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# Sato Project

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農業が環境を破壊するとき—ユーラシア農耕史と環境—  
「里」プロジェクト

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7月に入ると京都は祇園祭一色です。

<http://www.e-kyoto.net/topics/07gion/index.htm>

*『"Historical Perspectives on the Gain and Loss of  
Plant Genetic Resources in Monsoon Asia"』*

*Peter J. Matthews (国立民族学博物館)*

# "Historical Perspectives on the Gain and Loss of Plant Genetic Resources in Monsoon Asia"

Peter J. Matthews (co-organiser with Yochiro Sato and Kenji Fukunaga)

From 5th - 9th June, 2006, the **47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany** was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The conference was co-organised by the Society and staff of Khon Kaen University, Chiang Mai University, and Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden. With the kind encouragement of these organisers, the Sato Project was able to sponsor a morning symposium on the 6th June.

Presenters were invited from around the region of interest (see titles below), and the concluding discussion was chaired by Songkran Chitrakon (Chiang Mai University). We plan to publish papers from this symposium, eventually, after further discussion with the Society for Economic Botany.

The city of Chiang Mai is situated in a broad valley at approximately 500 m altitude, with forest-covered mountains nearby. The city provided a very comfortable climate for the conference, and excursions into the surrounding hills and nearby Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden were stimulating for botanists of many persuasions. The conference provided a wonderful chance to meet colleagues from many plant-related disciplines and specialties.

## Symposium outline

**Introduction** - Yoichiro SATO (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan)

1. **Common wild rice: *in situ* conservation and genetics** (Benjavan RERKASEM, Chiang Mai University, Thailand)
2. ***Citrus* in the Batanes Islands, northern Philippines** (Domingo MADULID, National Museum of the Philippines, Philippines)

3. **Archaeobotany and ethnobotany with reference to Harappan sites in Haryana, north India** (Mukund KAJALE, Deccan College, India)

4. **Root and tuber crops in Vietnam** (VU Linh Chi, Plant Resources Center, Vietnam Academy Agricultural Sciences, Hanoi)

**Questions, comments and discussion** - Dr SONGKRAN (Chair, Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

#### Posters

1. ***Pandanus tectorius* ('adan') in southern Japan** (Peter J. Matthews, National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

2. **Conservation and ethnobotany of *Phoenix hanceana* var. *philippinensis*** (Esperanza Maribel G. Agoo, De La Salle University-Manila, Philippines)

#### Illustration note

Near the conference venue in Chiang Mai, a tea shop and gallery featured a pale-red Siamese cat sleeping among the cleaned tea cups on the main counter. When it woke up, this cat displayed many of the qualities expected of Siamese cats - devoted, social, dominant, curious, enterprising, and possessive (see [www.siamese.mundikat.nl/](http://www.siamese.mundikat.nl/)). It is these apparently human qualities that lead owners to form strong attachments to cats. The shop owner estimated that he had 20 cats. His favourite male had died two years earlier but was still remembered with its own portrait on the wall (see sketch). Unlike humans and dogs, cats cannot synthesize their required vitamin A from the carotene in plants - they are obligate carnivores. Their long association with humans, as domesticated animals, may have been favoured by their service as hunters of pests, and especially the rodents that attack cereal stores.

