

“INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR COMMERCIALIZATION”

**2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
SWEETPOTATO & CASSAVA (2ISSC)**

Organized Jointly By

Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)  
and  
International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

14-17 June 2005  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



## **INTRODUCTION**

Sweetpotato and cassava are prominent root crops throughout the tropics, while sweetpotato is important in the summer in temperate regions. Both crops contribute to the energy and nutritional requirements of a significant proportion of the world population. They are also two of the most important sources of starch to the food and non-food industries. The rapid expansion of downstream industries and their related activities based on these crops will increase the demand for raw materials in developed and developing countries. Sweetpotato and cassava have thus been the subject of interest as food and feed sources as well as industrial raw materials in many countries for both the domestic and export markets. While a lot of research has been conducted in various areas to support the quantity and quality demanded by the market, there are still gaps in technology development which hamper commercialization.

A series of international symposiums had been held in many countries for the last couple of decades, giving the opportunities to researchers and stakeholders to share knowledge and research information on sweetpotato and cassava. Such gatherings are beneficial also in assessing the future roles of sweetpotato and cassava in the global markets.

The first international symposium on “Sweetpotato: Food and Health for the Future” was held in Lima, Peru in 2001. The main organizers of this symposium were ISHS, CIP (International Potato Center) and UNALM (National Agricultural University, La Molina, Peru). One of the successes of this first event has been in providing a strong link whereby scientists from all tropical and subtropical countries were able to meet their peers to review the status of sweetpotato research.

The second international symposium on sweetpotato and cassava will be held in Malaysia in 2005. The main organizers are MARDI (Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and ISHS. Co-sponsors are welcome. The symposium will focus on sweetpotato and cassava research and related activities. This symposium will be useful to anyone interested in expanding the traditional uses

of sweetpotato and cassava into a wide range of new foods and non-food products, as well as exploiting them for the feed market.

## **THEME**

The main theme for the Second Symposium is: *Innovative technologies for commercialization.*

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To highlight research achievements in sweetpotato and cassava, as well as to enhance future research activities, ranging from field production to product development so as to promote and create value-added downstream industries,
- To formulate strategies in gaining trade and market access in the global scenario,
- To promote R&D collaboration between the public and private sectors, as well as among countries in finding solutions in research and industry-related problems,

This symposium will assess recent research findings to assist stakeholders in developing and commercializing these industrial crops.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- Shared experiences and knowledge in developing production technologies and new products,
- Narrowed gaps in knowledge and technologies,
- Strategies in commercialization of technologies for industry expansion,
- Strategies in gaining trade and market access,
- Coordinated research activities among countries

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

The symposium invites individual participants or groups from all over the world with an interest in sweet potato and cassava, and particularly in the theme of the symposium. The presence of many experts and scientists such as researchers, policy makers, extension agents, nutritionists, food technologists, post-harvest specialists, extension workers, farmers, entrepreneurs and students are expected to facilitate the exchange and sharing of knowledge, information and skills in their respective fields.

## **PROGRAMME**

### *Paper presentations*

The language of the symposium will be English.

There will be both oral and poster presentations. Oral presentations comprise both invited papers and selected submitted papers. Workshops or satellite meetings on specific topics related to the symposium may be organized concurrently if there is sufficient interest. Poster sessions and workshops will be planned to allow in-depth discussions.

For oral presentations, PowerPoint beamer projectors will be available but presenters are advised to bring a back-up presentation for overhead transparencies.

### *Exhibition*

Exhibition booths will be available at the symposium venue. Individuals, groups and organizations are also invited to exhibit their technologies and products. These may include production inputs such as field machinery, fertilizers and other agro-chemicals, organic manure and irrigation systems, as well as processed products, covering food, feed and industrial goods. Relevant international and national agencies are welcome to publicize their products and services.

Abstracts of papers/ exhibitions of products for the symposium will be invited shortly. Further details on these will be available at this symposium website. Please watch out for updates.

### ***Publications***

A book of abstracts and the symposium programme will be available by the time participants arrive at the symposium. The symposium proceedings will be published by ISHS in *Acta Horticulturae* but printed by MARDI. The proceedings will be available in two versions – a printed copy and a CD version. The proceedings will be ready in six months after the event date.

### ***Satellite Meetings / Workshops***

There will be opportunities for satellite meetings or workshops for groups wishing to convene such meetings. These meetings will be organized independently of the symposium. Groups or organizations interested should contact the Secretariat in advance. Possible satellite meetings may cover:

- PGR (Plant Genetic Resources)
- Biotechnology/ Transgenics
- Sweetpotato weevil management
- Virus diseases
- Starch

### ***Venue***

The venue of the symposium will be at an international hotel in Kuala Lumpur, to be announced later.

### ***Field Trips***

Technical and non-technical trips will be arranged on the final day as part of the symposium programme. The technical trip will cover a visit to MARDI to witness the demonstration of machineries for cassava and sweetpotato field production. Visits to MPOB (Malaysian Palm Oil Board) and the nearby universities (Universiti Putra

Malaysia and the National University of Malaysia) may be organized if there is sufficient interest.

The non-technical trips cover tours to Putrajaya, KLCC (Kuala Lumpur City Centre), the Orchid Garden , Butterfly Park.

For more information visit: <[www.abcmalaysia.com/tour\\_malaysia/putrajaya.htm](http://www.abcmalaysia.com/tour_malaysia/putrajaya.htm)>

Nominal fees will be charged for these trips, and they will be organized subject to there being sufficient interest.

### **ACCOMODATION**

The venue of the symposium is in Kuala Lumpur, where a wide and varied range of accommodation at reasonable prices and with good facilities. Most international hotels offer rooms at USD40 – USD85 with standard hotel services such as international telephone and fax services, business centre, swimming pool, gift shops, international card credit acceptance, e-mail services, internet surfing, room and laundry services, bars and restaurants and many other basic facilities.

For more information: <http://www.malaysia-hotel.com/>

All reservations for hotel accommodation should be made directly to the hotels. Please mention the symposium name when booking rooms in order to obtain tariff discounts.

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration of participants will take place at the conference venue on arrival. However, would-be participants can register early via online. Registration fee and payment mode details are listed in the **Registration Form** .

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Very limited sources of financial assistance are available for travel and living costs. Therefore, symposium participants will be expected to meet their own expenses for travel, accommodation and registration fees.

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A Technical Advisory Committee comprising a cross-section of leading scientists in sweetpotato and cassava in the international arena has been formed to identify relevant topics and speakers to be invited for the symposium.

Prof. Andrew Westby	Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom
Prof. M. Akoroda	University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Mr. Cheah Lee Shen	Department of Agriculture, Malaysia
Prof. Stanley J. Kays	University of Georgia, U.S.A. (ISHS Chairman for the Tuber Crop Section)
Dr. Steve Lewthwaite	New Zealand Institute For Crop And Food Research Ltd. (C&FR)
Mr. Mohd Akhir Hamid	MARDI
Dr. M. Nakatani	National Institute of Crop Science, Japan
Dr. Luis Salazar	International Potato Centre, Peru
Mrs. Salma Omar	MARDI
Dr. Klanarong Sriroth	Kasetsart University, Thailand
Dr. Tan Swee Lian	MARDI

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Members of the Organizing Committee are as follows:

Dr. Mohd Ariff Omar	MARDI – Chairman
Dr. Md Jusoh Mamat	MARDI – Co-Chairman
Mr. Cheah Lee Shen	Dept. of Agriculture, Malaysia
Dr. Tan Swee Lian	MARDI – Chairman, Technical Subcommittee
Ms Ramlah Mohd Isa	MARDI – Chairman, Secretariat
Mr. Mohd Akhir Hamid	MARDI – Chairman, Exhibitions Subcommittee
Mr. Rozhan Abu Dardak	MARDI – Chairman, Publicity/Protocol
Ms. Wan Rahimah Wan Ismail	MARDI
Mr. Nor Hashim Ujang	MARDI

Ms. Salma Omar	MARDI
Mr. Mohd Khairol bin Ariff	MARDI
Ms Nor Raizan Abd Hamid	MARDI
Ms Junaidah Abd Manan	MARDI

## **ENQUIRIES**

All symposium enquiries should be directed to:

### **Technical**

Dr. Tan Swee Lian, PhD, KMN  
Deputy Director (Varietal Improvement)  
Rice & Industrial Crops Research Centre  
MARDI

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### **Secretariat**

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