Dear Colleagues,

Thanks for your support for our e-Newsletter. I have received many appreciations and also suggestions for improvement of the Newsletter. I have received valuable inputs from members which I have included in this issue.

In the last six months (January-June 2012), the Section has organized symposiums on Guava and other Myrtaceae at Petrolina, Brazil and Tropical and Subtropical Fruits at Guangzhou, China. Both were very successful. Dr. Carlos Antonio Fernandes Santos, EMBRAPA CPATSA, Petrolina, Brazil e-mail: casantos@cpatsa.embrapa.br was elected as new Working Group Chair of Guava and other Myrtaceae. Apart from the two mentioned symposiums, the Section co-sponsored a number of other symposiums (see activities). I have mentioned in my last note that we will be able to organize the first International Symposiums on Jackfruit and other Moraceae and Avocado in near future. I am pleased to mention that the First International Symposium on Jackfruit and other Moraceae is scheduled to be held at Mymensingh, Bangladesh from August 31- September 2, 2012.

I believe you will enjoy reading the e-newsletter and I will look forward for your comments, suggestions and inputs for the next issue.

With best wishes,

Professor Dr. Sisir Kumar Mitra
Chair

E-mail: sisirm@vsnl.net
Harvesting the Sun: A Profile of World Horticulture

-- Can we feed 9 billion people by 2050 while conserving water, land, atmosphere, and habitat? Can we reverse the human and financial costs of an increasingly popular lifestyle that provides too many calories and too little fiber, vitamins, minerals and exercise? In emerging countries, can we reduce poverty and improve nutrition by expanding crop production, increasing yields, managing supply chains more effectively, and limiting spoilage and wastage? In wealthier countries where costs for land, water, energy and labor are high, can we sustain rural livelihoods and conserve open spaces by investing in economically and environmentally sustainable ways to grow fruit, vegetables, ornamental plants and other specialty crops? Horticulture has a key part to play in tackling each of these challenges, but to attract the necessary talent and resources this green industry must raise its public profile.

Seeking to share horticulture’s scope and value with a wide readership, the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) has released Harvesting the Sun: A Profile of World Horticulture. This full colour, extensively illustrated 70-page report examines how horticulture touches all of us. Harvesting the Sun traces the farm-to-table journey using simple language and informative graphics. This publication is available on line at www.harvestingthesun.org

Contact ISHS for further information
USA – Farmers might have a new pest on their hands after inspectors with the Department of Agriculture recently discovered an invasive fruit fly near Orlando. The guava fruit fly is most commonly found overseas. The tiny insect poses a massive risk to crops because experts say it lays its eggs inside fruit, where eventually new flies are born. Florida agriculture is roughly a nine billion dollar industry, and is a driving economic force for Central Florida. “Hopefully there won’t be any more and that this was an isolated incident,” said Vic Story, veteran farmer in Polk County. Story is keeping a close eye on this latest pest, but he says farmers are used to it. This past summer the government stepped up its campaign to remind overseas travelers not to bring produce into the United States. That’s how they say most invasive pests get here.

Source: ABC Action News
share ideas and enhance collaboration between role-players within the industries. Keynote speakers with interesting topics, such as litchi world production trends, postharvest management of litchi and pest complexes on subtropical crops in South Africa with specific reference to litchi, are invited. A mid-symposium tour will take the delegates to nearby litchi farms and pack-houses as well as to a juice factory. An exciting post-symposium tour including a visit to the Kruger National Park has also been arranged.

The symposium will cover a variety of themes including:

- World production and marketing
- Germplasm, genetics, breeding and biotechnology
- Cultural practices and pre-harvest physiology
- Post-harvest handling and physiology
- Pests, diseases, and their control
- Processing
- Extension services and technology transfer


We look forward to your attendance and contributions at the 4th International Symposium on Lychee, Longan and Other Sapindaceae Fruits in December 2012.

For all enquiries please contact:
Susie Prangley (susie@lychee2012.com).

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**Ecuador: 4th International Mango Conference**

The Mango Ecuador Foundation that gathers all the country’s growers, packers and shippers together is wrapping up some last minute details towards their IV International Ecuadorian Mango Congress to be held at the Oro Verde Hotel in Guayaquil – Ecuador on August 30 & 31.2012.

The Congress which takes place every two years has gained solid reputation as one of the most important get together events for the worldwide mango industry. Plenty of visitors from different growing and importing countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Europe, will again be attending the Congress, which is projecting an approximate global attendance of over 500 participants.
Several technical conferences will take place, approaching relevant subjects such as new harvest & postharvest technology, irrigation, cold storage, diseases controls, among others.
Source: www.freshplaza.com

Underutilized fruits with potentiality
Burmese grape – a minor fruit crop of northern parts of West Bengal, India

Burmese grape (*Baccaurea sapida* Muell. Arg.) is a minor wild fruit grown mainly in the northern districts of state of West Bengal, India for local fresh consumption. It is an acidic arillus fruit, mainly grown in this area as homestead condition. Till date no recognized type or varieties are available. It is a shade loving plant and belongs to family of Euphorbiaceae. Local people called the fruit as ‘Latka’, ‘Latkan’, ‘Lotko’, ‘Notko’, ‘Notkan’. A dioecious plant showing variability among the plant population. Burmese grape is an evergreen plant and flowers appear during the month of March and fruit set occurs during April. The crop exhibits to some extent mild bienniality in bearing habit. The inflorescence arises directly from the stem (cauliflory bearing habit) and fruits appear in bunches. Flowers are small in size, colour pale yellow. Fruit is a berry. Immature fruit is green in colour and requires 3 to 4 months for maturity. On maturity, the oval shaped fruits become golden yellow or yellowish brown in colour. Apart from the fresh consumption some value added products like ‘juice’ and ‘jelly’ can be made from this crop. The crop is grown mostly without any inputs and as it is shade loving plant, can be suitably grown in the backyard. The average price of ripe fruit is varied between Rs. 20-40 per kg. Growers can earn some extra income by growing this crop either on the fence or in the backyard.

*(Nilesh Bhowmick, UBKV, West Bengal, India.*

*Email*nileshbhowmick@gmail.com
Garcinia- an important underutilized fruit.

The genus *Garcinia* consists of many underutilized medicinal crops. It belongs to the family Clusiaceae, consisting of over 200 species distributed in the tropics of the world chiefly in Asia, Africa, and Polynesia. They are evergreen polygamous trees, shrubs, and herbs. Brandis (1978) reported 29 *Garcinia* species from India. The hydroxy-citric acid (HCA), which is obtained from water extract of *Garcinia* fruit is an anti obesity compound. *Garcinia* Butter is obtained from the seeds of the fruit (kernel) can be used as an edible fat. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut is having 8 species in its germplasm. All the species are collected from Western Ghats. The species are namely *G. anomala* Planch, *G. cambogia*, *G. cowa*, *G. subelliptica*, *G. indica*, *G. mangostana*, *G. xanthocymus* and *G. lanceaefolia*. Based on the passport data of these species, GIS prediction was done. The prediction indicated that N.E.Himalayan foot hills are also having suitable environmental conditions for *Garcinia* species. A survey was conducted in the predicted locations and six species namely, *G. cowa*, *G. kidya*, *G. lanceaefolia*, *G. spicata*, *G. pedunculata* and *G. xanthocymus* were collected. A comparative study of HCA was done for the species of both the Ecosystems were conducted. The results indicated that Western Ghats Species are having more percentage of HCA than Himalayan species.
Marking nut (*Semecarpus anacardium* L.): An underutilized fruit crop of Melghat Region of Maharashtra, India

At the northern extreme of the Amravati district of Maharashtra, on the border of Madhya Pradesh, lies the Melghat in the South-western Satpura mountain ranges. Melghat is home to about 3 lakh people, the inhabitants are mainly tribal, largely of the Korku tribe (80 per cent). All inhabitants depend on the forest for bonafide domestic needs of firewood, timber, fodder, medicinal plants, and non-timber forest products like fruits, flowers, gum and medicinal plants. The entire area of the Melghat Tiger Reserve is under the cover of forest. Natural grassy openings are almost nonexistent. The plant species differ depending upon latitude, gradient and other physiographic feature. Marking nut is one of them the collection of kernels of Marking nut fetches high price Rs. 100 – 150 /- (2-3 US$) per kg in local
market which helps built the economy of tribal / economically backwards communities their livelihood is mainly based on minor forest products. Marking Nut belongs to family Anacardiaceae is a moderate-sized deciduous tree with large stiff leaves. Fruit is a drupe 3 cm long, ovoid or oblong, smooth and shining, black when ripe, seated on a fleshy cup. Marking nut is a wild plant has special place in dryland conditions, which yields 5 –10 kg dried hypocarp and 15 – 20 nuts. The plant is pest and disease free. The fleshy orange cup (hypocarp) of fruit is eaten when quite ripe.

Medicinal uses: The fruit is useful in leucoderma, scaly skin, allergic, dermatitis, poisonous bites, leprosy, cough, asthma, and dyspepsia. It is extremely beneficial in the diseases like piles, colitis, diarrhea, dyspepsia, ascites, tumours and worms. The topical application of its oil on swollen joints and traumatic wounds effectively controls the pain.

(Dr. Shashank Bharad. E-mail: sg.bharad@gmail.com)
Canarium *odontophyllum* Miq.: The promising fruit of Sarawak

*Canarium odontophyllum* Miq. belongs to the family *Burseraceae* and is regarded as an underutilized fruit of Sarawak, Malaysia. The fruit is found in the tropical rain forest of Sarawak, Malaysia, and is commonly referred as ‘Sarawak olive’ or “dabai” by the local communities. The fruits are oblong in shape (3-4 cm in length), purple in colour, weighing 10-13 g with yellow oily pulp and a single seed. The fruits are seasonal found abundantly during the season of November-January. The fruit is highly nutritious and rich in oil, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates, and fat. The oil is rich in palmatic, oleic, linoleic acid and in tocopherols. In addition, this fruit is also high in antioxidant and has the ability to reduce cholesterol level. This fruit has the potential to become one of the commercial fruit in Sarawak in the near future.

(K. Nagendra Prasad, Chew Lye Yee, Khoo Hock Eng, Azrina Azlan, Amin Ismail, and Lau CY. Corresponding author E-mail: nagendra.prasad@monash.edu)

**ACTIVITIES**

**Symposium/Conference held between January 2012 and June 2012**

I. April 23-25, 2012, Petrolina, Brazil. III International Symposium on Guava and other Myrtaceae


III. June 18-21, 2012, Leavenworth, WA, USA. II International Organic Fruit Symposium

Forthcoming events (July-December 2012):

- **July 1-5, 2012 Angers, France.** II International Symposium on Horticulture in Europe. Information: Prof. Jean-Claude Mauget. E-mail: jean-claude.mauget@agrocampus-ouest.fr
- **August 31-September 2, 2012 Mymensingh, Bangladesh.** I International Symposium on Jackfruit and other Moraceae. Information: Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdur Rahim. Email: marahim1956@yahoo.com
- **September 18-20, 2012 Bogor, Indonesia.** II Asia Pacific Symposium on Postharvest Research, Education and Extension APS2012. Information: Prof. Dr. Hadi K Purwadaria. E-mail: tpphp@indo.net.id
- **October 20-26, 2012 Wuhan, China.** V International Symposium on Persimmon. Information: Professor Dr. Zhengrong Luo. E-mail: luozhr@mail.hzau.edu.cn
- **December 2-6, 2012 White River (Kruger National Park), South Africa.** IV International Symposium on Lychee, Longan and other Sapindaceae Fruits. Information: Mr. Derek Donkin. Email: derek@subtrop.co.za

New Books/Reports/Monographs

- **Manual de Praticas para o Melhor Manejo Pos-Colheita da Manga** (December 2011): This 77-page manual, written in Portuguese, is a best management practical manual for harvesting and handling of mangos. The manual includes quality-control procedures to use when monitoring the maturity and quality of mangos in commercial handling operation. It is available for free download at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1194](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1194) (information: Jeffrey K Brecht E-mail: jkbrecht@ufl.edu)
  The crops covered include banana, coconut, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, sisal, sugar cane and tea. (Information: M.K.V.Carr. E-mail: mikecarr@cwms.org.uk)
- **Trends in Fruit Breeding, Handbook of Plant Breeding: Fruit Breeding** by Badenes and D.H.Byrne (eds.) January 2012, Springer. It deals mainly with temperate crops; however it does have a chapter on citrus breeding and talks on low chill peach breeding for subtropical and tropical zones. (Information: Dave Byrne. E-mail: dbyme@tamu.edu)
- **Important and Underutilized Edible Fruits of the Philippines.** by Roberto E. Coronel. The book discusses 286 fruit species in 136 genera and 54 families. (Information: Roberto E Coronel. E-mail: recoronel1939@yahoo.com)