



Farmers discuss nitrogen sensor technology

About 75 people, including farmers, technical advisers, representatives of farmers Unions, academics, government officials, (SAGARPA State vice-representative, and Chair of the Phytosanitary Authority Local Board), and the media attended a special event with CIMMYT scientist Ivan Ortiz Monasterio and research assistant Dolores Vázquez in Ciudad Obregon this week. The meeting, organized by the Asociación de Organismos Agrícolas del Sur de Sonora (AOASS), the umbrella institution for farmers unions, was held to discuss the results of this season's trials of nitrogen sensor technology to optimize fertilizer applications. For the second year a group of wheat farmers in the Yaqui valley worked with CIMMYT to test the technology. The infrared sensor, combined with computer software in a handheld computer, can give farmers an indication of how much fertilizer to apply. Optimizing the nitrogen fertilizer application can benefit the farmer by reducing costs and benefit the environment by reducing fertilizer runoff. This is one example of partnerships with Standfor University of studies on environmental impacts of agriculture in the Yaqui Valley.

CIMMYT women say farewell to Melanie Trethowan

Members of the CIMMYT women's committee said good-bye to one of their stalwarts. At the newly-renovated House 4, they held a lunchtime despedida for Melanie Trethowan. Lots of fine food, good stories and a fair number of tears were shared. Melanie and Richard will be leaving soon for Australia, where Richard will take up a new appointment as Chair of Plant Breeding at the University of Sydney. Two of the four Trethowan children were born while the family was at CIMMYT and they will take a vast set of wonderful memories back to Australia. The community will also keep fond memories of Melanie, including her warm, outgoing greetings to newcomers that made them immediately feel they were members of the family. A highlight of the luncheon was a tribute poem, written and read by Sarah Fennell. As parting gifts the women presented Melanie with a copy of the book "The most beautiful towns in Mexico" and a memory book of photos and mementos, which Melanie said the family would treasure forever. ■



The demonstration data showed that during the 2005-2006 crop cycle, the average per hectare income from seven participating farmer's fields was US \$50

higher with the use of the sensor compared to traditional fertilizer practices. All three farmers that talked about the technology at the meeting said they supported its use.

Much of the sensor to work has been done in collaboration with Oklahoma State University. Several newspapers and television stations covered the event, including Sonora State's main newspaper, El Imparcial. ▶



<http://intranet.cimmyt.org/CC/presentations/photo2/index.htm>
(Flash) ■

MTP on Web

The new CIMMYT Medium Term Plan for 2007-2009 "Moving the Vision of *Seeds of Innovation* into Action" is now available for download on the CIMMYT Intranet and the public web-site as a PDF file. On the Intranet there is a link under CIMMYT News. Also on the right-hand menu you can select MTP & Special Projects under Research Activities. You can find it on the main web site by selecting the link from Business/ Research plans on the CIMMYT home page www.cimmyt.org. ■

- ▶ After the presentations, AOASS announced that they will support the necessary activities to spread the use of this technology more widely by farmers and they asked CIMMYT to prepare a proposal on how to do this. ■

Conserving Wheat, Rye, Triticale

Starting Tuesday, 20 June and ending on 22 June, a group of eminent scientists from around the world will meet under the auspices of the Global Crop Diversity Trust and CIMMYT to plan a strategy for the conservation of wheat, rye and triticale germplasm from a global perspective. All sessions will be held in the Sasakawa room and are open to CIMMYT staff. ■

EPMR Revisited

Two members of the panel that conducted CIMMYT's Fifth External Program and Management Review (EPMR) in late 2004 returned to El Batan this week. Panel Chair Don Marshall and panel member Maureen Robinson came to review progress made by CIMMYT in addressing some of the major concerns raised by the panel in its report, submitted to the CGIAR Science Council in April 2005. ■

Portraits of Hope on Intranet

The photo exhibition Portraits of Hope now on display in El Batan is available on the CIMMYT Intranet. There are actually two versions. One uses a flash animation technique (but requires you to have the Flash plugin for your browser). The second version is not quite so 'flashy.' The links are:
<http://intranet.cimmyt.org/CC/presentations/photo/index.htm>
(no Flash)

Newcomers

Yann Manes, Senior Scientist/ Wheat Breeder, Wheat Program, June 4.

Promotions

Emilia Arredondo, from Project Analyst, Finance to Program Administrator, Wheat, May 29

In June we wish Happy Birthday to

Cosme Rivera 3; Quirino Nafarrate 4; Eugenio Pérez 12; Eduardo Martínez 19; Enrique García 19; Silverio Muñoz 20; Martin Shoko 20; Nathan Damu 21; Carmen Espinosa 22; Upasana Pradhan 22; Ravi Singh 24; Eric Nurit 25.

Remember Wednesday, June 21 at 9:00 am: Mexico vs Portugal.