia requests.
- Provided photo and video coverage of 15 dignitaries—prime ministers, ambassadors, cabinet members, etc—who visited IRRI.
- Provided PA support to IRRI’s participation in several local Los Baños community events.
- Provided sets of slides/photos to requesting parties (20).
- Taped 18 interviews with IRRI scientists for the BBC World Service’s “The Farming World” radio program.
- Published 16-page, illustrated article on IRRI, Rice to feed the hungry in the 1998 Encyclopædia Britannica Yearbook of Science and the Future.

NEXT STEP ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized Farmers' Day at IRRI 1997 to coincide with the 100th harvest of rice from IRRI's long-term (34 years) intensive cropping system field—more than 500 farmers plus the Speaker of the Philippine Senate, Jose De Venecia attended.</li> <li>• Initiated and coordinated TV documentary on IRRI for airing in 1998 on The Discovery Channel (in English) and for dissemination in China (in Mandarin).</li> <li>• Starting with the 1998-2000 MTP, this project becomes an output within the External Operations Office.</li> <li>• Increase electronic dissemination of PA information through the Riceweb and IRRI home page on the World Wide Web.</li> <li>• Increase use of electronic mail for press releases.</li> <li>• Produce more focused information materials targeted at specific donors and policymakers.</li> <li>• Develop joint programs for PA with more public affairs units of donor organizations.</li> <li>• Assist IRRI's Office of External Operations in mobilizing new financial resources.</li> <li>• Prepare a strategy for PA program specifically aimed at Philippine audiences.</li> </ul>
DURATION	January 1994-December 1997
PARTNER INSTITUTIONS	Donors, NARS, national and international news outlets, other CGIAR centers, print and broadcast media, and the Public Awareness and Resource Mobilization Committee, and Public Awareness Association of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.
IRRI CONTACT	Mr. Robert D. Huggan, Senior Adviser, External Operations (e-mail: r.huggan@cgnet.com)

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Information and Knowledge Exchange ID-2 Scientific publication

THE PROJECT

Unless information about research is disseminated and the knowledge that is gained exchanged, the results have little or no impact. The main objective of this project is to maintain a quality scientific publishing program and disseminate the information through appropriate channels based on analysis of client needs and preferences. IRRI staff members are evaluating new information delivery techniques and electronic communication technologies for their appropriateness in speeding up the exchange of information among rice scientists worldwide. Members of the targeted audiences have been surveyed to ensure that information is being disseminated through the most appropriate channels. Without IRRI's mandate to publish and disseminate research findings, many rice scientists would not have access to this material.

PROGRESS IN  
1997

- Produced 17 titles (eleven IRRI books, five installments in the IRRI discussion paper series, and the 1996-97 corporate report).
- Published five of the eleven IRRI books as dual imprints: two with CAB International and three with Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Placed on the Science Online section of the IRRI homepage for viewing and downloading (if desired) around 80 abstracts representing four recent IRRI proceedings on rice genetics, nitrogen fixation in rice, allelopathy in rice, and pest management practices as well as the project summaries that made up the 1996 DG Report.
- Surveyed IRRI clients (2,808 individual recipients of the IRRN—of which 23% replied, representing 64 countries—and 1,037 libraries—of which 16.5% replied, representing 51 countries) to determine their needs and desires regarding electronic publishing. When asked to rank their preferences on how they would like to receive IRRI information, paper publications received 74% of the individuals' first place votes, followed by Web sites (16.3%) and CD-ROM (11.8%); paper publications received 78.8% of the libraries' first place votes, followed by CD-ROMs (14.7%) and Web sites (10.2%). Among responding individuals, 40% indicated institutional access to international e-mail, 34% institutional access to the world wide web, and 27.5% indicated their institution has a Web site; responding libraries indicated 39, 27.5, and 19.2%, respectively.

NEXT STEP  
ACTIVITIES

- In the 1998-2000 MTP, this project becomes Output 3.2 in Project IM3, *Collecting, exchanging, and distributing knowledge about rice*.
- Continue improving and expanding the dissemination of scientific information on the World Wide Web.
- Continue the production process for 24 titles (15 books and 9 discussion papers) currently on the publishing agenda.

DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

PARTNER  
INSTITUTIONS

**Germany:** Springer-Verlag

**India:** Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology

**The Netherlands:** Elsevier Science, Kluwer Academic Publishers

**United Kingdom:** CAB International

IRRI CONTACTS

Mr. Gene P. Hettel, editor and head, Communication and Publications Services (e-mail:  
e.hettel@cgnet.com)

Dr. Bill Hardy, science editor/publisher (e-mail: b.hardy@cgnet.com)

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Information and Knowledge Exchange ID-3 Library and Documentation Service

THE PROJECT

Access to scientific literature is vital to rice scientists who need to know what progress has been made by colleagues working at other institutes and universities, nearby and around the globe. But information is often difficult to identify, expensive to acquire, and in need of trained personnel to organize and disseminate it. This is where the IRRI Library plays a key role. Its collection of rice literature is unmatched anywhere while, on the other hand, most rice scientists have limited access to information. Thus, the Library delivers to rice researchers everywhere the scientific information they need. And, since 1996, the Library has maintained a dynamic site on the Web and this presence on the Internet has vastly expanded its global reach.

PROGRESS IN  
1997

- Ariel software now used for Internet transmission of journal articles on rice to/from research partners around the world.
- More than 200,000 documents on rice and related subjects can now be searched by scientists through the Library's Web site.
- Agreements were reached with countries from Cuba to India regarding the provision of Ph D dissertations on rice to IRRI Library.
- An online circulation system was improved to allow borrowers to manage their loans from their offices, or even from other countries.
- The reference collection was significantly strengthened and hundreds of inquiries for information from around the globe were answered promptly.
- A PC-based, mini-version of the Rice Bibliography was developed for libraries without access to the Internet.

NEXT STEP  
ACTIVITIES

- In the 1998-2000 MTP, this project becomes Output 3.1 in Project IM3, *Collecting, exchanging, and distributing knowledge about rice*.
- Reinforce links with key partners in the rice-producing countries so as to improve the two-way flow of scientific information about rice.
- Continue development of the new automated environment by expanding the use of authority files in the catalogue, broadening access to information on the Web, and transferring older bibliographic records from the old to the new catalogue.
- Expand available space in the stacks by moving into other areas of Chandler Hall.

DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

PARTNER  
INSTITUTIONS

**Bangladesh:** Bangladesh Rice Research Institute  
**Bhutan:** Bhutan Ministry of Agriculture  
**China:** Chinese National Rice Research Institute  
**India:** Central Rice Research Institute  
**Indonesia:** Center for International Forestry Research  
**Pakistan:** Pakistan Agricultural Research Council  
**Vietnam:** Cuu Long Rice Research Institute

IRRI CONTACT

Ian Wallace, librarian and head, Information Center (e-mail: i.wallace@cgnet.com)

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Information and Knowledge Exchange ID-4 Visitors, Exhibition, and Conference Services

THE PROJECT

IRRI continues to host to many international and regional conferences, workshops, symposia, and meetings of scientists, policymakers, donors, academicians, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) representatives, farmers, and media practitioners. IRRI also hosts thousands of visitors that continue to grow in number each year. Government officials, farmers, and students are the three largest groups of visitors that come to the Institute. Making these events and visits successful requires adequate and timely preparation, coordination, and implementation of essential logistical support and arrangements. Through this project, IRRI staff members are able to systematically plan, coordinate, and implement logistical support for IRRI events, and coordinate programs for the Institute's visitors by providing welcome briefings/lectures, audiovisual presentations, and guided tours of the facilities. Maintaining and updating the Riceworld museum and learning center, and developing new rice-related theme exhibits at IRRI headquarters and wherever required are other major components of the project.

PROGRESS IN  
1997

- Welcomed, hosted, and entertained more than 120,000 visitors from 50 countries—shattering the 1995 and 1996 records of 48,000 and 87,000, respectively.
- Provided and delivered essential services, timely coordination, and logistical support for 18 IRRI-hosted or cosponsored international and regional conferences, workshops, symposia, and meetings that involved at least 563 participants from 30 countries (see reverse).
- Maintained and updated the IRRI Riceworld museum.

NEXT STEP  
ACTIVITIES

- For the 1998-2000 MTP, this project becomes output 3.3 in Project IM3, *Collecting, exchanging, and distributing knowledge and information about rice*.
- Keep providing and overseeing the essential preparations, timely arrangements, and coordination and systematic implementation of appropriate logistical and administrative support needed in handling IRRI meetings and events.
- Continue welcoming and hosting the ever-growing number of visitors.
- Continue maintaining and keeping the IRRI Riceworld updated, with emphasis on creating more interactive type exhibits.

DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

PARTNER  
INSTITUTIONS

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, government agencies, various ministries and departments of foreign affairs, embassies, and international organizations

IRRI CONTACTS

Mr. Mario M. Movillon, manager, Visitors, Exhibition and Conference Services (e-mail: m.movillon@cgnet.com)  
Mr. Ian Wallace, head, Information Center (e-mail: i.wallace@cgnet.com)

**IRRI-hosted or co-sponsored conferences, workshops, symposia, and meetings in 1997.**

Date	Title	Venue	No. of participants	Countries
15-17 Jan	Stanford Project on Agricultural Introduction and Biodiversity	IRRI	15	5
20-25 Jan	Quantification of Yield Losses due to Rice Pests and Analysis of Survey Data in Plant Protection	IRRI	33	6
17-20 Mar	Irrigated Rice Research Consortium Inaugural Meeting	IRRI	23	7
17-21 Mar	Upland Rice Research Consortium Steering and Technical Committee Meetings	IRRI	48	10
22-23 Apr	Third PhilRice-UPLB-IRRI Tripartite Work Plan Mtg.	Nueva Ecija	65	1
12-23 May	Soil and Water Biochemistry and Ecotoxicology	IRRI	7	4
20-22 May	Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Consortium 8th Steering Committee Mtg.	India	20	5
4-5 Jun	Agricultural Technology Utilization and Transfer Planning Meeting	IRRI	15	2
28-29 Jul	INMnet Steering Committee Meeting	Vietnam	13	7
27-29 Aug	Crop Loss Assessment Planning Workshop SP-IPM	The Hague	14	9
4-5 Sep	Irrigated Rice Research Consortium 1st Oversight Committee Meeting	IRRI	9	8
8-9 Sep	Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA)	IRRI/PCARRD	31	21
8-12 Sep	Planning Workshop on Getting Biological Control Technology to Rice Farmers - from Research to Application	China	29	8
23 Sep - 3 Oct	SysNet Workshop on Linear Programming (LP) Models	IRRI	38	6
2-3 Oct	CIO-IRRI Strategic Alliance Work Plan Meeting	IRRI	36	5
6-8 Oct	Approach to Natural Resource Management in the Red River Basin	Vietnam	75	9
7-8 Nov	China-IRRI Dialogue	China	70	2
8-12 Dec	Project Workshop on "Safeguarding and Preservation of the Biodiversity of the Rice Genepool"	Malaysia	37	18
	Total		578	

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Training Program

### TR-1 Degree and post-degree training

#### THE PROJECT

Scientists in the national agricultural research systems (NARS) need postgraduate education to upgrade their research capability and, ultimately, help to improve research quality and rice production in their countries. IRRI's degree and post-degree training project addresses this need by enabling scientists to advance professionally through MS and Ph D scholarships and post-degree on-the-job training grants. Scholarships support deserving NARS scientists to pursue studies at universities in their home countries or elsewhere, and then to conduct research at IRRI. On-the-job training grants, on the other hand, allow them to gain experience in using advanced methodologies or analytical tools, using IRRI facilities and guided by Institute scientists. Through such opportunities, NARS scientists are expected to improve their capabilities to conduct research of higher quality and increased relevance.

#### ACTIVITIES IN 1997

- Extended degree and post-degree training opportunities to 148 (56 Ph D scholars, 32 MS scholars, and 60 on-the-job trainees) scientists from 28 countries, mainly from the Asia and Pacific region.
- Eighty-six scholars and fellows, mostly from Asia and the Pacific, completed their programs during the year, including 13 Ph D scholars, 19 MS scholars, and 54 on-the-job trainees.

#### NEXT STEP ACTIVITIES

- In the new MTP, all Training Program (TR) projects are reclassified as outputs under Project IM4, *Human capital development* and are considered part of the Accelerating the Impact of Rice Research Program (IM). TR1 will be come output IM4-2 (Degree and on-the-job training provided in fields of mutual interest to NARS and IRRI research programs).
- Admit a limited number of scholars and fellows, as funding allows, with an emphasis on increasing the proportion of Ph D scholars in keeping with IRRI's policy of focusing on strengthening strategic research capabilities in NARS and developing strong research collaborators.
- Provide greater training opportunities to scientists from large rice-growing countries and well-developed national research institutions covering the major rice-growing regions and ecosystems as outlined in Annex 4 of IRRI's MTP for 1998-2000.
- Graduate 16 degree scholars and about 40 on-the-job trainees by the end of 1998.
- Implement a more responsive opportunity identification system for the NARS and sponsoring agencies that express interest in IRRI's degree and post-degree training activities.
- Using the improved computer and language laboratory facilities of the Center, to increase the number of activities for enhancing scholars' and trainees' computer and English language skills.
- Intensify efforts to attract outside funding for scholarships.

#### DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

#### PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Donors and institutions worldwide participating in degree and post-degree training activities

#### IRRI CONTACT

Dr. Robert T. Raab, acting head, Training Center (e-mail: r.raab@cgnet.com)

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Training Program

### TR-2 Development of short-term courses

#### THE PROJECT

Rice science is dynamic. Everyday throughout the world new research problems, processes, methodologies, and ways of looking at old problems are developed, perfected, and added to the body of scientific knowledge. Scientists in national agricultural research systems (NARS) need to keep pace with these developments and acquire new relevant skills. IRRI's short-term group training courses provide opportunities for NARS scientists to develop research expertise in specific fields and to transfer appropriate technologies, knowledge, and skills to their respective research systems. Through this project, IRRI is striving to develop the research capability of NARS scientists to conduct quality rice research that is responsive to the country's specific needs. The result will be a critical mass of well-trained rice scientists in the NARS who can digest new knowledge and technologies and use or adapt them as appropriate.

#### ACTIVITIES IN 1997

- Conducted 10 group courses at IRRI headquarters for 103 NARS scientists from 20 countries. Four of the courses were new: Simulation Modeling and Yield Trend Analysis; Gene Cloning, Transformation, and Molecular Analysis of Transgenic Rice; Nucleic Acid Based Techniques for Detection of Rice Viruses; and Soil and Water Biochemistry and Ecotoxicology.
- Brought to 5,759 the number of NARS scientists who have updated their knowledge and skills through this project, and to 9,161 the total number of scientists who have participated in group training courses at IRRI headquarters and in-country.
- Prepared for the first IRRI online course on Experimental Design and Data Analysis (EDDA). The online version of this IRRI course is being designed by a Training Center staff member and one intern from University of British Columbia, Canada. Preparations were made to test some of its modules with participants of the EDDA course at IRRI in January 1998.

#### NEXT STEP ACTIVITIES

- In the new MTP, all Training Program (TR) projects are reclassified as outputs under Project IM4, *Human capital development*, and are considered part of the Accelerating the Impact of Rice Research Program (IM). TR2 will become output IM4-1 (Specialized group training undertaken on frontiers of rice science and advance research tools and methodology).
- Conduct 15 group courses at IRRI headquarters and six regional in-country offerings in 1998 for a maximum of 353 participants. One of the headquarters courses is to be offered for the first time in 1998, New Paradigms and Tools for Socioeconomic Analysis of Rice Production Systems in Asia, which is co-funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). One of the regional courses, Genetic Evaluation and Utilization (GEU) for Rainfed Ecosystems, is an updated version of the GEU course conducted at IRRI until 1995. This will be conducted collaboratively with Thailand and held at the RLRRRC site at Ubon.
- Prepare for three additional new courses: Research Issues in Direct Seeded Rice Cultivation (1999), Natural Resource Management (2000), and Application of Computer Modeling for Rice Research (2000).

- Pilot the first IRRI online course. The course on Experimental Design and Data Analysis will be conducted completely in the distance learning mode. Scientists from Asia, and hopefully Africa, are expected to take advantage of this course.
- Increase efforts to identify and persuade institutions and NARS with training funds to make use of IRRI's group training opportunities through a course marketing and information system to increase the number of NARS scientists who participate in each course.
- Assess the training needs of NARS in relation to their research agenda in the current year as well as 5 and 10 years into the future.

DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

PARTNER  
INSTITUTIONS

Numerous donors and institutions worldwide participating in group training activities

IRRI CONTACT

Dr. Robert T. Raab, acting head, Training Center (e-mail: r.raab@cgnet.com)

**Project summary  
and highlights  
1997**

# Training Program

## TR-3 Courseware development

**THE PROJECT**

Learning is improved and made more lasting through training materials. To make its short-term group training courses as effective as possible, IRRI provides training materials that document the technical information contained in the courses. Through the project, IRRI trainers are developing training materials in formats that facilitate easy revision, adaptation, and translation into languages other than English. With quality training materials as references, scientists in national agricultural research systems (NARS) can confidently use the knowledge they have gained in their home institutions—and transfer that knowledge to other scientists, multiplying the benefits of their training many times over.

**ACTIVITIES IN  
1997**

- Developed 13 training materials that document the technical content of five group training courses: eight print-on-paper titles (manuals, guidebooks, and course readings) and three Web versions of trainers' training courseware.
- Developed staff capability to put existing IRRI training materials online.

**NEXT STEP  
ACTIVITIES**

- In the new MTP, all Training Program (TR) projects are reclassified as outputs under Project IM4, *Human capital development*, and are considered part of the Accelerating the Impact of Rice Research Program (IM). TR3 will become output IM4-1 (Specialized group training undertaken on frontiers of rice science and advance research tools and methodology).
- Develop 12 training materials for seven courses both at headquarters and those to be taught in-country. Of these, three are additional trainers' training courseware expected to go on the Web within the year.
- Produce three instructional videos for the Crop and Resource Management Network (CREMNET).
- Study the viability of Web-based courseware.

**DURATION**

January 1994-December 1997

**IRRI CONTACT**

Dr. Robert T. Raab, acting head, Training Center (e-mail: r.raab@cgnet.com)

Project summary  
and highlights  
1997

## Training Program

### TR-4 Collaborative in-country training

#### THE PROJECT

The training capability of national agricultural research systems (NARS) must be upgraded and strengthened to support research development. By working with other international agricultural research centers and linking with research consortia and networks, collaborative in-country training endeavors to make training more relevant to the needs and capabilities of NARS and complement ecoregional efforts. This training may be done through regional courses that are collaborative offerings of IRRI courses to an international group of participants at in-country venues using the resources of the host NARS, or as national offerings of IRRI courses adapted to the specific needs of the requesting NARS. The ultimate goal is to have capable NARS that can satisfy their own countries' training needs and implement regional training activities.

#### ACTIVITIES IN 1997

- Conducted the Rice Production Research course as a regional offering for the sixth time in collaboration with the Pathum Thani Rice Research Center in Thailand, benefiting 18 NARS scientists from seven countries in Asia and Africa.
- Conducted eight national courses providing a total of 302 scientists from 13 countries with opportunities to update their knowledge and skills while simultaneously developing the indigenous training capacity of our partners.
- Initiated development of IRRI's capability for distance learning. Piloting was done with one videoconference lecture/discussion session involving an IRRI entomologist and participants of the devolved Rice Production Research Course at Pathum Thani Rice Research Center in Thailand.
- Held two offerings of the course on Problem-based Technology Generation for Rainfed Lowland Rice Environments supported by the Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Consortium and one on DNA Fingerprinting of the Blast Fungus funded by the Asian Rice Biotechnology, benefiting some 40 rice scientists.

#### NEXT STEP ACTIVITIES

- In the new MTP, all Training Program (TR) projects are reclassified as outputs under Project IM4, *Human capital development*, and are considered part of the Accelerating the Impact of Rice Research Program (IM). TR4 will become output IM4-3 (NARS supported to develop indigenous training capacity and to conduct regional training programs).
- Continue to evaluate the potential of internet-based distance learning approaches to allow IRRI to make cost effective contributions to national and regional training activities.
- Implement collaborative in-country training courses for the Cambodia-IRRI-Australia Project: training of trainers, problem-based research planning, presentation skills, and in-house skills development.
- Finalize training plans for the Iran-IRRI Project, after the initial course on scientific writing and presentation in 1997.
- Implement training plan for Papua New Guinea-IRRI project and conduct national courses for scientists and extension staff.

- Conduct training needs assessment for Pakistan and Bangladesh; follow up on training activities initiated for the Lao PDR and South Korea NARS.
- Conduct the fifth offering of the course on problem-based technology generation for scientists at the Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Consortium site in Indonesia.

DURATION

January 1994-December 1997

PARTNER  
INSTITUTIONS

Governmental, nongovernmental, and private agencies in collaborating countries.

IRRI CONTACT

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