

XIII. THE PROSEA PROJECT
(PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA)
(continued from Volume 9, page 438)

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The major task facing the PROSEA project during the period 1987–1990 is to lay a sound basis for the Implementation Phase 1991–1995, while at the same time concrete results have to be produced. The project will achieve this by internationalization, documentation, consultation, and publication.

Internationalization. — PROSEA is trying to establish a network of cooperating institutions in Southeast Asia, which will act as centres of activity for PROSEA in the respective countries. Main objectives are to gather existing information and expertise on the plant resources. Each centre will have a country officer paid by PROSEA. Missions were held to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. The following institutes agreed to become a coordinating agency for PROSEA:

- Thailand: The Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) at Bangkok.
- Malaysia: FRIM at Kepong, MARDI at Serdang or Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (decision not yet taken by the institutes).
- Indonesia: The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) at Jakarta. LIPI has designated the Centre for Research and Development in Biology in Bogor as the executing agency, where also the headquarters of the field network will be housed. Dr. J. S. Siemonsma will be the coordinator for PROSEA (operational summer 1988).
- The Philippines: The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) at Los Baños.
- Papua New Guinea: The Papua New Guinea University of Technology in Lae.

In February 1988 a PROSEA mission went to Australia to look for possibilities of cooperation. Perspectives are promising.

In Europe discussions were held with Kew and Paris about possibilities for cooperation. The Economic & Conservation Section of Kew, with the SEPASAT Databank, is interested in cooperation; Dr. J. Dransfield (K) is willing to be one of the editors of the volume on rattans, Dr. S. Dransfield (K) similarly for the volume on bamboos. Dr. J. Vidal (P) and Dr. J. Barrau (P) were very positive and saw possibilities for cooperation especially for species of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Documentation. — PROSEA developed a documentation system called SAPRIS (SE. Asian Plant Resources Information System), using an Olivetti M 24 micro-computer (MS-DOS operating system) and the software package INMAGIC (version 7) for information storage and retrieval. SAPRIS consists of 4 data bases, viz. BASELIST, CATALOG, PERSONYM & ORGANYM.

BASELIST is a checklist of plant species that have to be considered to be dealt with by the project. It holds at present 6615 records, each record with data on names and uses of a

single species. The list is based on the species treated by Heyne (1927), Burkill (1935; 1966), Brown (1941–1943), and Reyes (1938). Species names, family names, synonyms, uses (commodity groups) are indexed. Old scientific names are being updated. The Flora Malesiana is the standard for the already published families.

CATALOG holds references to secondary literature on PROSEA species: monographs, bibliographies, reviews and the like.

PERSONYM holds references to researchers on the Southeast Asian plant resources.

ORGANYM holds references to institutions and organizations that are relevant to PROSEA. On line searches are carried out, using the data bases AGRALIN, AGRICOLA, AGRIS, ASFA, BIOSIS PREVIEWS, CAB ABSTRACTS, and TROPAG.

Consultation & Publication. — Timely reflection on project course, form and contents of the output, project organization and future funding is necessary. (See PROSEA Symposium announcement, Chapter 9).

Call for cooperation. — We would welcome suggestions for experts or specialists from all over the world for the commodity groups: DYES & TANNINS and EDIBLE FRUITS & NUTS. If you are interested in the Symposium please ask for the First Announcement from the PROSEA Secretariat at the above address.