

February 2010 E-Newsletter

Addressing Food Security and Human Nutrition in the Philippines

(Cavite, Philippines) - As part of IIRR's Sustainable Agriculture Education project in the Philippines, IIRR hosted a two-day seminar in January for over 300 community participants in Cavite. The seminar was organized for students, teachers, and sisters of the Sisters of Mary School, a secondary school serving underprivileged students, and focused on the use of bio-intensive gardening and human nutrition.



Bio-intensive gardening, one of IIRR's core global programs, is a technique that utilizes low-cost and low-technology methods of creating sustainable, food-producing small garden plots. By empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to produce their own nutritious foods for household consumption, IIRR is helping to address the global food crisis head on.



Partnering for Women in Peace

(Yabello, Ethiopia) – IIRR's Women in Peace project held a collaborative meeting with five partner non-governmental organizations working in Guji, Bale, Borena and Moyale in southern Ethiopia. The four-day reflection meeting was held in January in order for participant organizations to conduct reviews of school peace clubs and other community peace initiatives supported by the project.

As a result of the meeting, the participant organizations were able to report on accomplishments and significant lessons learned. IIRR's Women in Peace project builds the knowledge and skills of students in conflict analysis and management, enhancing the skills and confidence of young women to become effective agents of peace in their communities.

IIRR Helps Afghanistan Rebuild

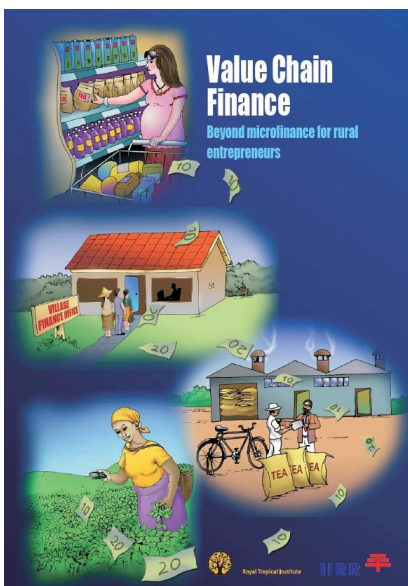
(Kabul, Afghanistan) – IIRR continues to help Afghanistan rebuild through providing guidance to local organizations on training development and management.

With the support of the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Marissa Espineli, the Education and Training Manager at IIRR's Regional Center for Asia, led the two-week course from January 24 to February 4 at DACAAR's training center in Kabul.

IIRR's partner organization in this effort, DACAAR, is a non-governmental, non-profit, apolitical humanitarian organization that has been working with the Afghan people for the last 25 years.

IIRR Builds Disaster Risk Reduction Team in Asia

(Cavite, Philippines) - In January 2010, IIRR brought on the newest member of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) team to the Regional Center for Asia. Mark Cervantes, Program Specialist on Disaster Risk Reduction, brings vast experience in disaster risk reduction in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. Mark has a degree in Political Science and has worked towards a Masters in Public Administration as well as a Masters in Conflict and Reconciliation Studies. IIRR welcomes Mark Cervantes to the team.



IIRR Publishes Value Chain Finance

(Nairobi, Kenya) – IIRR's Africa Regional Center unveils its most recent publication, *Value Chain Finance: Beyond Microfinance for Rural Entrepreneurs*. The third in a series of books on value chains by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and IIRR, this publication presents 13 cases from ten countries around the world, including Bolivia, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Rwanda, where value chain finance has improved the lives and livelihoods of the rural poor. The first two titles in the three-part series are *Chain empowerment: Supporting African farmers to develop markets* (2006) and *Trading up: Building cooperation between farmers and traders in Africa* (2007). Available at <http://www.iirr.org>.