

DRAFT (revised May 9, 2007)

**ASEAN Indigenous Vegetable Project
(for circulation to AARNET members for discussion and feedback)**

Title: ASEAN NATIVE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Location: ARC Training and Research Facility at Kasetsart University,
Kamphaeng Saen Campus

Project Cost: USD150,000 per year

Implementing organizations: Asian Regional Center (ARC) –AVRDC – The
World Vegetable Center in collaboration with Kasetsart University Research and
Development Institute (KURDI) at Kamphaengsaen, Thailand

Introduction:

The region covered by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a recognized center of origin of many plants, and among them are tropical indigenous (native) vegetables. These native vegetables provide a rich and colourful traditional food to its populations and therefore become an important heritage of the region. As such, its recognition, research, conservation and utilization will serve the aspirations of ASEAN to strengthen integration. As these native plants are common to many ASEAN countries, a sharing of the wealth of traditional knowledge about such native vegetables and associated food will also serve to encourage harmony among the member states.

Recognising the importance of vegetables in the diet of the ASEAN member states, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) at their 19th Meeting in Hanoi in 1998 designated Singapore as the lead country for the ASEAN initiative on the ASEAN-AVRDC [Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre] Regional Network for Vegetable Research and Development (AARNET). This is a partnership activity between AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center and ASEAN that is committed to advancing vegetable research and development in the 10 ASEAN member countries. An example of this partnership is the advancement towards tropical native vegetables. An activity supported by AARNET is Indigenous Vegetables and the focal point is Brunei Darussalam. Reflections of support are evident for example in the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to finance the study of Indigenous Vegetables in the kingdom. This commitment will support the initiation of an ASEAN Indigenous Vegetable project. Furthermore, the support of Thailand and Philippines for indigenous vegetables demonstrates a strong desire to develop strong research capability within ASEAN to study its native tropical vegetables.

Proposal:

An ASEAN Native Vegetable Garden will be set up at the KU Kamphaeng Saen campus, Thailand. This will enhance the Memorandum of Agreement between

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KU and AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center¹ and to promote the advancement of native vegetables among ASEAN states, and build on the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and various ASEAN national governments. This ASEAN Native Vegetable Garden would be set up at the ARC Training and Research Station. This Station at Kamphaeng Saen was set up under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in 1999.

Purpose:

The ASEAN Native Vegetable Garden would showcase the strong collaboration between AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center and Kasetsart University towards:

1. Setting up a center of excellence for the study of native vegetables in ASEAN region
2. Providing opportunities for researchers to conduct in-depth biological and biochemical studies to complement existing efforts of both AVRDC and KU.
3. Supporting student projects post-graduate studies.
4. Facilitating participants to the annual Regional Training Courses held at the Training Center to learn about native vegetables of ASEAN.
5. Serving as repository of traditional knowledge about the nutritional, medicinal and cultural uses of native vegetables of ASEAN
6. Enabling an eco-tourism activity to teach school children and the public about the rich heritage of ASEAN biological heritage.

Budget:

A budget of USD150,000 per year is requested for an initial period of 5 years to support the ASEAN Native Vegetable Garden, scholarships to ASEAN member countries to conduct post-graduate (M Sc. And Ph D) research (botany, agronomy, biochemical functionalities, pest management etc) in Kasetsart University and possibly with international universities such as Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in collaboration with ARC and short term training of ASEAN research and extension specialists in a Regional Training Course organized by ARC.

Activities	USD/year
Support for ASEAN Native Vegetable Garden	17,000
Post Graduate scholarships for ASEAN and interested countries	78,000
Training for 10 ASEAN extension/research experts	<u>55,000</u>
Total	<u>150,000</u>

¹ Memorandum of Agreement between Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) and Kasetsart University on the Establishment of the AVRDC Regional Center in Thailand. 10 November, 1992.