

Welcome to the second AIRCA Newsletter. In this edition, we have articles from all AIRCA members, highlighting crucial aspects of their work, exemplary project briefs, and other important developments. We hope you enjoy the read!



## AIRCA at the Global Landscapes Forum in December 2015

For the first time, AIRCA participates as an Implementing Partner at the Global Landscapes Forum in Paris. We will host a Discussion Forum on the topic of **Climate Smart Agriculture for healthy landscapes and livelihoods**. In this session we will present examples of how AIRCA members have developed different aspects of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and how this has contributed to healthy landscapes and improved livelihoods. [Read more](#)

## AIRCA's response to the new Sustainable Development Goals

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York. The priorities and expertise of the AIRCA centers contribute directly to ten of the SDGs (below) and can help partner countries meet these goals as part of the national sustainable development action plans that countries are now developing. [Read more](#)



## Board selects new Director General AVRDC

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center announced mid October that its Director General, Dr. J.D.H. 'Dyno' Keatinge, will retire after eight years of service on April 20, 2016. The Center's Board of Directors selected **Dr. Marco Wopereis** to succeed Keatinge as the organization's Director General effective April 21, 2016. [Read more](#)

## CABI: Invasive species: the threat to smallholder livelihoods

Invasive species impact agriculture and the environment, and cause a negative ripple effect on farmer livelihoods. The worst affected are often resource-poor smallholder farmers whose farming systems are less resilient and who rely on the natural ecosystem for their sustenance. [Read more](#)



## Genetic diversity: an option for future necessities (CATIE)

In Costa Rica, CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center), manages one of the most significant germplasm banks in Central America and the Caribbean, including field collections of coffee, cocoa, heart of palm, peach palm, achiote and exotic tropical fruits, as well as seeds of more than 6,000 varieties of different genera and species. [Read more](#)



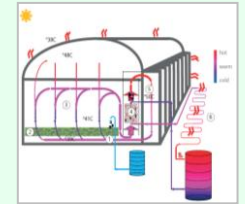
## CFF's Agricultural Diversification Project in Bera, Pahang



In September 2015, Crops For the Future (CFF) was invited by the Minister from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, to establish a project with the community in Bera, Malaysia. . The area has large areas of wetland and has in recent years experienced a decline in agricultural productivity and farm income. The project's aim is to explore the possibility of developing agricultural diversification projects in the area using underutilised crops. [Read more](#)

## ICBA: New generation greenhouse to help save water and energy in Gulf countries

An international team of scientists is carrying out experiments on a new generation of greenhouses at the Agriculture Innovation Centre in Al Dhaid, Sharjah, the UAE, which can help to save up to 90% of water and cut significantly on energy. The experiments are being conducted by a group of researchers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), the International Center for Agriculture in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) of the UAE and the research group Watery at Technical University of Berlin (TBU). [Read more](#)



## Adaptation in the Mountains: Climate Smart Villages in Nepal (ICIMOD)

Climate Smart Villages (CSVs) build upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's (FAO) climate smart approach of agriculture. Just like FAO, they combine the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — to provide an integrated approach to climate adaptation, resilience and food security. [Read more](#)

## icipe develops new remote sensing-based methodology, produces world's first ever flower maps

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), and collaborators have developed a new remote sensing-based methodology to map flowering plants in Africa. Using this methodology, which uniquely combines two hyperspectral mapping formulas. [Read more](#)



## IFDC President and CEO Scott Angle begins tenure



In October 2015, Dr. J. Scott Angle succeeded Dr. Amit Roy as the president and CEO of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). Roy is retiring after 37 years of service. An internationally known soil scientist, Angle previously served as the Dean and Director of the University of Georgia's (UGA) College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. [Read more](#)

## Bamboo and rattan: a world of innovative uses for green economies

The value chain for bamboo and rattan commodities and products starts in rural areas of the world's bamboo-indigenous countries. The economics of bamboo production mean that most goods made for the world market will be produced locally, creating increased income and jobs for these populations. [Read more](#)



## AIRCA founding members:

**AVRDC** - The World  
Vegetable Center



CAB International (**CABI**)



Tropical Agricultural Research and  
Higher Education Center (**CATIE**)



Crops for the Future (**CFF**)



International Center for Biosaline  
Agriculture (**ICBA**)



International Centre for Integrated  
Mountain Development (**ICIMOD**)



International Centre of Insect  
Physiology and Ecology (**icipe**)



International Fertilizer Development  
Center (**IFDC**)



International Network for  
Bamboo and Rattan (**INBAR**)

