

May 2001  
Number 23

## The Vetiver Network



### Vetiver Network Officers

President: James Smyle  
Vice-Pres.: Joan Miller  
Treasurer: Richard Grimshaw  
Secretary: Mark Dafforn  
Coordinator: Joan Miller

### Board of Directors

Richard Grimshaw, Chairman  
Shawki Barghouti  
Cornelis des Bouvrie  
Mark Dafforn  
John Greenfield  
Criss Juliard  
James Smyle  
Sumet Tantivejkul  
Paul Truong  
Noel Vietmeyer  
P.K. Yoon  
Monty Yudelman  
Paul Zuckerman

The Vetiver Network (TVN)  
3601 N. 14th Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
USA  
Tel: (001) 703-525-7092  
Fax: (001) 703-243-6203  
Email: [vetiver@vetiver.org](mailto:vetiver@vetiver.org)  
Homepage: [www.vetiver.org](http://www.vetiver.org)

TVN is an IRS-approved tax  
exempt non-profit foundation  
under code 501(c)(3).

# VETIVER NEWSLETTER

A NEWS MAGAZINE PROMOTING THE VETIVER SYSTEM  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN OF THAILAND - PATRON

## VETIVER SYSTEMS – THE DISSEMINATION AND ADOPTION ISSUE

By Richard Grimshaw, Chairman - TVN

**C**riss Juliard in his paper "Best Practices Establishing a National Vetiver Diffusion Program" (see TVN Newsletter #21) asks the question, "If Vetiver Grass Technology is so simple, inexpensive and good for the health of the soil, why isn't it promoted more broadly on a national scale in the same way vaccinations are promoted to preserve an individual's health?"

I would add: "Why do some farmers and engineers use the technology and others do not?". These questions and others like them must be answered if we are to move ahead more rapidly with the application and use of Vetiver Systems as we now refer to a bundle of vetiver grass technologies.

Criss Juliard continues "The answer is not related to the attractiveness of the technology, but to the challenge of dissemination".

I agree. I would like to illustrate this challenge by some experiences – good and bad.

Thailand has done wonderful work in researching and demonstrating VS but it has not been used as widely as expected.

Research carried out in Thailand by Suchart Montrekusol et. al. of Chiang Mai University (titled: *Farmers' Perception and Practices in Vetiver Grass Cultivation for Soil*

and Water Conservation in Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province) had the following observations and conclusions:

"Most farmers applied integrated farming systems. Eighty-eight percent of the farmers accessed agricultural information through neighbors and television, while they received information on using vetiver grass for soil and water conservation from government extension workers.

"Farmers' knowledge and understanding of soil conservation and soil fertility...(and) of soil and water conservation using vetiver grass were at a good level.

[However, at the level of practical application]... "the problems identified included: inappropriate timing in delivery of vetiver seedlings, insufficient knowledge on vetiver grass field application, insufficient labor and equipment, and insufficient knowledge on the other uses of vetiver grass."



Photo 1. An alternate use for vetiver grass biomass discovered in the Eshowe area of rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Photo credit: Duncan Hay

## INSIDE:

Announcements.....	3
Letters.....	7
Network News.....	8

### Country Reports

El Salvador.....	10
Mexico.....	11
Costa Rica.....	13
Cameroon.....	13

### Technical Papers

Insects on Vetiver - Guam .....	16
Insects on Vetiver - China .....	17
Role of Vetiver in Stone Line	
Stabilization in Burkina Faso.....	18

Vetiver Network Contacts.....	20
-------------------------------	----

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE PACIFIC RIM VETIVER NETWORK AND THE OFFICE OF THE ROYAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BOARD, THAILAND

Heineken Breweries Co. Ltd of the Netherlands donated US\$50,000 to the Chaipattana Foundation of Thailand to promote the use of vetiver. In turn, the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (ORDPBN) used the funds for training and dissemination of VS technology. From 19-30 November 2000 in Thailand, a training course was attended by 31 trainees from 15 countries. The training manual developed for the course includes basic information on the vetiver plant, propagation techniques, agricultural and non-

agricultural applications, and alternative uses. The manual, *Manual of the International Training Course on The Vetiver System*, as well as a post-training report, *Report of the International Training Course on The Vetiver System* are available from the ORDPB. Please contact:

Suwanna Pasiri  
The Office of the Royal Development  
Projects Board  
78 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue  
Dusit, Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
Tel: (66-2) 280-6193  
Fax: (66-2) 280-6206  
E-mail: pasiri@mail.rdpb.go.th

### VETIVER BOOKSTORE

The following items are available for sale from The Vetiver Network:

#### **Printed Publications: US\$5 each (unless otherwise noted)**

*Vetiver Grass - The Hedge Against Erosion* (English and Spanish), 2000

*Vetiver Grass - A Thin Green Line Against Erosion*, National Academy of Sciences, 1993

*The Vetiver Newsletter* - past issues \$1.00 each

#### **CD-ROMS: US\$10.00 each**

*Vetiver System Resources*, Compiled by Dr. Paul Truong, 2000

*Vetiver System Techniques*, Dr. Paul Truong, 2000

*Vetiver - La Barrera para Bioingeniería*, Red Latinoamericana del Vetiver/Banco Mundial, 1999

#### **Videos: US\$15.00 each**

*Vetiver Grass - The Hedge Against Erosion* (PAL and NTSC versions), 1996

*Vetiver - La Barrera Contra La Erosion* (NTSC), 1996

*Vetiver - La Barrera Para Bioingeniería (En Protección y Estabilización de Infraestructura)*, ( NTSC) 1999

#### **Slide Sets: US\$15.00 each**

*Vetiver Grass Hedgerows - A Photo Essay and Other Selected Data and Information*, The Vetiver Network, 1999

The Vetiver Network accepts payment in US dollars via International Money Order, check draft from a US bank account, or cash (if feasible). Please contact TVN at: [vetiver@vetiver.org](mailto:vetiver@vetiver.org), or 3601 N. 14th Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22201, USA for details. Proceeds from sale of items are used to subsidize associated mailing and production costs. ☐

### THE VETIVER SYSTEM - A PROVEN SOLUTION

You will find enclosed with your newsletter a promotional brochure produced by The Vetiver Network. When unfolded, the brochure becomes a full color poster measuring 16.5" x 23.25" and summarizes the problems for which vetiver is applied, why vetiver is a useful plant, and summarizes the use of VS for agriculture, bio-engineering, water-related applications, bio-remediation and other uses. Production was made possible thanks to work donated by commercial artist Xi Shing Chang of South Carolina, USA and Premier Publishers of Bellingham, Washington, USA who subsidised printing costs as a donation to TVN. If you would like to request additional brochures, please contact TVN. Versions of the brochure in other languages such as French and Spanish will likely be produced in the future. ☐

# THE VETIVER NETWORK AWARDS PROGRAM

The Vetiver Network is pleased to announce the third series of Vetiver Awards, made possible thanks to a generous grant from the William H. Donner Foundation. TVN will award a total of US\$45,000 in prize money, distributed as described below. In anticipation of the Third International Conference on Vetiver, to be held in China in 2004 and whose theme will be "Vetiver and Water", one theme of the awards will be Vetiver System applications in relation to water. As always, the TVN hopes to receive many nominations for each category. The competition for the Vetiver Awards, in years past, has brought out information that significantly increased our knowledge of vetiver's uses, applications and benefits. The deadline for nominations will be 1 October 2003. Award winners will be announced in early 2004.

## Eligibility

All vetiver users are eligible, be they individuals or groups, who have shown initiative in research, or utilization or promotion of the Vetiver System. These may include farmers, technicians, NGOs, students, scientists, researchers, private companies, innovators, etc. who have produced and documented concrete, repeatable results.

## Award Categories

Awards will be given in six categories:

1. Water Applications
  - a) Watershed Protection/Improvement
  - b) Engineering – Natural and Constructed
  - c) Quality – Pollution Control and Treatment
2. Engineering/Infrastructure Protection
3. Land Reclamation
4. Dissemination

5. Country Vetiver Award
6. Farmer/User Awards – Regional
  - a) Asia
  - b) Africa
  - c) Latin America
  - d) Other
7. Vetiver "Champion"

## Award Value

Awards will range between US\$500 and US\$3,000 for first through third prizes.

## Documentation

There is no award application form. Nominations may either be from individuals regarding their own work or be made by another person. Documentation can consist of many types of information (personal accounts, reports, articles, photographs, scientific papers, testimonials, etc.). We strongly encourage the inclusion (where relevant) of photographs and "before" and "after" photographs whenever possible. **Please be as brief and clear as possible.**

The following should be mailed to The Vetiver Network:

Name and address (phone, fax, and email if possible) of nominee

Name and address (phone, fax, and Email) of nominator (if applicable)

Project information:

Location of Project

Description of Project

Accomplishments of Project

Importance of Project

Supporting Documentation (optional, but useful in determining awards)

Name and address of a reference who is familiar with the project

## Award Selection

Projects will be judged on the following:

**Merit:** Quality of thought and methods used to accomplish the project's goals.

**Relevance:** Project's potential to protect/improve the environment or lower costs or improve quality of life or other noteworthy impacts.

**Innovation:** Originality, including using old ideas in new ways.

**Application:** Demonstrated usefulness of the results.

Extra credit will be given (where relevant) to those who include practical details of benefits and costs or a benefit/cost analysis or efficiency analysis (i.e., benefits/costs of Vetiver System compared to traditional or other systems).

## Award Category - Details

Within these categories there are no pre-defined topics. The creativity and innovation of the user is the only constraint. The ideas listed below in each category are only illustrative to give a clearer idea of what might be interesting.

**Water Applications** – The theme of the International Conference on Vetiver in 2004 in China is "Vetiver and Water". Most Vetiver System applications can be thought of in terms of its relationship to and effect on water through:

**a) Watershed Protection / Improvement** – Use of VS for protecting and improving the quality of water through treatment of a watershed, streambanks and streamside buffers, for soil moisture and/or groundwater improvement, reduction of sedimentation, etc..

**b) Engineering** – The use of VS to protect and stabilize the banks and channels of natural and constructed waterways and dams.

**c) Quality** – Use of VS to control and treat polluted surface water, groundwater and wastewater

**Bioengineering Applications** – Use of VS for stabilization and protection of buildings, roadsides, railroads, bridges, industrial sites, landfills, cut-and-fill slopes, and other infrastructure or engineering applications, for slope stabilization in vulnerability/hazard reduction, etc.