

**XI. THE PROSEA PROJECT
(PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA)**

(continued from page 249)

P. C. M. JANSEN

POB 341, 6700 AH Wageningen, The Netherlands

PROSEA publishes its own newsletter which originally was published in Wageningen, the Netherlands, but from April 1991 is edited by J. Kartasubrata and N. Wulijarni-Soetjpto, Herbarium Bogoriense, POB 234, Bogor 16122, Indonesia.

From December 10–12, 1990, the Multilateral Steering Committee held its third meeting in Manila. The Committee has been dissolved and has been replaced by a Board of trustees, in which all members will be represented.

Recently the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, has been invited to take a seat. The IEBR has actively contributed since 1989 by compiling species lists and vernacular names, and by contributions to the Handbook volumes.

A workshop 'Botany – 2000 Asia' was held at Point Bacon, W. Australia, on 15–20 October 1990. It was agreed that PROSEA was an excellent program and it was recommended that Botany-2000 and SEABOP should cooperate closely with it. This would provide an international umbrella under UNESCO, the expertise of taxonomic specialists, and the mutual sponsorship of various training programs in herbarium techniques. PROSEA can then also participate in some coming meetings: the Zingiberaceae Workshop, Haat Yai, Thailand, 15–18 October, 1991, the Rutaceae Workshop on conjunction with ASOMS, Manila, February 1992, and the International Botanical Congress, Japan, 1993.

PROSEA plaques were presented to Dr. S. Atmosoedaryo (27 September 1990) and Dr. W.M. Otto (30 November 1990). Dr. Atmosoedaryo was a co-founder of PROSEA and ignited the interest of the Indonesian government. Dr. Otto contributed significantly to the launching of PROSEA in the Netherlands. Both initiated the 'Plant Resources of South-East Asia; proposal for a handbook' booklet (1986).

Dr. J.S. Siemonsma resigned as head of the Network Office in late December 1990 and took up position at the Publication Office in Wageningen. Dr. S. Kadarsan has been acting as interim Head.

The Country Office Indonesia is translating 'Pulses' into Indonesian.

The manuscript of 'Edible fruits and nuts' edited by Dr. E.W.M. Verhey was sent to the printers in 1991. It will contain 95 articles, 274 short descriptions, and a list of 408 species with other primary use.

The manuscript of 'Dye and tannin-producing plants' is also at the printers. It contains 49 articles, 37 descriptions, and a list of 334 species with other primary uses.

Work on the final version of the basic list of species and commodity grouping is continuing. With approximately 7000 names to check progress is slow, but should be finished by the end of 1991.

Invitations were sent to authors of 'Forages' for about 100 articles. About 50 drafts have been received. Dr. Jones will join Dr. 't Mannetje to finish the editorial work. Publication is expected by the end of 1991 or early 1992.

A meeting of the editors of the volume on major commercial timbers was held in Bogor in December 1990: Dr. I. Soerianegara is first editor, Dr. R.H.M.J. Lemmens succeeds Dr. F.S.P. Ng as second editor. General editors are Drs. J. Kartasubrata, P.C.M. Jansen, and E. Westphal. Several regional associate editors have been suggested. In the volume micro-photographs of wood anatomy will be included and existing drawings wherever possible. A timber database has been prepared to include all Dipterocarpaceae listed in the FM. A sample treatment of *Heritiera* was written by Lemmens and Soerianegara.

The work on 'Vegetables' is progressing well.

The PROSEA literature databank consists of two components:

- CATALOG, in which international literature obtained through on-line searches in the large existing databanks of other organizations is stored.
- PREPHASE, in which less accessible literature, mainly from S.E. Asia is compiled manually by the Network in 5 S.E. Asian countries.

CATALOG now contains over 40,000 records. Duplicate records exist and will be removed in the final checking after which it will be distributed to the country offices, although the how and means are not yet clear. The support of the publisher PUDOC must be mentioned. It provides the facilities to do the searches free of charge and is involved in the distribution of the database. It has made preliminary arrangements with the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB) from which about 25% of the records have been collected. CAB will hopefully not claim royalties when this information is distributed to third parties on a non-commercial basis.

PREPHASE has surpassed the 10,000 mark and is still growing rapidly.