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Projects building on the PLEC approach make progress

Progress has been made in securing funding for extending and up-scaling the work of PLEC colleagues. Some groups have already obtained funds. In Thailand, the project 'Agrodiversity for *in situ* Conservation and Management of Thailand's Native Rice Germplasm', with a grant from McKnight Foundation, has reported its preliminary results. In Brazil a grant from the Overbook Foundation is supporting work in the Amapá sites, and in Papua New Guinea funds from the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme have been provided for field activities on community-based landscape rehabilitation.

In Ghana, the 'Sustainable land management for mitigating land degradation, enhancing agricultural biodiversity and reducing poverty in Ghana (SLaM)' project expects to begin activities by October 2004 with funding mainly under the GEF medium size grant programme. The project was proposed by a University of Ghana-led group of scientists and institutes, backed by UNDP with the Government of Ghana as the executing agency. With the financial support of the United Nations University (UNU) the first implementation planning meeting for the project was held in June in Accra, attended by scientists from WAPLEC, representatives of PLEC Farmers' Associations, representatives of the Ghana Government and Liang Louhui from UNU. (see p 21 below)

In South America a proposal put forward by PLEC-Peru has obtained funding from the Tinker Foundation and demonstrations will be the main activities to be financed by the new grant. JICA has approved a project for a PLEC-Brazil proposal for floodplain management in Amapá State.



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