



CGIAR NEWS

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ■ DECEMBER 2001

CGIAR ESTABLISHES EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

In keeping with the overarching objective of CGIAR reforms—to increase efficiency and maximize effectiveness—a 21-member CGIAR Executive Council was established at the Annual General Meeting 2001. Dubbed “ExCo,” the Council is a committee of stakeholders, incorporating perspectives from all components of the CGIAR System.

ExCo will report to the CGIAR Group and carry out responsibilities delegated to it, facilitate decision-making by the Group, provide oversight during implementation of the Group's decisions, and ensure continuity between annual general meetings.

Continued on page 7

STRENGTHENING SCIENCE, EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS: CGIAR LAUNCHES “CHALLENGE PROGRAMS”

“We are at the service of the world's peoples, and we must listen to them. They are telling us that our past achievements are not enough. They are telling us that we must do more, and do it better,” said U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan while addressing the Millennium Summit.

At the summit, 189 nations, including 147 heads of state, adopted a set of millennium development goals (MDGs), calling for halving the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty by 2015. Other goals are progress in education, health,

nutrition, child and maternal mortality, and environmental protection (see www.developmentgoals.org).

Heeding the call for greater effectiveness in tackling problems of global relevance, the CGIAR has launched “Challenge Programs” that adopt a programmatic approach, better align its research toward achieving MDGs, while opening the system to broader partnerships.

“Greater effort is clearly needed to achieve the development goals,” says Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice President. “Increasing the efficiency of agriculture and


Continued on page 2



CGIAR GEARS UP FOR WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Next year, the Government of South Africa, will host The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), also called the Johannesburg Summit 2002, during August 26 to September 4. Mr. Nitin Desai has been appointed Secretary-General of the Summit, and Mr. Jan Pronk, the former Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation has been appointed as a Special Envoy by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Preparatory Committee of the Summit is chaired by Mr. Emil Salim of Indonesia. A high-level Advisory Panel has been formed, and among the notables are two friends of the CGIAR: Ms. Kamla Chowdhry of India, and Ms. Lydia Makhubu of Swaziland.

A CGIAR Task Force, chaired by Coosje Hoogendoorn, IPGRI, has been formed and tasked with preparing the CGIAR's participation in the Summit. In the lead-up to the Summit, Member States have embarked on a preparatory process, assessing achievements and setbacks since the Rio “Earth Summit” of 1992 which produced “Agenda 21.”

For more information, click on www.johannesburgsummit.org. A special CGIAR-WSSD section will soon be featured on the CGIAR website, www.cgiar.org. 

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS *Continued from page 1*

making agricultural productivity go hand-in-hand with ecological responsibility and social acceptability are the new challenges facing the CGIAR. Challenge programs will help make the CGIAR a better instrument of prosperity, while engaging new partners in the fight against hunger and poverty.”

As a first step, the CGIAR is adopting a flexible learning-by-doing approach. The CGIAR-supported Centers and their partners have proposed 10 programmatic areas for piloting. Up to three of these programs will be short-listed for approval by the Group:

- Agriculture and Combating Desertification
- Animal Diseases, Market Access, Food Safety, and Poverty Reduction
- Climate Change

- Development of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC)
- Global Genetic Resources: Conservation, Management, and Improvement for Food and Nutritional Security, Agro-biodiversity, and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS, Agriculture, and Food Security
- Global Mountain Program
- Harnessing Agricultural Technology to Improve the Health of the Poor: Biofortified Crops to Combat Micronutrient Deficiency
- The African Challenge Program
- Water and Agriculture


“The challenge programs go to the heart of the CGIAR’s—indeed the world’s—poverty reduction agenda,” says Emil Javier, Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee and Chairman of the Interim Science Council. “Success in these important areas will improve the lives of millions. New farming techniques and technologies will spell the difference between hope and despair among

A Challenge Program is

“A time-bound, independently-governed program of high impact research, that targets the CGIAR goals in relation to complex issues of overwhelming global and/or regional significance, and requires partnerships between a wide range of institutions in order to deliver its products.”

For more information, browse www.cgiar.org, then click on Challenge Programs.

many of the poorest of the world.”

Challenge programs are designed to expand the CGIAR’s current pool of partners and to mobilize new and increased funding from current and prospective donors. They will help increase the impact, significance, and visibility of the CGIAR’s research efforts. As a core mechanism of change, combining participatory planning with strategic analysis of problems and opportunities, challenge programs will add value by promoting strategic and productive engagement with partners, especially the national programs of developing countries. 


IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 CGIAR Establishes Executive Council
- 1 CGIAR Launches “Challenge Programs”
- 1 CGIAR Gears Up for World Summit
- 2 Videoconferences Launched
- 3 Exchange of Plant Genetic Material Boosts Efforts to Reduce Hunger and Malnutrition
- 4 Highlights of the Annual General Meeting 2001
- 6 World Food Situation Overview
- 6 CGIAR Partnership Strengthened

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WASHINGTON CALLING: VIDEOCONFERENCES SUSTAIN DIALOGUE ON REFORMS

In a provocative book, *The Death of Distance*, Frances Cairncross predicts that the 21st century will be dominated by the falling cost of transporting ideas and information. Proving that prediction right, and to foster dialogue on the reforms, a new round of videoconferences were launched featuring Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director, and senior staff in the Secretariat, interacting with Directors General and staff of each Center.

In the first round, two videoconferences were held on December 18 and 20 with ISNAR and IPGRI. “All staff who attended were, without exception, extremely enthusiastic about the outcome and felt it was a great way to communicate directly,” says Geoff Hawtin, Director General, IPGRI. After the holiday season, more videoconferences are being scheduled, beginning late January 2002 and the plan is to cover all Centers in the first quarter of the new year. 

FREE EXCHANGE OF PLANT GENETIC MATERIAL BOOSTS GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Seeds are the principal choice of currency among agricultural scientists and researchers, both of whom depend on the free movement and exchange of plant genetic resources to develop new crops.

After protracted negotiations, the eagerly awaited FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was agreed on by 116 nations, with two abstentions. The treaty, approved in November 2001, must now be ratified by at least 40 countries before it becomes effective.

“Plant genetic diversity, the result of a combination of farmers’ selection over millennia, natural evolution, and plant breeding is a foundation of agricultural development,” says Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice President. “Plant

breeders rely on existing diversity to create new varieties of plants with higher yields and increased resistance to pests and diseases, whereas many small farmers in developing countries depend on diversity as the basis of food security and income.”

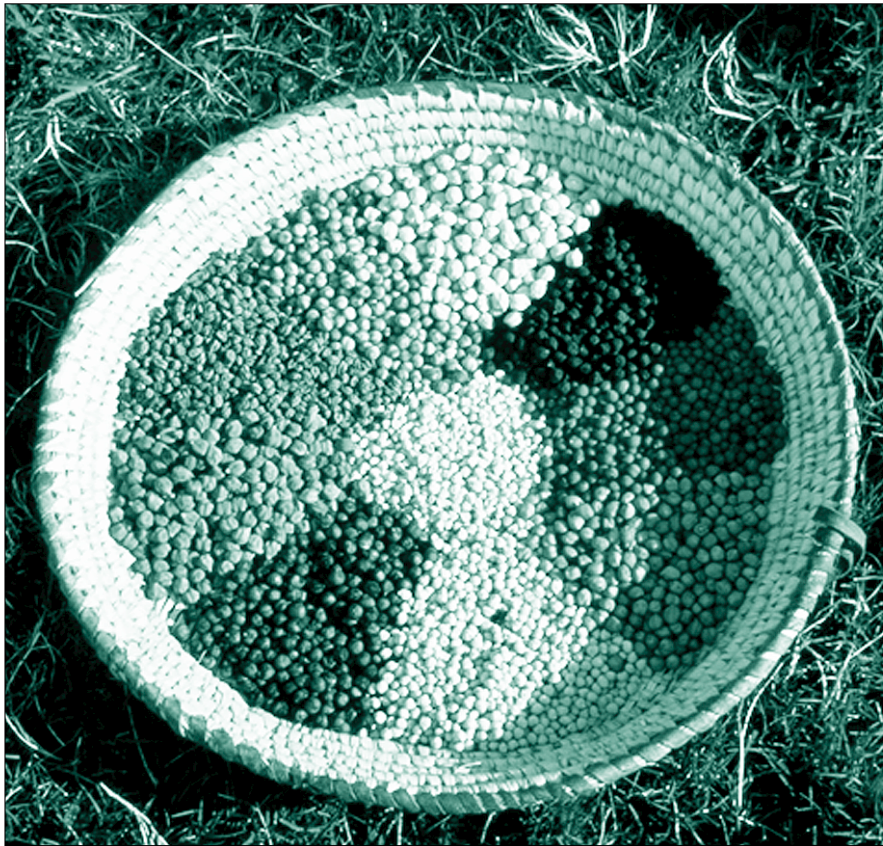
Together, 11 of the 16 CGIAR-supported Centers hold the world’s largest collection of crop diversity, more than 660,000 samples. This collection represents 40 percent of the unique

The vast majority (80 percent or more) went to universities and national agricultural research systems developing new varieties of plants with improved traits.

“We have watched and supported the negotiations that led to the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture with great interest,” says Geoffrey Hawtin, Director General of IPGRI. “We are satisfied that the treaty will help us fulfill our mandate to use plant diversity for development.”

The CGIAR collections are held in trust for humanity under agreements signed in 1994 with FAO. The Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture calls on countries and CGIAR-supported Centers to maintain genetic resources in perpetuity. The challenge is to mobilize financial resources and

create an endowment to ensure that these precious resources are kept in viable form well into the future. 🌱



CGIAR genebanks hold in public trust, for the benefit of all humanity, 660,000 samples of plant germplasm material, including seeds—vital resources in the continuing fight against hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation

samples of the world’s major food crops, a vital resource for scientists and researchers. A recent study revealed that a majority of the more than one million samples exchanged during the past 10 years went to research organizations in developing countries.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

This year's Annual General Meeting—a first for the CGIAR—spanned an action-packed week featuring public events, plenary sessions, and ancillary meetings. CGIAR stakeholders gathered to address how agricultural research and development can be better aligned to achieve the goals of poverty re-

duction, hunger eradication, and environmental protection. More than 600 people attended the meeting.

The pictures seek to provide a glimpse, varied and fleeting, of a landmark meeting, the people, the events, and the issues.



A public exhibit “We Can Feed the World and Keep it Green” was the opening highlight of the meeting. In the impressive 13-story atrium of the World Bank’s main complex, participants passed through a portal to view eye-catching exhibits demonstrating how research by the CGIAR-supported Centers and partners is providing real solutions to 21st-century problems.



Carole Brookins, World Bank U.S. Executive Director, opens the exhibit with President Wolfensohn of the World Bank and CGIAR Chairman Ian Johnson. A “Taste of the CGIAR” reception, featuring recipes based on CGIAR commodities, followed.



Nimble decision-making for strengthened science and enhanced impact: The CGIAR Executive Council’s first meeting.



Alex Kahi, ILRI, gets a word of congratulations and encouragement from Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman. Alex won the Promising Young Scientist Award.



Ren Wang, IRRI, receives the award for "Outstanding Scientific Article" on behalf of the authors.



Outstanding Partnership for Sustainable Land Management of Acid Soil Savannas (left to right: Miguel Ayarza, CIAT; Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman; Jamil Macedo, EMBRAPA-Brazil; and Luis Arango-Nieto, Colombia).



Hari C. Sharma, ICRISAT, speaks after receiving the 2001 CGIAR Outstanding Scientist Award.



Rodolfo Toledo, IRRI, speaks after accepting the Outstanding Scientific Support Team Award on behalf of his colleagues.



Nafis Sadik, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary General and former Executive Director of the U.N. Population Fund, delivers the 2001 Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture. Her message: "The poor are strategic partners rather than target groups, and women must become empowered partners. They must be engaged in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs that aim to improve their lives. Only in this way can we begin to lay the foundation of a sustainable future."



The AGM provides a forum for a diverse group to converge, have impromptu conversations, share experiences, and benefit from the cross-fertilization of ideas. Minister Issam El-Zaim from Syria exchanges views with Dr. Nafis Sadik.



THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION: AN OVERVIEW

IFPRI traditionally provides the CGIAR with a biennial update on the world food situation, reviewing driving forces that influence future global food security and the policy actions necessary to achieve it. Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Director General, IFPRI and 2001 World Food Prize Laureate delivered this year's presentation.

Even as significant progress has been made in the fight against hunger 800 million people, mostly women and children—are food insecure, lacking access to sufficient food to lead healthy and productive lives. This is unacceptably high.

Poverty's links to hunger, malnutrition, and disease are well known. But its relation to violence and despair are less well understood. "The terrible attacks of September 11 clearly point to the tremendous importance of accelerating the fight to eradicate hunger, poverty, and malnutrition," Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Director General, IFPRI, said while presenting an overview of the world food situation to the Annual General Meeting 2001. "We must remove development inequities such as poverty and hunger that are perceived by many to provide the basis for fanatics to indulge in terrorism and do what they do."

Despite rapid population growth, the number of people classified as

"food insecure" in developing countries declined since 1970 by 17 percent to the current 800 million. During the same period, the developing world's share of the global food-insecure population dropped by half, from 37 percent to 18 percent. But progress has been uneven: Gains in East and Southeast Asia were offset by a slight increase in hunger in South Asia and a huge increase in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of people classified as food insecure more than doubled. Food security deteriorated in more than half of the world's developing countries during the 1990s; and overall, the number of food-insecure people increased by 37 million. Malnutrition among preschool children is a particular concern: Today, one-third of preschool children in developing countries are malnourished.

According to FAO, with which IFPRI collaborates extensively to analyze global food security, the number of food-insecure people could

decline to 576 million people by 2015. While this would be a significant improvement, it would not meet the goal set at the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the number of hungry people from 800 million to 400 million by 2015.



Per Pinstrup-Andersen

Prospects for achieving food security are driven by the following major forces:

- Accelerated globalization and further trade liberalization
- Sweeping technological change
- Degradation of natural resources and increasing water scarcity
- Emerging and re-emerging health and nutrition crises, such as HIV/AIDS
- Rapid urbanization

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IFAD-CGIAR PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED

Mobilizing science for the poor and catalyzing partnerships is the CGIAR's *raison d'être*. In a welcome development, the CGIAR partnership was further strengthened when the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) joined the CGIAR as a co-sponsor.


"Agricultural research provides the driving force for rural productivity increases in developing countries," says Ian Johnson, World Bank Vice President and CGIAR Chairman. "With IFAD coming on board as a co-sponsor, the CGIAR considerably strengthens the global partnership in the fight against hunger, malnutrition,

poverty, and environmental degradation."

As co-sponsor, IFAD will have a greater role in CGIAR governance and enhance the international character and status of CGIAR operations. IFAD joined the CGIAR as a member in 1979 and has since contributed more than \$100 million to CGIAR research programs. The announcement was made at the Annual General Meeting 2001.

"IFAD attaches great importance to investments in agricultural and poverty-related research for development," says Lennart Båge, President of IFAD. "We have a long tradition of supporting CGIAR research, and we are happy to elevate our partnership

by joining the CGIAR as a co-sponsor."

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, IFAD has a specific mandate of combating rural hunger and poverty in the most disadvantaged regions of the world. Since 1978 IFAD has financed 584 projects in 114 recipient countries for a total commitment of approximately \$7.2 billion in loans and grants. Through these projects, more than 260 million rural people have had a chance to move out of poverty on a sustainable basis. 






- Rapidly changing structure of farming
- Continuing conflict
- Climate change
- Changing roles and responsibilities of public and private sectors

“Agricultural policies in developed countries greatly influence food security in developing countries,” Pinstrup-Andersen said. “The playing field is not level. For example, nonpreferential sugar exports into the European Union are subject to a 300 percent tax, making it impossible for small farmers to compete.”

Policy actions centered on increasing investments in human resources, access to employment, family planning, infrastructure, good governance, and sound trade policies can make a difference.


“Adopting a business-as-usual approach is unacceptable given the large numbers of hungry and malnourished people,” Pinstrup-Andersen said. He called for accelerated actions and appropriate changes in policies and institutions. According to IFPRI estimates, an investment equal to just 5 percent of total developing-country governments’ expenditures could reduce the number of malnourished children from the current 166 million to 94 million by 2020. The question is whether the political will exists for assigning these issues the priority they deserve. 

More information is available on the IFPRI website, www.ifpri.org. The following publications are downloadable: *2020 Global Food Outlook: Trends, Alternatives, and Choices* and *Global Food Projections to 2020: Emerging Trends and Alternative Futures*.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL *Continued from page 1*

Membership of the CGIAR Executive Council

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ian Johnson	World Bank
<i>Co-Sponsors:</i>	Jacques Eckebil	FAO
	Robert L. Thompson	World Bank
	Rodney Cooke	IFAD
<i>Center Directors Committee</i>	Meryl J. Williams	CDC Chair
<i>Committee of Board Chairs</i>	John Vercoe	CBC Chair
<i>Technical Advisory Committee/ Science Council</i>	Emil Javier	TAC/SC Chair
<i>Global Forum on Agricultural Research</i>	Raj S. Paroda	GFAR Chair
OECD/DAC:		
<i>Americas</i>	Jonathan Conly	US
<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	Toshinori Mitsunaga	Japan
<i>Europe</i>	Gilles Saint-Martin	France
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	Klaus Winkel	Denmark
Developing Countries:		
<i>Americas</i>	Alberto Portugal	Brazil
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	Bongiwe Njobe	South Africa
<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	Longyue Zhao	China
<i>Central West Asia and North Africa</i>	Issam El-Zaim	Syria
<i>Regional fora</i>	M.H. Roozitalab	
<i>Foundations</i>	Robert Herdt	Rockefeller Foundation
Partners:		
<i>Civil Society</i>	Ann Waters-Bayer	NGOC Co-Chair
<i>Private Sector</i>	Sam Dryden	PSC Chair

Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director, will serve as Executive Secretary of ExCo, supported by Selçuk Özgediz, CGIAR Management Adviser. ExCo’s first meeting was held on November 2, 2001 (minutes available at www.cgiar.org/who/www_excodocs.html), and the second meeting will be hosted by ICARDA and the Government of Syria in April 2002. Buoyed by a new ethic—brief, face-to-face meetings or virtual communication based on “new age” modes—ExCo’s work will lead to clarity, focus, and speedier decision-making in the CGIAR. 





CGIAR Chairman

Ian Johnson

CGIAR Director

Francisco Reifschneider

Cosponsors

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Fund for Agricultural Development

United Nations Development Programme

The World Bank

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International and Regional Organizations

African Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Asian Development Bank, European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Inter-American Development Bank, International Development Research Centre, International Fund for Agricultural Development, OPEC Fund for International Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, The World Bank

CGIAR-SUPPORTED FUTURE HARVEST CENTERS

- **International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)**
Cali, Colombia
Phone: (57-2) 4450000
www.ciat.cgiar.org
- **Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)**
Bogor, Indonesia
Phone: (62-251) 622 622
www.cifor.org
- **International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat (CIMMYT)**
Mexico City, Mexico
Phone: (52-5) 804 2004
www.cimmyt.org
- **International Potato Center (CIP)**
Lima, Peru
Phone: (51-1) 349-6017
www.cipotato.org
- **International Center for Agricultural Research In the Dry Areas (ICARDA)**
Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic
Phone: (963-21) 2213433
www.icarda.org
- **The World Fish Center (ICLARM)**
Penang, Malaysia
Phone: (60-4) 626-1606
www.iclarm.org
- **International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)**
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: (254-2) 524000
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- **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**
Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, India
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- **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**
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Phone: (1-202) 862-5600
www.ifpri.org
- **International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)**
Ibadan, Nigeria
Phone: (234-2) 2412626
www.iita.org
- **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**
Nairobi, Kenya
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www.cgiar.org/ilri
- **International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)**
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www.ipgri.org
- **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
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Phone: (63-2) 8450563
www.irri.org
- **International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR)**
The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: (31-70) 3496100
www.isnar.cgiar.org
- **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**
Colombo, Sri Lanka
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www.cgiar.org/iwmi
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