

- ① Upland rice extension project in Burkina Faso
- ② Bagre Right Bank Farmland Reclamation Project in Burkina Faso
- ③ The ROC and Thailand sign an agricultural technical cooperation contract



## Asia Pacific and the Middle East

Although it enjoys formal diplomatic relations with only five countries in the Asia Pacific region, the ROC is cultivating productive relations throughout the Asian continent. The ICDF is at the vanguard of this work, and currently has personnel, projects and volunteers active not only in the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands (the ROC's diplomatic allies), but also in Myanmar, Indonesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia and Afghanistan.

Because of Asia's vast geographical extent, different regions and nations have widely divergent development needs. In Southeast and East Asia, for example, ICDF projects are helping increase grain output and crop diversification, easing pressure caused by high population density. In the Asia-Pacific region, rich in marine resources and tourism potential, the ICDF is helping nations tap their tourism resources, develop non-polluting industries, and plan the development of fisheries and aquaculture industries. In the Middle East, the ICDF is helping two nations inject new vitality into their economies, with development of agricultural industries and products. In numerous other countries across Asia, the introduction of high-value crops, the modification of growing periods and the adoption of new marketing plans are helping farmers increase their outputs and reduce grain imports.

Due to their geographic isolation, limited resources and underdeveloped human resources, poverty remains a problem in many of the Asia Pacific nations allied with the ROC, and insufficient agricultural output requires them to import critical staple foods. Although implementation of helpful fiscal and currency policies have helped stabilize economies in the region in recent years, the global economic slowdown in 2001 resulted in slow growth, expected to be only one percent during the year (World Bank). Vigorous development of established and new local industries, as well as of staple crops and other food industries are priorities in these nations.

### Royal Project in Thailand

The ICDF is training Thai agricultural technicians in this cooperative project, and helping the Thai Royal family encourage hill people living in northern Thailand to cease growing opium poppies and switch to high-value agricultural crops. Diversified crops including vegetables, flowers, mushrooms and tea have been emphasized, as has food processing. Because the project has made progress in eliminating opium poppy production and improving the living standards of the people living in northern Thailand, it has been ranked as one of the most successful in the Asia Pacific Region.



### Fisheries and Tourism Development in the Asia Pacific Region

Because the nations the ICDF works with in the Asia Pacific region are maritime nations, development of the fisheries and tourism industries are deemed priorities. The International Workshop on Fishery Policy and Management for the South Pacific Region, conducted by the ICDF and National Taiwan Ocean University in July 2001, brought together fishing professionals from the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Niue Island, Fiji, the Cook Islands and Palau. Academics and experts from Taiwanese universities, fisheries research institutes and fishermen's associations joined workshop participants in discussing fisheries regulation and management, environmental issues, fisheries fleet control, seafood markets, cooperation among maritime nations and coastal development. The seminar embraced the newly-minted ROC policy of "cooperative relationships in diplomacy and fisheries," which the ICDF is continuing to support.

#### Tourism Development

This year the ICDF offered tourism development classes helping allied and friendly nations manage and develop their tourism industries—an area in which the region has competitive advantage. In the Asia Pacific region, the ICDF assisted Palau in conducting a tourism development feasibility study, focusing on improving service quality and linkage with related industries.

### Agriculture, Horticulture and Aquaculture in Asia Pacific and the Middle East

Production in agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture are not fully developed in many Asian nations, and so these industries are central to ICDF work in Asia Pacific and the Middle East. Development of advantageous nascent industries such as aquaculture and horticulture are spurring economic growth, while production of valuable food crops for export and domestic consumption is being encouraged through the work of cooperative farmer's groups and teams.

#### Integrated Production and Marketing

The ICDF technical mission in Indonesia is supporting government policy of developing agribusiness, by introducing high-quality vegetables and joint marketing and distribution approaches, and helping farmers organize themselves into Production Marketing Teams. The technical mission in the Marshall Islands is helping local farmers cultivate horticultural crops, and is performing fruit tree and vegetable variety localization. The goal of this work is to reduce dependence on imported fruits and vegetables, and promote sustainable agriculture concepts.

Far from the Asia Pacific region, the ICDF is cooperating with two countries in the Middle East. Because of their petroleum resources, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are economically secure, but both are working to extend the parameters of their economies.



- ① Tourism and fisheries development seminar
- ② Horticultural Crop Development project in the Marshall Islands
- ③ Aquaculture development in Indonesia
- ④ ⑤ Aquaculture development in Saudi Arabia

The ICDF is currently helping these nations strengthen areas of their agricultural sectors, which account for only six percent of gross domestic product in Saudi Arabia, and one percent in Bahrain (The World Factbook). In Bahrain, the ICDF is helping the nation develop its horticulture industry in a project promoting ornamental cultivation, bedding plants, pot flowers and cut flowers. Also in Bahrain, an ICDF landscaping project is providing technical consultation and assisting in garden design and urban landscaping concepts developed during city beautification in the ROC.

#### Aquaculture Development in Saudi Arabia

The ICDF is cooperating with Saudi Arabia in developing the nation's fisheries and aquaculture industries. Fish disease prevention work is being performed, fresh and saltwater fish research is being conducted, aquaculture technicians are being trained and national fisheries policy assistance is being provided. Aquaculture production rose from 331 metric tons in 1988, to 5,040 metric tons in 1998, in part as a result of cooperative aquaculture development in Saudi Arabia.





International Conference on Agricultural Policy and Rural Development

## ICDF Asia Pacific and Middle East Projects, 2001

### Afghanistan

- Emergency refugee relief

### Bahrain

- Horticulture project
- Landscaping project

### Fiji

- Off-season vegetable project

### Indonesia

- Agricultural integration project
- Livestock project
- Aquaculture project
- Cooperative rural saving and credit system

### Marshall Islands

- Horticultural crop development project
- Livestock project

### Mongolia

- Scholarships for elementary school students

### Myanmar

- Overseas volunteer project

### Nauru

- Loan to Meilun Hotel
- Milkfish aquaculture and management demonstration project

### Palau

- Horticulture and miscellaneous crop extension project
- Palau tourism feasibility research project

### Papua New Guinea

- Cereal grain production project
- Vegetable and miscellaneous crop production-marketing project
- Third urban water supply project

### Saudi Arabia

- Agriculture/fishing technology cooperation project
- Transportation technology cooperation project
- Printing technology cooperation project

### Solomon Islands

- Rice cultivation project
- Rural credit project

### Thailand

- Northern Thailand horticulture and forestry development project
- Thai Royal project

### The Philippines

- Subic Bay industrial zone project, stages I and II
- SME re-lending project
- Re-lending program for agriculture and food processing machinery

### Tuvalu

- Assistance for functional improvement of basic educational equipment

### Vietnam

- SME re-lending project
- Rehabilitation and upgrade of Highway No. 5