

New Web service for readers old and new



The first edition of the new *Spore* 'Web announcement' appeared with this issue of *Spore*, expanding the services offered to our ever-growing readership. We invite subscribers and other readers who have access to the World Wide Web to subscribe to these announcements.

Since 1998, each issue of *Spore* has been published simultaneously on paper and in electronic form on the World Wide Web. By publishing a Web edition, we are able to help the growing numbers of our core readers in ACP countries who have Web access, and who use it to reprint all or part of each issue.

The Web edition also means that *Spore* is available free-of-charge to readers who are outside the ACP Group or the European Union, or who work in activities which are not central to our mandate. *Spore* is dedicated to agricultural and rural development in ACP countries and it is made available only to people working in those fields in the 77 ACP countries, and to people in the 15 countries of the European Union (which provides operating funds to CTA) who support and cooperate with ACP partners. Other people, whom we call 'secondary' readers, must purchase a subscription – at least for a printed edition (see p 13).

Reaching a wider world

Thanks to the Web edition of *Spore*, we can now communicate our information, which means your information, ACP information, to a much wider world than our printed edition could ever do on its own, with the inevitable ceiling on its budget.

There is, though, a difference between the two editions. The printed edition arrives regularly (we hope!) in your mailbox, is circulated in your organisation, or colleagues and friends pass it on to you. *Spore* comes to you. The Web edition is simply published on the CTA computer, and a number of others, and

the Web reader must 'go' there, by connecting her or his local computer to ours. You go to *Spore*, and you have to remember to do so. The announcement will remind you to do so.

The announcement of every issue

To announce each Web edition of *Spore*, our new service takes the form of an email message which summarises twenty-or-so key items in the new edition, with short descriptions and illustrations. Each item is linked to the full Web edition.

The 'Web announcement' will be in three versions, English, French and Portuguese, linked to the relevant language Web edition. We shall send it to all subscribers and readers of *Spore* on request, plus selected and potential secondary readers.

Conditions

There are two technical conditions. To be able to use this service, it is necessary that the computer system on which you receive this email announcement has an email programme, such as *Outlook* or *Eudora*, which can read "HTML format", in a version numbered 4 or above. Second, it must be able to use the World Wide Web, with a browser such as *Netscape* or *Explorer* in a version numbered 4 or above. If you use an email address on systems such as *hotmail.com*, *yahoo.com*, *yahoo.fr* and *netcape.com*, it will work.

There is no charge for this service from *Spore*, but please do not underestimate the time and cost of your Internet connection to the World Wide Web.

Receiving, stopping or changing the service

If you are a subscriber to *Spore* and if your email address is known to CTA, we shall send you an email with this information, inviting you to subscribe to the announcement.

If you are not a *Spore* subscriber, or if you are but you have not told CTA your email address, to receive the English announcement, please send an email with no text in the message and with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line to announce-en@spore-magazine.org (To receive the French announcement, do the same, to annonce-fr@spore-magazine.org, and for the Portuguese announcement to annonce-po@spore-magazine.org). If you want the "text-only" version, without graphics, please add the words "text only" as the text of your message.

You will receive the email announcement at the email address from which you sent your request. If you want to receive it at a different address(es), please write this in the text of the message.

To stop receiving the announcement, please send an email as above but with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject.

To change the email address where you receive the announcement, please send two emails; one to unsubscribe the old address, and the second to subscribe the new one.

Other services continue

This is an additional service for PDS subscribers and it does not make any difference to your subscription to the printed edition, nor to your other PDS publications services.

Mailbox

Better links for subscribers?

Also from Nigeria, in Ado-Ekiti, **Pastor Emmanuel Akindele** asks us to "produce a register of subscribers, to increase information exchange about development opportunities".

Nice idea Pastor, but a bit impractical since it would be a book with one thousand pages! We'll study the idea some more, and in the meantime subscribers will have to meet on the pages of Spore.

Safe solar drying

David Yisa of Minna, Nigeria, asks "how to maintain the natural colour of sun dried tomatoes and peppers, and avoid blackening. We heard of sulphit-

ing, but do not know the amounts to be safe to consumers".

Several practitioners on the Internet suggest the following. Before sun drying the fruit, make a solution of one gallon (4.5 litres) of clean cold water with one tablespoon (tbs) of sodium bisulphite (or 2 tbs of sodium sulphite, or 4 tbs of sodium metabisulphite). Soak the fruit for 5 minutes, rinse in clean cold water, pat dry and lay out for drying.

How do I get to the market?



■ A farmer's life is characterised by making decisions, every minute of the day and every day of the year. When and what to sow, when and what to harvest and when and what to sell. At best a farmer is able to make educated guesses. Most factors influencing farmers' decisions cannot be predicted. Think about the weather, pests and last but not least the market.

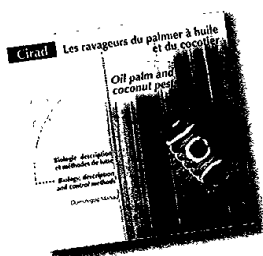
FAO's *Understanding and Using Market Information* offers an overview of the risks and opportunities of different sources of market information. It discusses the role of media like the radio, newspapers and market information services, and how to interpret their information. It describes the intermediaries between producers and consumers and their

influences on price development, both in the short and the long run. It explains how various costs between farmer and market can be calculated and what farmers can do to get the best price for their product.

The guide is clearly written and amusingly illustrated with cartoons. This handy publication will suit the farmer, student or extension worker. Since it can be put to good use by farmers themselves, how about some editions in 'local' languages?

Understanding and Using Market Information
Marketing Extension Guide No 2, by A W Shepherd, Marketing and Rural Finance Service, FAO, Rome, 2000. 90 pp. ISSN 1020-7317
Free of charge
Marketing and Rural Finance Service, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 570 56 850
Email: ags-registry@fao.org
The Guide can also be downloaded in pdf format at
Website: www.fao.org/ag/ags/agsm/marketn.htm

Pests are queuing up to be found



■ An oil palm and a coconut are quite different plants, but they also have various things in common. Unfortunately, these

include pests, mainly insects. This bilingual CD-ROM (English and French) contains fact-sheets on each pest or insect, basic information on its biological features and geographical occurrence, the damage they cause and possible control measures: more than 170 oil palm and coconut pests are covered. Information can be traced through three routes.

The CD allows alphabetical searching, by zoological names, and searching by criteria: by

type of damage, life stage of the insect and so on. Each fact-sheet is illustrated with colour photographs, and 800 references classed by insect order are included.

Oil palm and coconut pests. Biology, description and control methods
Marius D. (Cirad-cp), Cirad, 2000
ISBN: 2 87614 437 9 Référence: 802
FF 360 • € 54.90
La librairie du Cirad
TA 283104
Avenue Agropolis
34398 Montpellier Cedex 5, France
Fax: +33 4 67 61 55 47
Website: www.cirad.fr

How to obtain these publications



The green leaf symbol indicates publications that are on CTA's list. Subscribers to the Publications Distribution Service (PDS) can obtain them from CTA. All other publications, indicated by an orange square, are available from the publishers listed, or through commercial outlets, but not from CTA. Publications on CTA's list are available free-of-charge to PDS

subscribers. Subscribers can order publications on CTA's list up to the value of the credit points available to them. Subscribers can only request publications on the order forms provided.

Non-subscribers who wish to join the scheme should write to CTA for an application form. Applications will be considered from agricultural and rural development organisations in the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States; individ-

uals resident in ACP countries may also apply.

If you are not eligible for a free subscription to the PDS, or if you need publications beyond your free credit allocation, you may buy publications on CTA's list from our commercial distributor: Triops, Hinderburgstrasse 33, D-64295 Darmstadt, Germany, Fax: +49 6151 314 048, Email: triops@triops.de, Website: <http://www.triops.de>

Check, counter & control

■ More than 20 institutes, 15 of them African, participated in a joint research programme, the results of which are presented in this rich, solid, but specialised book.

Animal Trypanosomosis: Diagnosis and Epidemiology
Published by the FAO and the IAEA, 2000. 256 pp. ISBN 90 5782 065 x
Free of charge
Animal Production and Health Section
Joint FAO/IAEA division
P O Box 100
A-1400 Vienna
Austria
Fax: +43 1 260 07
Email: official.mail@iaea.org

Feeding cities

■ A persuasive introduction for city fathers (and mothers?) in urban agriculture, food supply and distribution.

Food for the Cities. Food Supply and Distribution Policies to Reduce Urban Food Insecurity. A Briefing Guide for Mayors, City Executives and Urban Planners in Developing Countries and Countries in Transition
By O. Argenti, FAO, Food into cities collection, 2000. pp 40
Marketing and Rural Finance Service
Agricultural Support Systems Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome
Italy
Free of charge
Fax: +39 06 570 568 50
Email: sadaseries@fao.org
The text is also available at
Website: www.fao.org/ag/ags/AGSM/SADA/SADA5-5-HTML

A change in management

■ This collection of Asian experiences has lessons of universal value. It addresses the key issues facing NGO managers and explores areas such as effective leadership, the handling of donor relations, staff motivation and development, and the management styles most appropriate to crises and change.

Managing for Change: Leadership, Strategy and Management in Asian NGOs
By J. Smillie and J. Halley
Earthscan & Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2001. 193 pp. ISBN: 1853837229
GBP 16.95 • € 27.40
Earthscan Publications Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN, UK
Fax: +44 171 278 1142
Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk