

50th Anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

The occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture has again been an exceedingly productive year. In addition to our ongoing activities reported extensively in this volume, we have taken this opportunity to highlight several examples of tangible, sustainable results derived out of this unique partnership – beneficial to both our parent organizations and to our Member States – and to share these with our many stakeholders around the world and at the celebratory ceremony of this partnership.

New communication materials outlining successes in the area of nuclear techniques:

- <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/resources-nafa/IAEAsuccessStories-2014.pdf>
- <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/resources-nafa/ProgBrochure-2014.pdf>
- <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/resources-nafa/LabBrochure-2014.pdf>

We have also updated our website and urge you especially to check out our News section at <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/news/index-ss.html>.

On 29 September 2014, a ceremony was held in Seibersdorf to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division as well as the ground-breaking for the renovation of the IAEA's nuclear sciences and applications laboratories at Seibersdorf – including the FAO/IAEA Agriculture & Biotechnology Laboratories. This ceremony was honoured by the presence of the president and members of the IAEA Board of Governors, the IAEA DG and senior management, a representative of the FAO Director General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director General – Coordinator of Natural Resources), and, believe it or not, all the former directors of the Joint Division since its inception in 1964. Achievement awards in mutation breeding were presented during the IAEA General Conference on 24 September 2014 by IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. The awards were devised by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division to celebrate worldwide successes in this field and to promote the development of further sustainable crop varieties. The awards honour teams of scientists that have contributed substantively to global food security and sustainable

agricultural development by using radiation to breed improved crop varieties.

The enormous contributions of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division and its numerous stakeholders worldwide to meet the changing needs of Member States through the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies are today clearly demonstrated in the shared goals of our two parent organizations and in the five strategic objectives of the FAO: to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; to reduce rural poverty; to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and to increase the resilience of livelihood to disaster.

It is our fervent hope that, with the continued support and dedication of our numerous stakeholders worldwide, the



IDG Amano and DDG Semedo cut a 50th anniversary cake.

Joint Division will also in the future be able to provide excellent examples of the enormous contributions that peaceful nuclear technology can make to sustainable agricultural development. With this in mind, it is our unequivocal pleasure to thank each and every one of you for your dedicated support to the Joint

Division during the past fifty years and to embrace your continued support in the decades ahead.

Background info:

Established on 1 October 1964, the FAO and IAEA created the Joint FAO/IAEA Division as a strategic partnership in order to mobilize the talents and resources of both organizations and hence to broaden cooperation between their Member States in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in a safe and effective manner to provide their communities with more, better and safer food and agricultural produce while sustaining natural resources.

Fifty years later, this FAO/IAEA partnership still remains unique, with its key strengths based on interagency cooperation within the United Nations family. It is a tangible joint organizational entity with a fusion of complementary mandates, common targets, a joint programme, co-funding and coordinated management. It entails close cooperation, greater efficiency and shared approaches, and geared to demand-driven and results-based services to its Members and to the international community at large.

Nuclear applications provide added value to conventional approaches in addressing a range of agricultural problems

and issues, including food safety, animal production and health, crop improvement, insect pest control and sustainable use of finite natural resources. Over the past 50 years, this partnership has brought countless successes with distinct socio-economic impact at country, regional and global levels in Member States.

During the past 50 years the mission of the Joint Division has proactively evolved to embrace the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and the adverse effects of globalisation, to increase biodiversity and to further contribute to agricultural development and global food security. Today, both FAO and IAEA strive to mobilize commitment and concerted action towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals through appropriate use of nuclear and related technologies for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Strong synergies and benefits of this relationship include:

- Strengthened mandates of FAO and IAEA through the unique partnership;
- Facilitated cooperation and increased efficiency;
- Privileged access for Member States to invaluable knowledge;
- Institutional links with key stakeholders at local, regional and global levels;
- Platform for cooperation with other international organizations;
- Increased mobilization of resources and fund-raising capacity in food and agriculture;
- Fortified capacity for technology development and transfer to Member States through the joint laboratories.

ReNuAL

Breaking Ground on the Future

Nuclear Applications Laboratories

On 29 September, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano was joined in Seibersdorf by representatives of Member States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as IAEA staff members, to break ground on the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the FAO/IAEA Joint Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. There were over 200 participants, with 48 Member States represented.

ReNuAL is an initiative to modernize the eight laboratories in Seibersdorf that belong to the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. The project calls for the construction of a new Insect Pest Control Laboratory (IPCL) to replace the existing IPCL, and a new Flexible Modular Laboratory (FML) to house three additional laboratories, by the end of 2017.



Participants join DG in the groundbreaking

DG Amano was joined for this event by IAEA Board of Governors Chair Ms Marta Ziakova, and FAO Deputy Director General and Coordinator for Natural Resources Ms Maria Helen Semedo, who each delivered remarks in support of ReNuAL and the achievements of the Joint Division.

In his remarks, DG Amano said, "Our symbolic groundbreaking today marks the start of the implementation of the ReNuAL project. I am

confident that with the active support of Member States, by 2017, we will have a cluster of modern, well-equipped laboratories here in Seibersdorf that we can all be proud of."

Moving from Planning to Construction

In July, an architectural and engineering firm was contracted to develop the conceptual designs for the Insect Pest Control Laboratory and the Flexible Modular Laboratory, and to update the master plan for the Seibersdorf site. This plan will guide the development to be carried out in the frame of ReNuAL and other related initiatives on the site.



Initial rendering of the new Insect Pest Control Laboratory.

The conceptual design for the IPCL has been completed, and will be completed for the FML by the end of November. Planning for the latter is more complex as it will house multiple laboratories and is being designed to allow laboratory space to be more easily adapted to