

International Centers Week 1998

SCENARIO FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONY

OCTOBER 29, 1998
8:30-9:10 A.M.

Chairman's Announcement:

This is the point in our agenda when we recognize in a special way, and pay tribute to, colleagues, young and not so young, who have in a variety of ways enriched the CGIAR.

- **CGIAR King Baudouin Award**

The first award to be presented is the King Baudouin Award of the CGIAR. This is a biennial award established in 1981, using funds from the King Baudouin International Development Prize which the CGIAR as an institution received in 1980. I am delighted, therefore, that Belgian Ambassador Alex Reyn has joined us for this ceremony.

You as a group have mandated TAC to select a worthy recipient of this award biennially, based on criteria that are both well-known and well-established. Briefly, the main purpose of the CGIAR award is to stimulate innovative agricultural research and other activities relevant to the CGIAR mission, and to recognize a particularly noteworthy achievement by a center or centers. The efforts recognized by this award invariably involve productive partnerships between a center and NARS.

This year the award goes to ICRISAT, as it did two years ago. I invite TAC Chair Don Winkelmann to read the citation for 1998. Ambassador Reyn will present the award.

Process: *The TAC Chair will read the citation, after which Ambassador Reyn will make some very brief remarks and present the scroll and cash award (\$12,000) to the ICRISAT representative(s). ICRISAT will respond briefly. The response will be complemented by a 5-minute video of the center's work that has been recognized by the award.*

- **Excellence in Science Awards (4 categories)**

Chairman's Announcement:

We move now to the Chairman's Excellence in Science Awards that were presented for the time in 1966, during our 25th anniversary commemoration. The awards were inaugurated to encourage scientists of the present and the future, in association with their partners, to be at least as creative and effective as their predecessors. I am delighted that there has been no dearth of potential recipients in the four categories of this award.

The selection of award winners is a major challenge that confronts the Chairman of the CBC, the TAC chair and their colleagues who serve as a selection committee. I encourage all young scientists to make that challenge even more difficult year by year. For it is by upholding the highest standards and securing the greatest achievements that we will continue to place science at the service of diminished lives.

I invite Dr. Wally Falcon, Chairman CBC, to read the citations for this years winners.

[1. Promising Young Scientist – Keith Ballingall, ILRI.

2. Outstanding Local Scientist – Kedar N. Rai, ICRISAT.

3. Outstanding Local Scientific Support Staff – Imad Eujayl, ICARDA.

4. Outstanding Scientific Partnership. – ICLARM with Bureau of Aquatic Fisheries of the Philippines, Freshwater Aquaculture Center, Luzon State University, and the Institute of Aquaculture Research, Norway. (Only ICLARM and the Bureau of Aquatic Fisheries will be represented at ICW.)]

Process: *CBC Chair Wally Falcon will read each citation. On completion of a citation, each winner(s) will come up to the platform. The Chairman will present the scroll and cash award (\$5,000), after which the recipient (s) will make a one to two minute response.*

- **Nyle C. Brady Award**

Chairman's Announcement:

This award was established by the cosponsors in 1995 to recognize individuals who have strengthened the CGIAR system in the same way as the

CGIAR elder statesman for whom it is named. The award perpetuates an initial presentation to Nyle Brady by a group of friends and colleagues in 1994, to honor his array of contributions to international agricultural research. Nyle was with us earlier in the week, but has had to leave.

This year's Brady Award goes to Lowell Hardin, a distinguished honoree, who has contributed to the CGIAR in more ways than it might seem possible for an individual to accomplish. I call on Roberto Lenton to present the citation on behalf of cosponsors.

Process: *UNDP representative Roberto Lenton will read the citation. The Chairman will present Lowell Hardin with a scroll/plaque, and the honoree will respond.*

- **CGIAR Committees**

Chairman's Announcement:

I now move on to the recognition of special services by colleagues who have served in different capacities on CGIAR committees.

- **TAC members**

TAC was the first of the CGIAR committees, established on the same day as the Group was formally inaugurated. In the intervening years, it has continued to provide us with strategic advice, and helped the system to nurture both the relevance and high quality of CGIAR-supported research.

Down the years, service provided by TAC members has been invaluable. It is saddening when some of them leave us, and as a symbol of our appreciation it has become an established practice to present members who are ending their terms with certificates of recognition. This year we will be losing Justin Yifu Lin and Keiji Kainuma. I thank them for sharing their experience and their wisdom with us.

Process: *The Chairman will present two certificates of recognition which will be received by TAC Chair Don Winkelmann on behalf of the honorees.*

- **IAEG Chair**

Chairman's Announcement:

IAEG was formed in response to the urgings of the Lucerne Declaration and Action Plan that the CGIAR should create a mechanism for impact assessment and evaluation. Jim Peacock was the founding chairman of the IAEG and, as was to be expected, he faced many of the difficult issues that are associated with the creation of any new enterprise. He confronted them in customary fashion: head on.

Jim, we all owe you an enormous debt of gratitude for working as hard as you did to create an evaluation culture across the system. We appreciate all that you have done, and I personally thank you for taking on a difficult task and fulfilling your responsibilities with vigor.

Process: *The Chairman will present a scroll to Jim Peacock and invite him to respond.*

- **GRPC Chair**

Chairman's Announcement:

M. S. Swaminathan is truly a beloved and respected figure across the world of science. His domestic achievements are the stuff that legend is made of. He has been repeatedly recognized in India for the excellence and significance of his contributions to food security and natural resource management. He has inspired scientists at the institute he founded, the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, to put into practice his philosophy that effective agricultural research needs to be "pro-poor, pro-women, and pro-environment."

His work has been globally recognized, as well, and he has been the recipient of prestigious international awards too numerous to mention. Only last week he had to take time off from his CGIAR responsibilities to receive the Henry Shaw medal in St. Louis.

He has contributed in a myriad ways to the scientific advancement of the CGIAR, most recently as a member of the System Review Panel. In each position he occupied he proved himself to be not only wise and endowed with extraordinary technical expertise but also a living symbol of compassion. He brought these qualities to bear on the tasks he undertook as founding chairman of the GRPC. Under his leadership, the committee has helped us to

understand the intricacies of many complex issues, and to find principled ways of dealing with them.

The CGIAR has benefited greatly from his support. I have gained personally from his wise counsel. Today's recognition of M. S. Swaminathan is by no means a farewell. He will always be with us. Indeed, he had better be, at the very least to keep us honest. We will never let him go.

I am proud to present to M. S. Swaminathan, this token of the esteem in which he is held by all his colleagues in the CGIAR system.

Process: *The Chairman will present a scroll to M. S. Swaminathan and invite him to respond.*

- Cosponsor and Chair of Finance Committee

Chairman's Announcement:

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The time has come for us to say *au revoir* to a colleague who has been a mainstay of the CGIAR.

Michel Petit will be retiring from the Bank later this year after a decade of service, first as Director of the Agriculture and Rural Development Department, and more recently as head of the Bank's Agricultural Research and Extension Group (ESDAR). He was associated with the CGIAR throughout that period, as the Bank's cosponsor representative, and as the founding chairman of the Finance Committee.

Michel's own research, during a distinguished academic career, gave him clear insights into what motivates farmers, and a strong empathy with the farming community. One of his core beliefs is that the entire agricultural establishment -- from farmers in their fields through scientists in their labs to policymakers in their offices -- needs to work in a closely-knit partnership. This conviction colored all that he did for and with the CGIAR.

Michel Petit found himself at the heart of our efforts during the 1994/95 renewal to stabilize our finances, and adopt practices that would ensure funding of the agreed agenda. He carried out those responsibilities with skill and dedication. Additionally, he took on the wider and even more difficult task of building CGIAR synergies with partners, particularly the NARS and farming organizations in developing countries. He played an invaluable role in the

inauguration and development of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. That it is today a flourishing group is very much to his credit.

Some of what he did was achieved behind the scenes. All of what he did helped to transform CGIAR relations with others in the evolving global agricultural research system.

He has been a great colleague, and a good friend. Although he is moving into retirement, I am confident that we will see more of him in the future. But today, let us celebrate his collegial support and recognize the great value of his endeavors. I therefore ask that you adopt by acclamation the text of the resolution which appears on the scroll that I will present to him on behalf of the CGIAR system.

The text of the resolution reads as follows:

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) meeting at International Centers Week 1998 in Washington, D.C., unanimously approved the following resolution:

“In recognition of his strong interest in tropical agriculture, his enthusiastic participation in the CGIAR renewal program, his effective leadership of the Finance Committee, his innovative pursuit of partnerships through ESDAR, and his dedicated commitment to the mission of the CGIAR, the Members of the CGIAR wish to record their gratitude to

Michel Petit

for his distinguished service as a Cosponsor of the CGIAR (1988-1998), representing the World Bank and Chair of the Finance Committee (1993-1998), and to offer him warm felicitations for the future.”

Process: *Following the applause, the Chairman will present the scroll to Mr. Petit and invite him to respond.*