

IAEA's First Collaborating Centre



Zhejiang University

The Institute of Nuclear Agricultural Sciences of the Zhejiang University in China becomes the first IAEA Collaborating Centre in November 2004. Werner Burkart, head of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications welcomed this as a significant event in the new scheme (see details below), and thanked the University staff and the Chinese government for their cooperation. Collaboration with the Agency's Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Food and Agriculture will be on topics associated with plant breeding and genetics.



The old front gate of the University

The Institute of Nuclear Agricultural Sciences of Zhejiang University (INAS), China, was established in 1958 with the mission of promoting research and application of isotope techniques in agriculture. INAS has been designated in 1994 as the Key Laboratory of Nuclear Agricultural Science by the Ministry of Agriculture, co-sponsored by Zhejiang Provincial Department of Science and Technology and has been the sole ministerial key laboratory in the field of application of nuclear techniques in agriculture in China. It has been working in four main research fields: plant breeding and genetics, environmental science, animal science, and food preservation, with emphasis on application of nuclear technology in these fields. It has a Cobalt-60 gamma rays irradiation facility, and laboratories equipped with up-to-date equipment for isotopic analysis, molecular biology and plant breeding research. INAS is also engaged in graduate and postgraduate education programmes in the field of applied biology right after its establishment and Ph.D. programme on application of nuclear techniques since 2003.



Teaching Building No. 1

INAS has been closely collaborating with the Agency since the late 1980s. It has been the counterpart of 8 national and regional Agency Technical Cooperation projects and several Coordinated Research Projects. Many of its staff members have been benefited from Agency's various regional training courses and fellowship programmes.