

# BREADFRUIT INSTITUTE



PROGRESS REPORT - Fall 2008

## Landmark Agreements Signed to Distribute Breadfruit Globally

The National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Samoa to allow NTBG to distribute Samoan breadfruit varieties globally. The MOU was signed by Tuilaepa Lupesolia'i Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa and Chipper Wichman, NTBG CEO & Director, in August 2008. This MOU designates NTBG as Samoa's agent/representative to distribute Samoan breadfruit varieties through a horticultural partner, Cultivaris, Inc. NTBG will return to the

Government of Samoa fifty percent (50%) of the net licensing fees received by NTBG from Cultivaris for every plant of a Samoan breadfruit variety sold and distributed under the terms of this agreement.



The Prime Minister of Samoa

This landmark agreement underscores our commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The benefit-sharing arrangement will support conservation and capacity building with the countries of origin for breadfruit varieties in the NTBG collection. The project builds upon 25 years of research efforts, both in-country and at NTBG. It will use that research to return benefits to Pacific nations and their people, helping to perpetuate traditional crop varieties, knowledge, and cultural practices involving breadfruit.

Also in August, NTBG signed a five-year contract with Cultivaris, Inc. This innovative horticultural company has extensive experience in producing and marketing plants globally, with production facilities in California, Europe, and Central America. They have successfully developed acclimatization, or "weaning" protocols, at their California facility, producing vigorous breadfruit plants meeting international plant quarantine requirements. Recipients will have greater success with weaned, rather than *in vitro*, plants. At this critical time of global food security issues, this exciting partnership now makes it possible for the Breadfruit Institute to make significant advances in fulfilling its mission to promote the cultivation and use of breadfruit for food and reforestation. We now have the means to produce and distribute millions of breadfruit plants for tree planting projects in the tropics.

## SHI - Honduras Project Update

Our first distribution project with Sustainable Harvest International's (SHI) program in Honduras (FUCHOSO) resulted in families from five communities in the northern highlands of the Santa Barbara department receiving 365 healthy breadfruit plants grown from *in vitro* plants shipped in 2007. Twenty trees were planted at the Florence Reed Demonstration Farm & Regional Center.

SHI works with 405 Honduran families in 35 communities. To expand their capacity to propagate and distribute breadfruit plants to participating families,



**Honduran boy planting in-vitro-grown breadfruit**

FUCHOSO built a new nursery at the Yoro Demonstration Farm & Regional Center. Thirty-five hundred root shoots were collected from local breadfruit varieties and are growing in the nursery

In Fall 2008, FUCHOSO will be the first recipients of

acclimatized or "weaned" breadfruit plants from Cultivaris. The 500 plants will be tended in the new nursery for several months before distribution.

Yovany Munguia, FUCHOSO Executive Director, is enthusiastic about the collaboration with the Breadfruit Institute. Breadfruit trees are one of many varieties that SHI extensionists are encouraging families to include on their farms. Breadfruit itself is nutrient rich and marketable and the trees can be used to reduce erosion, protect watersheds and provide shade for crops like cacao, coffee and ginger.



**Nursery at Yoro Demonstration Farm**

## Breadfruit Catalog on Web



The breadfruit collection catalog is now online as a searchable database on the Breadfruit Institute website ([www.ntbg.org/breadfruit/collection](http://www.ntbg.org/breadfruit/collection)). This is a major accomplishment. Varieties come to life through stunning photographs (shot and edited by Jim Wiseman, DigitalMedia Hawaii/Pacific over the past eight years) interactively presenting the visual gestalt of each tree, so necessary for accurate identification.

The database combines variety information acquired during field work in the islands of origin as well as descriptors, weights, and measurements of fruits, leaves, seeds, and male flowers, collected during a decade of research on the breadfruit trees at Kahanu Garden. Data and photographs are now available for close to 80 varieties. The entire collection of more than 100 varieties and three species will become available as photographs and data are acquired. Completion of this long-term project depends on the vagaries of weather and fruiting cycles of the trees.

The database search page is very robust and allows the user to find varieties by searching on scientific name (species), variety name, geographic origin, distribution, fruit weight, shape, or skin texture, and find those that do well in coastal, sandy soils or atolls. There is also a search option for varieties that are available for distribution through our horticultural partner, Cultivaris. Other search options include 20 selected varieties, a Pacific map showing where varieties were collected, and a comprehensive list of variety names and synonyms.