

VII. THE PROSEA PROGRAMME (PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA)

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The Task Force 'PROSEA beyond 2000' [members: Dr. A.R.M. Ali (FRIM), Dr. B.P. del Rosario (PCARRD), Dr. J. Kartasubrata (PROSEA-BO) and Dr. J.S. Siemonsma (PROSEA-WAG)], met several times and prepared a report with items for discussion at the Third International PROSEA Workshop on 15–17 November 1999 in Bogor. Some proposed major discussion items are:

- Should PROSEA continue as a foundation? As an autonomous ASEAN centre? Integrate with or link to other centres?
- Is a second edition of the handbook necessary in the next decade?
- If no second edition of the handbook is foreseen in the next decade, updating of the databank will be necessary and possibilities of the Internet should be exploited in full.
- Should each country office try to cover half of the annual budget with the contribution of the host institute to decrease dependence on external funding?
- Should PROSEA concentrate on client-oriented information services in the next decade?

The 10th PROSEA Country Officers' Meeting was held on 7–10 September 1998 in Wageningen. Special attention was asked for quality control of record abstracts in the databank and for careful proof-reading of handbook derived materials before publication.

The Philippines Country Office produced so-called 'X-cellent Plants Fun Cards': a series of game cards designed for play and instruction of schoolchildren with on the cards information derived from the PROSEA volumes on Vegetables and Edible Fruits and Nuts. A very funny and intelligent manner to make children familiar with the plant resources of their country. The idea is worthwhile to be tried for many other purposes as well (e.g. learning the flora and fauna?).

The 8th PROSEA Board of Trustees Meeting took place on 2–4 November 1998 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Most of the time was devoted to discuss PROSEA beyond 2000 and suggestions for the Workshop. It was decided not to spend much time to look back but to look forward to the global and regional setting of PROSEA beyond 2000. At the Workshop each PROSEA country will present its view on the future.

On March 4, 1999, at a farewell luncheon in Jakarta, the Chair of the PROSEA Board of Trustees, Dr. A. Soegiarto, presented a tabletop bronze plaque to Dr. B.C.Y. Freezailah for his great support to the PROSEA Programme as Executive Director of ITTO, in particular in financing the PROSEA trilogy on timber trees and related databank.

On March 16, 1999, Dr. H.C.D. de Wit (WAG) passed away at the age of 89 years. For PROSEA De Wit was scientific adviser until his death. Although his scientific career mainly concerned the African plants and the history of Biology, he always had a keen interest in SE Asian botany and the PROSEA programme. Many students he taught how to look, to observe, and to enjoy plants and quite some African and Dutch botanists received their PhD's under his guidance. For his advice, his friendship, and his cooperation he will be remembered with gratitude and respect.

Several institutions and donor agencies dealing with African biodiversity have expressed great interest to start a project similar to PROSEA in Africa. In 1997, Wageningen University and Research Centre made available funds for a PROTA (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa) feasibility study. This desk study resulted in a proposal for a PROTA Preparatory Phase 1999–2002, for which in the meantime funds have been granted by the EC and by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management, and Fisheries. In January 2000 work can begin.

As of 31 December 1998, Dr. S. S. Harjadi (BO) resigned as PROSEA Training Officer at the Network Office.

Dr. S. Riswan (BO) started his assignment as Scientific Officer/Assistant Head at the PROSEA Network Office, as of 1 April 1999.

Dr. M. S. M. Sosef (WAG) resigned from the Publication Office as of 1 January 1999 for a research assignment in Gabon.

Dr. R. H. M. J. Lemmens (WAG) returned to the PROSEA Publication Office starting 1 April 1999.

Dr. G. Schmelzer (WAG) was appointed as Plant Taxonomist at the PROSEA Publication Office starting 1 April 1999.

Ms. R. Matu resigned as PROSEA PNG Country Officer as of 4 April 1999; Mr. T. Brookings is appointed Acting Country Officer.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

PROSEA 12(1): **Medicinal and poisonous plants 1**. Editors: L. S. de Padua (UPLB, Los Baños, Philippines), N. Bunyaphatsara (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand) & R. H. M. J. Lemmens (PROSEA-WAG). Hardbound edition: Backhuys Publishers. Leiden, The Netherlands, 1999. 711 pp. ISBN 90-5782-042-0. Price NLG 350, c. USD 180. Low price paperback edition: PROSEA Bogor, Indonesia, 1999. ISBN 979-8316-27-4. Price c. USD 25.

This first medicinal plants book has been published in September 1999. 711 pages full of wisdom have been compiled by 106 contributors, of which 3 general editors, 3 editors, 8 associate editors, 1 coordinator-associate editor, 1 language corrector, and 4 illustrators. The book contains: an introduction of 50 pages; an alphabetical treatment of 92 genera or species on 432 pages; a literature list of 1660 records, occupying 105 pages; a glossary of 36 pages and an index part of 48 pages. The foreword has been written by Her Royal Highness Princess Dr. Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand. In the introduction quite some basic chemical structures have been illustrated and in a number of papers, in addition to the usual botanical illustration, also the structure of active compounds has been given. In addition to the usual indices on scientific and vernacular plant names, an

extra two are present: one on compounds and one on pharmaceutical terms. In Wageningen the book has been launched officially on September 28, 1999.

PROSEA 13: Spices. Editors: C. C. de Guzman (UPLB, Los Baños, the Philippines) & J. S. Siemonsma (PROSEA WAG). Hardbound edition: Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1999. c. 395 pp. ISBN 90-5782-046-3. Price unknown. Low price paperback edition: PROSEA Bogor, Indonesia, 1999. ISBN 979-8316-34-7. Price unknown.

From now on: don't blame PROSEA for tasteless meals in SE Asia. Each cook has the possibility to select from a variety of spices described in this PROSEA volume, 61 major and 65 minor ones with another 150 species occasionally also used as a spice. General aspects are dealt with in the Introduction of 45 pages. Of the major spices several analyses of the spice oils are given (30 pages), as well as their physical properties and those of the dried spices. About 30 pages with literature references are given. In total, besides the 2 editors, 3 general editors, 3 associate editors, 1 illustrator, 1 language corrector, and 57 authors contributed to this volume. The book will be officially launched at the Workshop in November, 1999.

PROSEA 19: Essential-oil plants. Editors: L. P. A. Oyen (WAG) & X. D. Nguyen (Vietnam). Hardbound edition: Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, 1999. 277 pp. ISBN 90-5782-010-2. Price NLG 160, USD c. 130. Low price paperback edition: PROSEA Bogor, 1999. ISBN 979-8316-24-X. Price USD 7.

This volume has been published in January 1999. It contains: an introduction of 36 pages; 29 papers dealing with 38 important crops on about 120 pages, written by 35 contributors; 31 minor species are described on 15 pages and 400 species with another primary use are listed; the chemical composition of about 40 essential oil samples is given in detail on about 15 pages and a table gives the standard physical properties of some major essential oils; the final part of the book is as usual, including e.g. a literature list, glossary and indexes. In addition to the 2 editors and the authors, 3 general editors, 7 associate editors, an illustrator, and a language corrector contributed to this fragrant book.

COMMODITY GROUPS PROGRESSES (situation September 1999)

PROSEA 5: COMMODITY GROUP CD-ROM 'Timber trees'. Editors: ETI/PROSEA/Pudoc.

After completion of the timber tree trilogy [PROSEA 5(1), 5(2) and 5(3)] a start was made to produce a CD-ROM on the SE Asian timber trees, including the integral texts of the 3 volumes, colour photographs, the respective bibliographies, and a wood identification key based on the wood anatomical descriptions in the three volumes. Unexpected technical problems have delayed the publication for more than a year. It is hoped that the CD can be presented at the Workshop in November 1999.

PROSEA 12(2): Medicinal and poisonous plants 2. Editors: J. L. C. H. van Valkenburg (WAG) & N. Bunyapraphatsara (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand). Coordinator: J. L. C. H. van Valkenburg (WAG).

In the October Newsletter of last year, a call for authors had been published for this second medicinal plants volume. Quite some reactions came in and authors were invited

early this year. Editorial work for this volume started in June 1999. To limit the total number of pages of the book, the average length per paper in print will be about 3 pages, including a botanical illustration. At the beginning of September 1999, of the total of 180 papers about 80 had been received and c. 20 had been edited. Work is progressing well but still a lot has to be done.

PROSEA 12(3): Medicinal and poisonous plants 3. Editors: R.H.M.J. Lemmens (WAG) & N. Bunyaphrathasara (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand). Coordinator: R.H.M.J. Lemmens (WAG).

Work for this volume started in August 1999. In total this third volume of the medicinal plants book will comprise about 320 papers, with about 100 genus (340 species) and 200 single species treatments. The length of each paper will be about 1.5 printed page and about one third of the papers will be illustrated. A call for authors appeared in the PROSEA October 1999 Newsletter and authors will be invited in November 1999.

PROSEA 14: Vegetable oils and fats. Editors: H.A.M. van der Vossen (WAG) & B.E. Umali (UPLB, Los Baños, the Philippines). Coordinators: B.E. Umali (UPLB) & L.P.A. Oyen (WAG).

The book will comprise about 20 major and 25 minor species. A call for authors appeared in the April 1999 PROSEA Newsletter. A sample paper is being prepared and authors' invitations for the major species will be sent in October 1999.

PROSEA 15(1): Cryptogams: Algae. Editors: W.F. Prud'homme van Reine (L) & G.C. Trono (UPLB, Los Baños, the Philippines). Coordinator: E. Westphal (WAG).

Work is progressing slowly but steadily and it is hoped that publication is possible in 2000.

PROSEA 15(2): Cryptogams: Ferns and 15(3): Cryptogams: Fungi

No progress can be reported since last year.

PROSEA 16: Stimulants. Editors: H.A.M. van der Vossen (WAG) & M. Wessel (WAG). Coordinator: S. Brotonegoro (BO).

Although the finishing touch is always time consuming we hope that the book has gone to the printers in November 1999.

PROSEA 18: Plants producing exudates. Editors: E. Boer (WAG) & A.B. Ella (UPLB, Los Baños, the Philippines). Coordinator: E. Boer (WAG).

Of the 14 major papers about 5 have been finished and are under final editorial check up. The rest of the work is also progressing well; for many species information is scarce.