Announcements

Dr Dennis Garrity new Director General of ICRAF
Announcement by ICRAF's Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the International Center for Research in Agroforestry is pleased to announce that it has appointed Dr Dennis Garrity for the position of the fourth Director General of ICRAF.

Dr Garrity will continue in the tradition of dedicated leadership shown by his predecessors, Dr. Kenneth King, Dr. Bjorn Lundgren, and Dr. Pedro Sanchez. Dr Sanchez and the Board intend to make this transition as smooth and efficient as possible. The changeover is effective October 1, 2001.

After working at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines for 12 years, Dr Garrity joined ICRAF in 1992, where he founded ICRAF’s collaborative research and development activities in Southeast Asia. He built the Southeast Asia program into ICRAF’s largest regional program with over 40 international and national professional staff working in six countries. He led the systems improvement research in the humid tropics of the region to develop and evaluate agroforestry alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture; developed conservation-oriented agroforestry systems for sloping uplands; and developed institutional innovations related to farmer-led organizations in sustainable agriculture and natural resources management. He has been active in promoting the Landcare movement in Southeast Asia.

Dr Garrity, an American citizen has a BSc in agriculture from Ohio State University, an MSc in agronomy from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, and a PhD in crop physiology from the University of Nebraska. He served as agronomist and crop ecologist and head of the Agroecology Unit at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines between 1982 and 1992. He is married to Vilma and has two sons, Abraham and John.

APFC/FAO announce “In Search of Excellence” initiative to identify exemplary forest management in Asia-Pacific

In 1982, Tom Peters and Robert Waterman published an enormously popular business management textbook titled “In search of excellence”. Peters and Waterman chose a sample of highly successful firms and tried to identify the features that had led to these successes. The APFC/FAO “In Search of Excellence” initiative seeks to borrow from the Peters and Waterman approach, to identify instances of exemplary forest management in the Asia-Pacific region, and examine some of the characteristics that support high-quality forest management.

The initiative

In the drive towards sustainable forest management, there has been continuous improvement in the management of many forest areas in the Asia-Pacific region. In Search of Excellence aims to document specific examples of this improvement. A great deal of attention has been focused on poor forest management, deforestation and degradation of forests. There has been far less recognition of the many positive instances of improved forest management. FAO believes that part of the process of striving for improvement is to promote examples of success. This serves as a means of disseminating good ideas and as a source of encouragement to achieve better forest management. In Search of Excellence seeks to identify:

- a broad cross-section of instances of exemplary forest management in Asia-Pacific;
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- forests that can be held up as examples of forest management that shows promise for the future. These may be forests that have a long history of good management, or be forests that have implemented innovative systems to improve management outcomes;
- examples across a broad range of forest eco-types from many countries in the region, exemplifying management for a variety of objectives and under a variety of different ownership structures; and
- examples of both large and small forest areas – the key requirement is quality of management. We aim to ask a wide range of people to help us identify and acknowledge some of these efforts to move towards sustainable forest management.

The organizers of the initiative hope to give credit where it is due and to spread information to encourage others to take up some of these ideas, methods and approaches.

Call for nominations

APFC/FAO are calling for nominations of forests in the Asia-Pacific region that demonstrate forms of exemplary management. They welcome nominations both from people and organization that wish to nominate their own forest(s), and from those who wish to nominate others’ forests.

The process

The call for nominations of forests is being widely distributed throughout the region. Nomination forms are being sent to government forestry agencies, forestry organizations, universities, environmental agencies and NGOs, and industry associations. The activity is also being advertised in forestry journals and trade magazines, and on forestry list-servers.

APFC/FAO plan to establish a Panel of Experts to review the nominations, and to select outstanding examples for further in-depth analysis. Case studies on management of these forests will appear in a publication that documents and analyses these examples.

Making a nomination

When submitting your nomination, it will be very helpful to include additional documentation related to the management practices and features that lead you to consider the forest exemplary. Useful supporting documentation would include copies of forest management plans, documentation demonstrating compliance with forest policies and regulations, codes of practice, corporate profiles, press releases and other promotional material. The more documentation you are able to send us, the better chance your forest has of being selected. It will also be very helpful to name contact persons who could provide additional information.

To nominate a forest, please complete and forward a nomination form. Nominations close 1 February 2002. You can request a nomination form from, and return the completed form to:

Patrick B. Durst
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: +66.2.6974000
Fax: +66.2.6974445
eMail: patrick.durst@fao.org

Cornell’s Mann Library unveils web site that features complete texts of rare, significant agricultural books

Source: Cornell news release, 19 January 2001

Cornell University’s Albert R. Mann Library has unveiled a web site devoted to rare, historically significant books on agriculture. Not merely citations, the books can be read in full online.

The library’s Core Historical Literature of Agriculture (CHLA) is an electronic collection of the most important agricultural texts published between the early 19th century and the mid-20th century. The collection includes 825 full-text monographs with over 300,000 scanned pages covering topics from agricultural economics and engineering to food and soil science. The web site is located at:

http://chla.mannlib.cornell.edu/