

Centre Directors Committee Report to ICW-99

Follow-up on System Review recommendations assigned to the CDC

1. Integrated Gene Management Task Force:

- Intellectual Property (IP) audits progressing well; three are completed and 10 are in progress; valuable lessons are being learned.
- Wholly Owned Subsidiary issue still being studied; its implementation seems unlikely at this point.
- Central Advisory Services for IP is now operational at ISNAR.

2. Focus on Africa:

- Meeting of the Minds II, held early September at Abidjan, continued strengthening the shared vision and mode of collaboration with our African partners.
- Next steps: finalize a research agenda and strategy.
- Discussion with SPAAR/FARA in February 2000 in Guinea. Final report of the strategy to TAC in March and to the CGIAR at MTM 2000.
- Dialogue with African partners will continue on a regular basis to monitor implementation of the strategy.

3. Integrated Natural Resource Management:

- The Bilderberg Meeting in September had a broad representation of partners. The outcome was a set of INRM principles and guidelines. Next step is a CGIAR scientific meeting to internalize and put into effect the principles adopted at Bilderberg.
- Centres consider essential the continuation of ecoregional programmes and endorse TAC's recommendation that such programmes be sharply focused around a major problem.
- Centres recommend that TAC includes INRM-related criteria and indicators along the current commodity-related criteria.
- Centres endorsed the progress report of the Intercentre Working Group on Climate Change, which will finalize its report at a proposed meeting in Mexico March 20–23, 2000 at CIMMYT. We gratefully accept the Netherlands offer to fund this meeting. The final report will be submitted to TAC and to the Group at MTM 2000.

Long-term Financing of the CGIAR

- The CDC very much welcomes and appreciates the Finance Committee's decision to increase the front-end disbursement of the World Bank contribution to the Centres, as well as to allocate World Bank funds to the system wide programs.

- The CDC participated actively and constructively in the FC working group meeting at Stanford.
- CDC endorses the principles laid out in the "Framework report" and welcomes the invitation to broaden the Future Harvest effort within the CGIAR. We suggest the following further refinements, in consultation with other stakeholders on the following:
 - Keeping the name short and simple.
 - Broadening the composition of the Board in novel ways
 - Building on the current Future Harvest activities and maintaining its momentum.
 - Involving all relevant actors including PAA and Future Harvest staff
 - Consultation on the location of the effort
 - Ensuring operational and intellectual independence of the effort
 - Linking this effort to centres' public awareness and resource mobilization efforts.
- The CDC is fully supportive of Future Harvest and expresses its great appreciation for the achievements so far. It is also fully supportive of Future Harvest expansion of public awareness activities to Europe and beyond, and towards resource mobilization.
- It will work with all others concerned to facilitate the transition of Future Harvest from a center-level activity to a system-wide operation. The CDC has shared its views on this subject elsewhere.

CDC Structure

- Changing the way we do business, due to the additional responsibilities given to the CDC by the CGIAR. Executive Secretary invaluable.
- CDC committees re-constituted into Task Forces with the aim of being more proactive in issue identification, development of proposals for change and a timely dialogue with our counterparts, within and outside the CGIAR.
- The CDC Executive Committee for next year will be Per Pinstrup-Andersen (chair), Pedro Sanchez and Jeff Sayer.
- The current Task Forces and incoming chairs are: Intellectual Property and Germplasm Resources (Ron Cantrell), Integrated Natural Resource Management (Jeff Sayer), Public Awareness and Resource Mobilization (Hubert Zandstra), Information and Training (Stein Bie), Sub-Saharan Africa (Hank Fitzhugh), and FAO Liaison (Meryl Williams). Other task forces are under consideration.
- Several Intercentre Working Groups such as Genetic Resources and Climate Change will continue, as well as CDC representation in boards or executive bodies of AIARC (Lukas Brader), GRPC (Geoff Hawtin), Future Harvest (Hubert Zandstra), Gender & Diversity Program (Meryl Williams), SPAAR/FARA (Kanayo Nwanze) and GFAR (Stein Bie).

Transition Issues

- The CDC endorsed Ismail Serageldin's continuation as CG Chair for 2 years and made our opinion known at the Consultative Council Meeting of October 26.
- The Centres are ready to contribute, along with TAC, to the long-term vision of the CGIAR and discussions on restructuring issues.
- The CDC commends both the transparent process and the successful outcome of the search for the new TAC Chair and supports the call for an equally transparent and consultative process as well as the terms of reference for the replacement of the current Executive Secretary of the CGIAR.
- The CDC sees with regret the departure of Alex McCalla as the World Bank co-sponsor and chair of the Finance Committee. He has been a good friend of the Centres in this and previous positions, including Chair of the CGIAR first review panel (1976) , TAC member and chair. We do hope he will remain associated with the CGIAR in some capacity so we are fortunate to continue benefit from his superb intellect, clarity and strength.
- It is also with regret that the CDC sees Don Winkelmann leaving as TAC Chair. As a former Center DG, Don showed during his tenure a good understanding of center dynamics and was able to communicate with them well. The CDC wishes him well.
- The CDC welcomes wholeheartedly Emil Javier as the next TAC Chair and, based on previous experience, is looking forward to an excellent collaboration with TAC particularly on strategic issues facing the CGIAR.
- At Beijing we said our farewells to Grant Scobie of CIAT and Shawki Barghouti of ICRISAT; we welcome Willy Dar as incoming ICRISAT DG and look forward to the new CIAT DG later in the year.

Issues to the Members

The CDC would like to call on the CGIAR members to:

- Continue and increase their unrestricted core support, despite prevailing trends.
- Be more proactive in working with Centers on mobilizing public sources outside the ODA framework.
- The CDC also calls on the Members to find ways to accelerate disbursement of their contributions, to discuss necessary changes in a multilateral context, and to avoid making drastic changes in allocations in mid-year.