

Contribution to the Third CGIAR System Review from West Asia and North Africa Region (WANA)

Based on the of the Third CGIAR System Review and the discussions on the Group Review recommendations, the representatives of WANA on behalf of 24 countries of the region would like to highlight the following with respect to Shaping the Future of the CGIAR:

- We support the technical recommendations of the System Review with the modifications as proposed by the different discussion groups.
- WANA being the highest per capita food importing region in the world, we consider NARS contributions to the joint CGLAR Agenda as valuable investments to achieve food security, poverty alleviation and protection of the fragile natural resource base in our region.
- Because of the stressful environment in WANA, germplasm enhancement and tolerance to excessive abiotic stresses namely drought, heat, cold and salinity are pressing issues that need further emphasis in the CGIAR NARS Research Agenda.
- WANA being the most deficient region in water world-wide, WANA countries expect additional investment in CGIAR research in WANA to be targeted to increase the productivity of traditional and marginal water resources.
- Increasing the yield potential of major food crops namely wheat, barely, sorghum, millet, food legumes, oil crops and potato is essential to reduce the widening food gap between food production and consumption.
- The dry areas and marginal lands in WANA and the, rest of the world deserve additional research efforts to cope with the widening food gap, the degraded natural resource base and desert encroachment. Thus, we highly support the recommendation in this regard because these areas were given little attention in the past.
- Livestock, improvement and management, particularly small ruminants, deserves special attention in dry areas because they are essential source of income to the poor rural co iunities.
- Degraded rangelands in WANA require urgent attention to facilitate rehabilitation and combat desertification to ensure sustainable productivity of extensive marginal lands in the dry areas in WANA and the rest of the world.
- Emphasis on the integration of crop/livestock production is considered essential to increase the income of the poor rural co iunities. Thus, additional research should be targeted to this area through inter-center collaboration.
- As a major biodiversity center for the origin of many plant, trees and livestock genetic resource since the beginning of civilization, special attention is required to preserve, both in-situ and ex-situ, our valuable diverse genetic heritage in the interest of all mankind. We support the MTA agreement to recognize the contribution and preserve the rights of the countries of origin.
- Aquatic natural resources and fisheries in WANA constitute a major source of income to the poor in the countries of the region, thus additional investment in research on aquatic resource will provide an important diverse source of income to the poor.

WANA Regional Representatives

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