



Dear WGA members !

I am happy to present the July issue of the WGA newsletter to you.

Topics that will be included are :

- A success story from the Abaca Sustainable Initiative project in the Phillipines.
- Two new members: (1) Jonathan Ziebula and the Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector – India; and (2) Anja Erlbeck from the remote sensing-based information and insurance for crops in emerging economies (RIICE)
- An update on the SNRD Asia steering committee meeting.
- The SNRD Asia newsletter and a round up of publications.
- A reader on sustainable energy solutions in agriculture.

Success story: sustainable
Abaca production in the
Phillipines

Interventions of the Abaca Sustainable Initiative have allowed Phillipine farmers to obtain Rain Forest Alliance certification improving the market prices of their

(1) New member!

We are happy to welcome Jonathan Ziebula as our newest WG Agriculture member. He is the project director of the Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector India based in Bangalore. The Green Innovation Centres support farmers,

products and ensuring sustainable production of abaca.

As one farmer explains: “As we comply, we started growing taller and healthier abaca stalks, producing better quality of abaca fiber.” Read more on this [success story here](#) or check the video below.



SNRD Asia and TUEWAS
Annual Face-to-Face Steering
Group Meeting

Let's all get on the same page of what happened, is to happen from now, and onward to 2018 with the report on results of the recently concluded Face-to-Face Steering Group Meeting. Also, for a sneak peek at 2018 Conference theme, [read here](#).



farming enterprises and organisations with trainings, advice on good agricultural practices and innovations along the potato and tomato value chain. Please see our [success story](#) for a practical example of our work and the SNRD WGA website for more in depth information about [the project](#).



(2) Another new member!

We are also happy to introduce Anja Erlbeck. She is the new regional project manager of the Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging economies (RIICE) project. This project aims to help government decision makers to better manage domestic rice production and distribution by using remote sensing data and tools. Read more about this project on the [project page](#) of the SNRD website and the [project leaflet](#).

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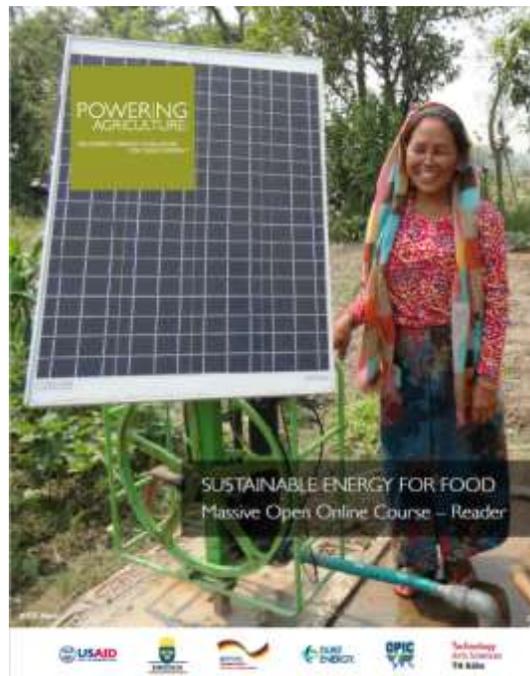
The June issue of SNRD Asia newsletter is now out! Get updated on what our colleagues and the WGs have been up to [here](#).

Also, don't miss out on "[Documents](#)" section where we have rounded up publications in the area of food and what not which might be of your interest.



Reader on sustainable energy
solutions in agriculture

We would also like to highlight a new reader that was produced about sustainable energy solutions in agriculture. The reader was produced and used in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) organised by GIZ energy and agriculture. You can find the reader through this [link](#).



About the SNRD Asia

SNRD Asia is GIZ internal platform for learning, sharing sector-specific knowledge and networking of like-minded professionals in the field of natural resources and rural development. It stands for Sector Network Natural Resources and Rural Development in Asia, and currently links over 50 program and projects in 21 Asia-Pacific countries, as well as global and sector projects. There are seven Working Groups constituting this network: (1) Agriculture, (2) Biodiversity, (3) Climate Change Adaptation (4) Hills to Ocean, (5) Green Education, (6) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and (7) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

If you would like to share anything in the next newsletter or if you have other questions or remarks, please contact Sebastiaan Merten (sebastiaan.merten@giz.de)

This newsletter was send on behalf of WGA speaker Suriyan Vichitlekarn and WGA co-speaker Elisabeth Fischer.