

## **Highlights of Cosponsors Meeting ICW2000**

The Cosponsors held their meeting in conjunction with ICW 2000 at the World Bank, Washington, D.C. The Cosponsor representatives welcomed the new CGIAR Chairman, Ian Johnson, and Jacques Ekebil (FAO) to their first Cosponsors meeting. Other Cosponsors present were Robert Thompson (World Bank) and Roberto Lenton (UNDP). Also in attendance were Emil Javier (TAC Chair), Hans Gregersen (TAC/SPIA Chair), Alexander von der Osten (CGIAR Executive Secretary), Shellemiah Keya (TAC Executive Secretary), Guido Gryseels (TAC Deputy Exec. Secretary) and Manuel Lantin (Science Adviser, CGIAR Secretariat).

### **Follow-up to the Consultative Council Meeting**

The Cosponsors reviewed the outcome of the Consultative Council's (CC) discussions on CGIAR governance, organization and structure. They took note of the Consultative Council's general recognition of the need for change in the governance and structure of the CGIAR, the basis for which was elaborated in the Synthesis Group report. They outlined some of the ideas or "building blocks" of how the process could move forward.

### **Role/Responsibilities of the Cosponsors**

In the light of the discussions on governance, organization and structure, the Cosponsors reviewed their role and responsibilities in the CGIAR. They reaffirm their specific functions as follows:

- Providing the CGIAR Chairman and System with strategic advice
- Playing a leading role in selecting the CGIAR Director, TAC Chair, TAC members, SPIA Chair, and SPIA members
- Funding the central service units of the CGIAR, i.e. the CGIAR secretariat, TAC and SPIA, and the TAC secretariat

At MTM2000, concerns were expressed on indications that UNDP might give up its status as a Cosponsor of the CGIAR. The CGIAR Chairman has had the opportunity to discuss the issue with the UNDP administrator and the result of his interaction with him has been positive. Roberto Lenton identified a number of options that might be explored to enable UNDP to meet its financial commitment as a CGIAR Cosponsor.

The Cosponsors revisited the modality for funding the central service units of the CGIAR (TAC/SPIA, TAC/SPIA Secretariat and the CGIAR Secretariat). It was noted that the World Bank, through its contribution, has been subsidizing the overhead costs of the CGIAR. The Cosponsors agreed that opportunities for the CGIAR members to share the cost should be explored.

The Cosponsors reviewed the cost structure and funding of TAC/SPIA and its secretariat. Given the decrease in total financial resources generated from Cosponsors' contributions, the Cosponsors endorsed a suggestion to broaden the base for financial support to TAC/SPIA.

### **TAC Membership**

At present, TAC has 14 members (excluding the Chair). However, two members will complete their term at the end of 2000. The TAC chair recommended the filling up of one slot to strengthen the committee's capacity in basic science, (i.e. in molecular biology.) The Cosponsors endorsed the TAC Chair's recommendation, taking note that TAC's size and composition will need to be revisited in the context of a restructured CGIAR. The candidate's appointment to TAC will be submitted for endorsement by the CGIAR as soon as the candidate's availability to serve on the committee is confirmed.

### **TAC/SPIA Membership**

Currently, the panel has three members. However, two of them, Frans Leeuvv and Cristina David have indicated that they will not be able to serve on the panel after 2000. The cosponsors selected two candidates for appointment to SPIA for a two-year renewable term beginning January 2001.

### **Global Forum on Agricultural Research**

Noting the results of the external review of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the Cosponsors reaffirmed that the CGIAR's support will need to be based on the value that GFAR adds to CGIAR's activities, i.e. a clear recognition that the GFAR serves as an effective mechanism for drawing the perspectives and views of partners, particularly NABS, on global and regional issues that have implications on the CGIAR research agenda, and that the support is consistent with the CGIAR's objective of facilitating and strengthening global partnerships in agricultural research.

### **Search for and Recruitment of CGIAR Director**

The Chairman, informed the meeting that the search and recruitment process for the CGIAR Director has been concluded. He planned to announce at Centers Week the appointment of Francisco Reifschneider as CGIAR Director, succeeding Alexander von der Osten who will retire from his post as Executive Secretary in January 2001.

### **Tribute to Roberto Lenton and Alexander von der Osten**

The Cosponsors paid tribute to Roberto Lenton and Alexander von der Osten for their exemplary service to the CGIAR. Roberto is leaving his post at UNDP to take up a new position at Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. The Cosponsors expressed thanks and wished both of them well.