



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
粮食及
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Food
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pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 19-26 November 2005

PRESENTATION OF THE B.R. SEN AWARDS 2004 AND 2005

1. The FAO Conference, at its Fourteenth Session (November 1967) decided that in recognition of former Director-General Mr B.R. Sen's "role in transforming FAO from a study organization to a development agency" (FAO Council Report of 51st Session), a "B.R. Sen Award" be established for presentation at the beginning of each regular session of the Conference. The Council, at its Fifty-first Session (October 1968), ratified the proposal that a yearly award be given to the field officer who had made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he or she had been assigned, in particular in the fields of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security.
2. Any FAO field officer who has served under any of the programmes operated by FAO during the year for which the Award is made, is eligible for nomination.
3. The Award recipient is entitled to:
 - a medal engraved with the name of the recipient;
 - a scroll describing his or her achievements;
 - a cash prize of US\$5 000;
 - round trip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient, spouse and young children if they cannot be left unattended at the duty station.
4. Prior to the Conference, the B.R. Sen Award Selection Committee, chaired by the Director-General and comprising the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees, makes a final decision on the basis on the shortlists submitted by the inter-departmental Screening Committee¹, supplemented by the endorsements received from the Governments where the nominees are serving or have served.

¹ The B.R. Sen Award Screening Committee is chaired by the Deputy Director-General, and comprises the Assistant Directors-General of the headquarters' departments as well as the Legal Counsel, the Directors of TCO and TCA, and the Chief TCOM as Secretary.

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5. The Awards for 2004 and 2005 will be presented during a special ceremony at the beginning of the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference. For 2004, the recipient of the Award is Mr Heiko Bammann from Germany, and for 2005, the recipient is Mr Patrick T. Evans from the United States. Brief notes on the two Award winners and their achievements follow.

Mr Heiko BAMMANN

6. Mr Heiko Bammann was born on 24 November 1961 in Germany. He holds a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Agricultural Economics, Socio-Economics and Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics, as well as a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Göttingen. He also holds a Postgraduate Certificate of Agriculture Development from the Centre for Advanced Training in Agricultural Development (CATAD), Technical University of Berlin.

7. Prior to joining FAO, Mr. Bammann performed research on animal production in the Sahel as well as farming systems research in Guatemala. In 1994, he joined FAO as an Associate Professional Officer – Farming Systems Analysis for the Agricultural Support Systems Division (AGS). In 1997, he was appointed Farming Systems Development and Marketing Officer in the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, where he is still serving.

8. Since the beginning of 2003, Mr Bammann developed an innovative project design to promote farming as a business, and to provide a much needed source of income for unemployed small farmers, with special attention to rural youth. This design was put into practise through a considerable number of TCP projects developed and technically supported by Mr Bammann, with the common objective of creating awareness and capacity for using marketing and farm management concepts and methods in seven Pacific Island countries. The capacity building components of the projects, and the participatory approach, assisted small farmers to improve their livelihoods based on the application of sustainable agriculture techniques, sound farm management, and good planning and marketing decisions. This is seen as a significant contribution towards poverty alleviation and creation of household food security in the subregion.

9. In addition, Mr Bammann has been extremely successful in mobilizing a network of well-experienced and recognized regional and international experts to support capacity building activities and to contribute to the design of complementary educational materials, resulting in the creation of the FAO Pacific Farm Management and Marketing Series. The publications are integrally linked with the field programme, demonstrating strong synergies between normative and operational work.

10. He has also worked to extend the scope of his collaboration to include local farmers' and other civil society organizations, thus contributing to long-term success and sustainability of the activities initiated under the TCP projects.

11. The approach introduced by Mr Bammann to the concepts of commercialization of small farmers and "farming as a business" has led to their wider adoption and acceptance in the region. Several regional and international agencies have since launched projects which are based on Mr Bammann's project design template, demonstrating its universal utility for the region.

12. The achievements were realised with the support of the technical division based at FAO headquarters and close collaboration with members of the multi-disciplinary team in the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, and Mr. Bammann's leadership and perseverance were key factors to their realization. He has been the main driving force throughout the stages of the project cycle, with his focused and target-oriented approach. The work started by Mr Bammann can be seen as innovative, not only for the Pacific but also for other regions, and has received positive responses from member countries and development partners.

Mr Patrick EVANS

13. Mr Patrick Evans was born on 15 October 1954 in the United States. He has a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Forestry Resources and International Forestry Development from the University of Idaho, and a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Forestry Science from Pennsylvania State University.

14. He began his career as a Research Assistant and Forestry Technician for the US Department of Agriculture, after which he spent two years in Paraguay as a Forestry Extensionist for the US Peace Corps. This experience was followed by work as an instructor, consultant and manager of forest land.

15. Mr Evans joined FAO in 1988 as an Associate Professional Officer – Agroforestry Extension stationed in Nepal for two years, followed by a period as Training/Extension Expert in the same country. He has since worked on several projects in Asia and Latin America as Chief Technical Adviser and Agroforestry Consultant. In 1997 he was appointed Community Forestry Consultant/Officer-in-Charge of Phase I of the Belgian-funded project “Participatory natural resources management in the Tonle Sap Region” in Cambodia, after which he was designated Team Leader for Phases II and III of the same project (GCP/CMB/008/BEL).

16. Mr Evans has encouraged and promoted the practice of community-based natural resources management in Cambodia, where natural resources had been exploited without effective policies or a legal framework throughout the decades of civil strife and economic hardship. Through his advocacy and demonstrated success, community-based natural resources management has been popularly accepted as a norm for pursuing sustainable development. It is now also pursued by, or included in, many projects supported by other donors. This has resulted in protection and better management of forestry and fisheries resources, resulting also in the reduction of illicit logging and fishing and at the same time, in the improvement in livelihoods and food security of the communities in Siem Reap.

17. Specifically, the project managed by Mr Evans has successfully mobilized 79 villages in the Siem Reap province, the home site of the World Heritage Angkor Wat, leading to the villagers’ agreement to protect and better manage their forest land, totalling 20 000 hectares, through community forests development. Innovative environment awareness and protection campaigns have been launched and additional income generation activities introduced to reduce the demand for firewood and the pressure on natural resources.

18. The project has also facilitated the mobilization of fishing communities for the protection and improved management of fisheries resources of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, a home for rich biodiversity. It started in 1997 with a pilot unit of 2 600 hectares of fishing grounds; under Mr Evans’ dynamic leadership the project has been able to organize or mobilize 14 community fisheries organizations in Siem Reap, comprised of 116 villages, which are now protecting and sustainably managing 108 000 hectares of flood forests and open lake fisheries resources. In addition, Mr Evans and his team assisted the Government of Cambodia in establishing an appropriate legislative framework and plan of action for community fisheries.

19. The achievements were realized, albeit under difficult conditions, due to the personal and professional quality of Mr Evans as Team Leader, as well as to his tact and dedicated leadership. He was able to mobilize the project team and the many stakeholders involved, in particular the members of the rural communities and relevant authorities.

20. The success of the Belgian-funded projects, which ended in April 2005, has led to the approval of two new projects, formulated in large part by Mr Evans: “Organizing Communities for Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve”(UTF/CMB/015/CMB) and “Community Forestry Development in Northwestern Cambodia”(GCP/CMB/026/NZE).