

International Centers Week 1998
October 26 - 30
Washington D.C.

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Shaping the CGIAR's Future

Report of the CDC

Attached for information is the report of the CDC meeting held on October 22-24, 1998.

Report on the CDC Meeting October 22-24, 1998, Washington, DC

The CGIAR Center Directors welcomed Ron Cantrell as a new CDC member in his capacity as Director General of IRRI, and Jean-Pierre Jacqmotte who has agreed to provide executive support to the CDC.

The following items were the main points on the agenda of the CDC meeting.

CGIAR System Review

A major point on the CDC's agenda was the Report of the System Review Panel. The discussion of the report was facilitated by open and frank exchanges with Mahendra Shah, Executive Secretary of the System Review Panel, Ismail Serageldin, CGIAR Chair, and with the Centers Board Chairs. It led to the preparation of a commentary, which has been made available to the Group at ICW98.

Intellectual Property Rights

The CDC endorsed three papers prepared by IPGRI/SGRP in consultation with FAO on:

- Guidelines for the Designation of Accessions under the FAO Agreements;
- Second Joint Statement of FAO and the CGIAR Centers on the Agreement Placing CGIAR Germplasm Collections under the Auspices of FAO; and,
- Material Transfer Agreement (MTA).

Further information on these items is contained in a separate communication from CDC/CBC and FAO to the CGIAR at ICW98.

The CDC also endorsed the establishment of an Intellectual Property Rights Advisory Service to be based at ISNAR.

CDC/TAC Exchange

The CDC had wide ranging discussions with the TAC Chair and Executive Secretary, including on the CGIAR logframe, the Center Commissioned External Reviews (CCERs), and the marginal lands/poverty initiatives.

The progress in developing the CGIAR logframe will be reviewed at ICW98 and at MTM99. It is expected to influence the preparation of Centers' 2000/2001 programs of work and, therefore, the possibility of holding information sessions for center staff was welcomed.

There was a consensus that closer attention should be given to the complementarity of CCERs and EPMRs, that would increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal and external review processes.

The TAC Chair reported on ongoing and planned studies on marginal lands and poverty. Progress has been constrained by the lack of data. It was agreed that TAC Chair would make greater use of center expertise in future studies, particularly in study design and in identifying external experts.

Gender and Diversity Program

The CDC expressed its strong support for the new program. Centers will contribute to the funding of the transition phase to ensure the continuity between the former and new programs, provided full funding of the program is assured and the coordinating unit is established in a developing country. The CDC will be duly represented on the program's board.

Financial Management

The CDC agreed to explore further, with assistance of the CGIAR Secretariat, the possibility of developing joint mechanisms for managing liquidity reserves and helping to guard against currency fluctuations.

PARC and Future Harvest

The CDC expressed its strong appreciation for the work of PARC and, in particular, for the progress made by Future Harvest. It was noted that Future Harvest has now established a 501 C (3) status, and is thus able to receive funds not only for the Future Harvest Campaign but also for CGIAR research and related programs and activities.

The CDC has pledged its continued financial support to the work of PARC and Future Harvest and considers these essential system-wide instruments for improving public awareness and resource mobilization for the CGIAR Centers. The CDC urges all groups within the CGIAR to support fully Future Harvest

Washington, DC
October 29, 1998