



## **DIVERSEEDS PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS IN ASIA**

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Public information events will be organized in China, Thailand and Vietnam in beginning of 2008. These events have the purpose to present and discuss the project with the interested public.

The following events are planned:

### **China:**

The topic of the public information event to be organized by January 2008 in China will be 'the value of plant genetic resource'. The public's attention will be attracted through the story of a famous animal, the Chinese Panda, and its food, the flowering bamboo, which will be linked to the issue of PGR of bamboo plants. Regarding bamboo, it could be possible to contact another organisation to get some support (experts and connection with the press, etc.) – perhaps the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), an important NGO that is current working on an EU-UNDP-China program on diversity of bamboo. Panda, the flowering bamboo and the shortage of food seem to be a very pertinent topic for the Chinese public. During the event, the DIVERSEEDS project will be presented and explained to the public and further information on crop domestication use of genetic diversity will be given.

### **In Thailand:**

The topic of the public information event to be organized by February/March 2008 in Thailand will be "the value of local plant genetic resources". The public's attention will be attracted through the story of famous jasmine rice. It could be possible to contact another organization to get some support such as Rice Research Center/Station, University and NGO that are current working on diversity of rice and other crops. There are various jasmine rice and medicinal plants in Thailand and potential use of theses seem to be a very pertinent topic for Thailand public. During the event, the DIVERSEEDS project will be presented and explained to the public on use of plant genetic diversity.

### **In Vietnam:**

This event will take place in the third week of January 2008. The one-day meeting will be organized at the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in order to introduce the context of Diverseeds project to policy makers, farmer associations, NGOs, researchers and press. The discussion is also going for the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) with high level-policy makers in Vietnam to see potential and constraints for joining the ITPGRFA. A summary of the meeting will be posted in "Rural today" newspaper (<http://www.nongthon.net/apm/>) for general public.