

Third CGIAR Executive Council Meeting—September 24, 2002

Review of GRPC

Discussion:

- CDC agreed to most of the recommendations but pointed out the following: a) the GRPC could do more to help individual Centers to implement genetic resources policies but pointed out that the proposal would have resource implications; b) there appears to be no significant role for the GRPC as a resource for NARS; c) a more “permanent” committee secretariat might need to be established and IPGRI has served in this role, but there might be other options to explore. While it agreed that a modest budget be allocated to GRPC, the CDC did not want to see this being funded by a levy from the Centers. It suggested that a special activity account be set up and funded through the donors.
- There was a desire to explore fully a connection with the SC as opposed to having a separate standing committee. It was suggested that a panel of the SC on genetic resources might be a good alternative to the current GRPC. An opposing view was that the issues tackled by the GRPC are more political in nature rather than technical or scientific. Several members also emphasized the importance of preserving stakeholder participation in such an advisory body. They would especially not want to lose the inputs from NGO and private sector perspectives.
- A smaller committee than what is being recommended should be considered.

Conclusions:

- *The recommendations of the GRPC Review Panel received broad support from ExCo. A multi-stakeholder GRPC should continue. Suggestions particularly on links with SC, IPGRI’s Genetic Resources Policy Unit and on size should be considered in constituting the new GRPC. A modest budget should be allocated for the operation of the Committee.*

Recommendation to the CGIAR:

- *ExCo endorses the recommendations of the GRPC Review Panel in broad terms. Adjustments to the Panel’s recommendations should be made following the report’s discussion by the CGIAR at the AGM and taking into account comments made by ExCo members.*