



winners  
in 2003



# recognizing excellence in science and communications with cgiar awards

Scientific excellence is a hallmark of high-performing research organizations. The CGIAR's founders clearly had this in mind when they tasked the CGIAR to mobilize the best of science and technology for the benefit of poor farmers in developing countries. Quality and relevant science continues to be the driving force that enables the CGIAR System to thrive and fulfill its mission.

The 2003 Awards were conferred at the Annual General Meeting held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The award ceremony was honored by the participation of Hon. Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya, who joined Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and presented the following awards:

- **Outstanding Partnership:** Vitamin A for Africa (VITAA) coordinated by CIP was chosen because it brings together nutritionists, health experts and agricultural scientists to help address the Vitamin A deficiency problem in Sub-Saharan Africa. This partnership of 44 local and international development institutions/agencies works for the development and promotion of orange-fleshed, high-beta-carotene sweet potato varieties to help reduce Vitamin A deficiency in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.
- **Outstanding Scientific Support Team:** The support staff from the IRRI Genetic Resources Center received the award in recognition of the team's contribution to effective and efficient operation of IRRI's rice genebank, one of the largest in the network of genebanks supported by the CGIAR. The national support team is primarily responsible for storing, testing, multiplying, characterizing, distributing and documenting seed samples. In addition to providing support, some staff members play key roles in the conduct of research on conservation and utilization of rice genetic resources.
- **Outstanding Scientist:** Abdul Mujeeb Kazi of CIMMYT received this award for generating and making available new genetic diversity for wheat improvement. He has created numerous complex combinations in the wheat family, including interspecific hybrids across the wheat genomes, fertile amphiploids, and self-fertile backcross-1 germplasm. This wealth of genetic variation has been widely distributed and remains available to the global scientific community.
- **Promising Young Scientist:** Jonathan H. Crouch of ICRISAT was presented this award for his leadership in developing the upstream biotechnology and genetic enhancement program in ICRISAT. He championed holistic multidisciplinary approaches to resolving previously intractable problems through multisector biotechnology-based partnership building. He was instrumental in establishing the Applied Genomics Laboratory at the Center.
- **Outstanding Scientific Article:** Two scientific papers were cowinners of this award.

  - Dietary aflatoxin exposure and impaired growth in young children from Benin and Togo: Cross-sectional study by Y.Y. Gong, K. Cardwell, A. Hounsa, S. Egal, P.C. Turner, A. J. Hall and C.P. Wild, was published in the British Medical Journal. Three of the authors (Cardwell, Hounsa and Egal) are staff of IITA. The study revealed a striking



*Recipients of CGIAR Science Awards 2003*

*Top  
Standing (L to R): Rejab Ssetyabula, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award; Y.Y. Gong, Outstanding Scientific Article; Olivier Hanotte, Outstanding Scientific Article; Jowelia Ssekiyanja, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award.  
Seated (L to R): Regina Kapina, VITAA Partnership Coordinator, Outstanding Partnership Award; Abdul Mujeeb Kazi, Outstanding Scientist.*

*Bottom  
Standing (L to R): Jonathan H. Crouch, Promising Young Scientist; Salome Gamelenga, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award; Manuel Lantin, CGIAR Secretariat.  
Seated (L to R): Flora de Guzman, Outstanding Scientific Support Award; Fina Opio, Chair, VITAA Steering Committee, Outstanding Partnership Award.*

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association between exposure to aflatoxin in children (from villages of Benin and Togo) and standard indicators of malnutrition (stunted growth and underweight condition). The research implication is to address the aflatoxin contamination problem in stored food grains (particularly maize and ground nuts) in warm and humid areas like those in West Africa.

- African pastoralism: Genetic imprints of origins and migrations by Olivier Hanotte, Daniel G. Bradley, Joel W. Ochieng, Yasmin Verjee, Emmeline W. Hill and J. Edward O. Rege, was published in Science. Four of the authors (Hanotte, Ochieng, Verjee and Rege) are staff of ILRI. This is the first continent-wide study of the genetic diversity of cattle in Africa. A product of seven years of

research, the paper represents a landmark in work to characterize, conserve and better use indigenous animal genetic resources for the benefit of the poor in the continent.

#### Communication Awards

- Outstanding Journalism Award: Pallava Bagla, an Indian journalist, received this award for his article "Drought Exposes Cracks in India's Monsoon Model," which was published in Science in 2002.
- Outstanding Communications Award: The WorldFish Center won the award for the Fish for All Campaign. The campaign was instrumental in bringing national and global attention to fish as a major contributor to the food needs of one billion of the world's poor and to the livelihood of millions of people in developing countries.

# the spirit of innovation

The First Innovation Marketplace '03 was launched at the Annual General Meeting 2003 in Nairobi to promote, expand and strengthen relationships with civil society while catalyzing innovation across the CGIAR system.

The winners of the Inaugural Innovation Marketplace '03 are as follows:

■ **Nyine Bithawa and Anke Weisheit of Rukararwe Partnership Workshop for Rural Development, in partnership with World Agroforestry Centre, received the Best Innovative Partnership Program** for a program that is strengthening the capacity of herbalists in conservation and use of medicinal species. The prize carried a cash award of \$15,000 and a scroll. The judges found that the program adopts an innovative approach that enhances prosperity, encourages diversification, fosters systems sustainability, addresses the critical issue of genetic resources conservation, and contributes to improvements in health and livelihood.

■ **Wonwossen Diresse Bezabih of Tikurso Innovative Farmers Group received the People's Choice Award.** The prize carried a cash award of \$5,000 and a scroll.

These two winners were chosen from 10 finalists, who were selected from 45 entries. The first round of evaluation was conducted by Milagre Nuvunga of the Ford Foundation, Davinder Lamba of Mazingira Institute (a local nongovernmental organization) and Erica Kanja, Innovation Marketplace Event Manager.

The final round of evaluation was conducted by Luis Arango of CORPOICA (Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research), Denis Despereaux (France), Mangala Rai (India) and Franklin Moore (United States).



The Innovation Marketplace catalyzes innovation across the CGIAR System.