

## SHEA 2009: OPTIMIZING THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN – SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHEA CONFERENCE

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO  
25-27 MARCH 2009

Between 2004 and 2008 the shea industry has effectively doubled. How will we continue that growth while addressing key challenges? Firms from more than 12 African countries joined experts, international buyers and regional service providers to explore fundamental and cutting-edge issues in the shea industry.

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## FOREST TENURE, GOVERNANCE AND ENTERPRISE: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVELIHOODS AND WEALTH IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON  
25-29 MAY 2009

Organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), FAO and the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, this conference aimed to catalyse new and broader actions on securing tenure rights in Central and West Africa for implementation by governments, civil society organizations and local communities with the support of international institutions and funding agencies. This will involve establishing goals and developing agendas for new interventions and reforms.

Participants shared experiences in securing tenure rights, including the relationship between tenure reform and other goals such as improving livelihoods, securing investment, spurring on small-scale enterprises and addressing climate change. The new initiatives emanating from this conference will help strengthen the impact of other key efforts, particularly on forest law enforcement and governance and voluntary partnership agreements that are being launched in Africa, all of which

point to the necessity and urgency of clarifying rights.

Agenda items included: experience with extraction and management of NTFPs; the role and perspective of forest communities in the forest reform process; and a round-table discussion on the role of tenure and governance in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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## LOCALIZING PRODUCTS: A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH FOR NATURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE SOUTH?

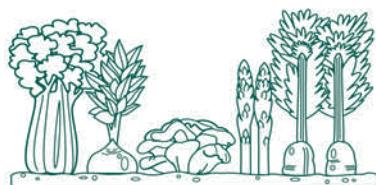
PARIS, FRANCE  
9-11 JUNE 2009

This International Symposium was organized by UNESCO/Mab, IRD, CIRAD, MNHN, in collaboration with FRB, FFEM, AFD and IDDR to explore the links between biological and cultural diversity, and the processes designed to enhance the value of local specialities in South countries.

Many presentations on the agenda covered the marketing of NTFPs, including:

- constructing the identity of products (names, image, typicality, reputation);
- valuing local products in the frame of conservation politics;
- valuing local products and potential impacts on biodiversity; and
- social and territorial changes linked to the valorization of local products.

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## INDIGENOUS PLANT USE FORUM 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA  
6-9 JULY 2009

The 12th annual Indigenous Plant Use Forum (IPUF) conference had as its theme "Exploration and commercialization: opportunities and challenges".

As in the past, several short symposia were held, including: Fynbos plants; Conservation and cultivation; Indigenous knowledge; Ethnoveterinary medicine; Honeybush symposium; Biological activity; Indigenous foods; Natural products from Fynbos; Fibres and crafts; and South African standards and control.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON NON-TIMBER-FOREST-PRODUCTS INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA  
27 AUGUST-16 SEPTEMBER 2009

China is well known for its long history of large-scale production and complete supply chains of NTFPs. For example, China now produces 70 percent of the world's edible fungi. The NTFP development of China is an organic combination of sustainable resource cultivation, highly efficient industrial processing, a smooth marketing network and a constructive institutional culture. NTFPs and their production have become one of the supporting poles of the economic development in China's forest areas.

The objectives of this training workshop are to share with participants the experiences and technologies of China in the development and utilization of non-timber forest resources, sustainable development, management of forests, and the production, utilization and marketing technologies of NTFPs.

Courses will include:

- sustainable management and development of NTFPs;
- NTFPs in China and their development, industrialization and commercialization;
- "company + farmers" – the best model for NTFP industrialization;
- the main experiences in the sustainable development of China's bamboo sector and bamboo-processing technologies;
- development of intangible resources in the forest;
- the development model of ecotourism and leisure industry in Lin'an and Anji, Zhejiang Province – a model that led local farmers towards wealth;
- the cultivation and processing technologies of wild medicinal plants and edible/medicinal fungi;
- the comprehensive development of forest biochemical products;
- the development of wild vegetables, fruits and nuts;
- the impact of NTFPs on poverty alleviation and rural sustainable development in the forest area;
- the role of governments in promoting NTFPs; and
- industrial cooperation and NGOs forming the links among companies, markets and farmers.

The workshop will give an introduction to the NTFP development experience of China, especially on the aspects of industrialization and commercialization. The field visit will provide opportunities to see the most developed and largest-scale bamboo industry in China in Anji county, and the largest bamboo shoot and hickory production base in Lin'an city.

Participants will also be able to see the development and utilization of local medicinal plants, the cultivation of edible and medicinal fungi, and China's biggest honey industry base in Tonglu. There will also be the chance to visit one of the most beautiful cities in China, Hangzhou, and China's most beautiful mountain, the Yellow Mountain, and its surrounding areas, which have developed various kinds of NTFPs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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 **THE 41<sup>ST</sup> APIMONDIA CONGRESS: THE BEE, THE SENTINEL OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

MONTPELLIER, FRANCE  
15-20 SEPTEMBER 2009

Beekeepers, technicians, scientists, suppliers and the media should actively participate in this congress. The high-quality scientific programme will concentrate on the work of international researchers, and includes activity areas and demonstrations in the heart of the ApiExpo exhibition.

Beyond the spectrum of knowledge about bees and their products, the biology of the bee, its farming, its role in the pollination of plants and as the sentinel of the environment, the 2009 edition will highlight a truly worrying phenomenon found everywhere in the world: bee mortality.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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 **VIII WORLD BAMBOO CONGRESS THAILAND 2009: BAMBOO, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

BANGKOK, THAILAND  
16-18 SEPTEMBER 2009

The VIII World Bamboo Congress will focus on the role of bamboo in rural, economic, industrial and environmental development. The congress will include the following topics: architecture, engineering and social housing; protection and construction; community and economic development; industrial aspects; products – design and technologies; plantation development and management; resources, standards and policy; biological aspects; ecology and environmental concerns; and horticulture and landscape design.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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 **2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THATCHED BUILDINGS "PINOLERE 2009"**

TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS  
2-5 OCTOBER 2009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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 **INBAR-UBFDB INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON "BAMBOO AS A MODERN CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL"**

DEHRA DUN, INDIA  
5-14 OCTOBER 2009

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and the Uttaranchal Bamboo and Fibre Development Board (UBFDB) are jointly organizing this international training workshop.

Since time immemorial, bamboo has contributed to the construction of houses and various other structures all over the world. It has strength, flexibility and versatility and therefore it is a suitable material for every component of the house when treated and used properly. Bamboo is used preferentially to other materials for housing because of its intrinsic properties that have been traditionally utilized. A firm scientific and engineering foundation has been given to this traditional understanding, resulting in the qualification of bamboo as a sound structural and engineering material. Bamboo houses dot the rural landscape in many developing countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa and bamboo is intimately associated with the livelihoods and traditions of several million people. The properties of bamboo combined with its availability and ease of use make it an ideal candidate for housing the rural and urban poor. It is estimated that more than one billion people in the world live in bamboo houses.

Bamboo plays a significant role in the creation of employment and income-generation activities in an ecologically sustainable manner. Its use for housing not only meets safety-related needs essential in

seismically active zones, but also offers highly viable solutions for both rural and urban areas, using renewable resources. Furthermore, by deploying local resources in terms of labour and material, bamboo-based housing can help develop the local economy, provide employment and further environmental protection. The traditional skill capital of the local community is also utilized, resulting in the generation of employment and creation of income-generation opportunities in rural areas. As an excellent building material, bamboo is relatively inexpensive, easy to work with and readily available in most of the countries where it grows; its role in house construction has been substantial.

This workshop aims to impart knowledge and skill sets to those involved in the bamboo sector, in housing and other structural developments, with the objective of training people who are knowledgeable in the nuances of bamboo-based housing to become more expert in building bamboo houses. The workshop provides theoretical and practical training, in particular.

The topics covered in the training will include: species selection; foundations; roofs; walls; treatment methodologies; harvesting methods; bamboo connections; bamboo stitching with other construction material; and design and structural applications, including seismic considerations for bamboo houses.

Registration closes on 15 September 2009.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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 **PLANT CONSERVATION FOR THE NEXT DECADE. A CELEBRATION OF KEW'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
KEW, RICHMOND, UNITED KINGDOM  
12-16 OCTOBER 2009

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is hosting this celebratory scientific conference. The programme will include three days of scientific sessions, showcasing Kew's conservation research and inviting leading international research scientists to present papers in six sessions: Plant conservation: policies and politics; Plant conservation: management and restoration; Plant

conservation and human cultures; Plant conservation and agriculture; Frontiers of plant conservation technology; and Plant conservation: what can we afford to lose?

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Plant Conservation Conference, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, United Kingdom. E-mail: [sciconf@kew.org](mailto:sciconf@kew.org); [www.kew.org/science/anniversary-conference](http://www.kew.org/science/anniversary-conference)

### XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
18-25 OCTOBER 2009

(Please see page 65 for full information on this event.)

### DECENTRALIZATION, POWER AND TENURE RIGHTS OF FOREST-DEPENDENT PEOPLE

GUJARAT, INDIA  
27-28 OCTOBER 2009

The aim of this symposium is to share recent research experiences and to review state-of-the-art approaches related to decentralization policies and local forest institutions; the power and political position of forest-dependent indigenous peoples, pastoralists and tribals; and the legislative recognition of forest tenure rights.

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### THE 11<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY CONGRESS AND 1<sup>ST</sup> SPANISH-PORTUGUESE SYMPOSIUM ON ETHNOBIOLOGY

LA MANCHA, ALBACETE, SPAIN  
20-25 SEPTEMBER 2010

Several generations of ethnopharmacological researchers with diverse backgrounds and interests have shaped the field of ethnopharmacology and today it certainly is a diverse and flourishing area of academic and

applied research. While some decades ago the focus was on "traditional knowledge", there is now an increasing focus on the dynamics of knowledge. Additionally, a greater awareness has developed as to how crucial the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity are, and about the intrinsic link between biological and cultural diversity. Ideas taken from traditional knowledge systems continue to be an important source of inspiration in drug development and, at the same time, "new" food supplements and herbal remedies from "traditional societies" are entering the market at an ever-increasing rate.

The congress, themed "Continuity and change in ethnopharmacology: transdisciplinary science for our future", will address the above dynamics and will offer a unique opportunity to present ethnopharmacological work and to discuss the wider implications of the research being carried out in this field.

The congress includes the following topics:

- ethnopharmacology and biocultural diversity;
- circum-Mediterranean ethnopharmacology/ethnobotany and its exchange with the Americas;
- from traditional remedies to modern medicines – phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical studies;
- NGOs and their role in ethnopharmacology;
- the interface between history and ethnopharmacology;
- the interface of medicine and food plants.

The congress will be celebrated jointly with the first Spanish-Portuguese Symposium on Ethnobiology.

Both the congress and symposium are being coorganized by ISE (International Society of Ethnopharmacology) and the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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