

## Chairman's Summation, MTM200

### Introduction:

Colleagues and friends.

I usually end our meetings with Chairman's Summation. And, as usual, the end-of-meeting report from the Secretariat will be available outside.

As this is my leave taking, I propose to do something slightly different. I will, as usual, give you my summation. In addition, however, I will share some parting thoughts with you.

### Thanks:

As always, I preface my summation with an expression of appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of this meeting.

I want, in particular, to thank all of you around this table for your engagement that helped in the effective resolution of critical issues. I challenged you at this meeting to move at a speed somewhat different from what is normal to the CGIAR, and to do so in a manner that required a robust exchange of views on matters of substance. I appreciate your positive response to the challenge. I especially want to thank the chairs, rapporteurs, and members of yesterday's working groups. The open-ness of the discussion was exemplary, and bodes well for the future of the CGIAR. .

Our thanks are due now to:

- The German Government for hosting this meeting,
- The local authorities in Dresden for their support and cooperation,
- Jochen de Haas, the head of the German delegation, for his untiring efforts in all aspects and in all stages of planning and carrying out this meeting,
- Renee Ernst and her colleagues from BEAF who coped with our requirements and demands cheerfully and efficiently,
- Jurgen Richter of DSE and the staff team he brought together for their exceptionally capable support,
- Martin Raich of the Bellevue Westin hotel, the hotel's conference staff, and all other hotel staff, who were unfazed by an extraordinary influx of international visitors,
- The interpreters who enabled us to understand each other,
- The organizers of GFAR whose discussions enriched our own, and
- Alexander von Osten, for his outstanding management of all aspects of MTM2000.

As always, we could not possibly have brought our MTM to a successful completion without the commitment and competence of the CGIAR Secretariat. However, let me take a moment to go beyond just their work at this meeting. I want to tell you, unambiguously, that Secretariat staff serve your interests - the interests of the CGIAR, the international centers, our partners, and clients - with a competence and commitment that is not easily replicated. I know from personal observation and experience that they do so every day, whether in Washington or elsewhere. They deserve unqualified appreciation and esteem.

Now, let us in the usual manner thank the Secretariat for all that it does, and let us thank all those responsible for the way the meeting has unfolded.

### **Activities and Decisions:**

Although our primary focus at MTM2000 was on the visioning exercise, our agenda included a number of other business items. Alex McCalla provided the setting for a thoughtful discussion of the report on a long-term financing strategy. The working group that Alex chaired now has a clear charge to complete its work and present its final recommendations at ICW.

We heard from the centers on programmatic developments in the System, endorsed the framework of the 2001-2003 research agenda, and approved funding requirements of \$340 million for 2001. I trust that these funding arrangements will be fully met, with none of the "shocks" that some centers recently faced.

We took note of the EPMRs of ICARDA, IWMI, and WARDA; heard an analytical presentation by Robert Evenson on the impact of CGIAR research on germplasm improvement; and received a number of recommendations and reports from CGIAR committees.

### **From Vision to Action:**

In my opening statement, I outlined several propositions that could help the Group to focus its discussions sharply, and come up with an agreed process for moving from the new vision crafted by TAC to action.

These were not prescriptive propositions. You were free to review them, modify them, reject them or adopt them. In an effort to tease out all the issues that follow up actions must take into account, we broke out into a number of working groups yesterday, to discuss the substance of future planning.

The working group arrangement worked exceptionally well. The results of their brainstorming are out on the table, and can be considered by the various units charged with moving from vision to action.

**Proposition 1** dealt with the new vision, and was adopted.

The Group adopted the seven principles or 'planks' outlined in TAC's proposed new CGIAR vision statement, and broadly endorsed that statement's definition of the heartland of the CGIAR. The final iteration of the vision paper, incorporating comments made at MTM2000, will be ready by the end of August, will be shared by all, and will be ready for final disposition at ICW2000.

**Propositions 2 through 5** outlined a process for managing the changes that are urgently required, and suggested a timetable that would have brought these issues to closure by ICW2000. These suggestions were discussed by one of the working groups yesterday. Follow-up arrangements and schedules were worked out, and were adopted this morning. Thus, the propositions have fulfilled their purpose, and do not need further discussion now. We now have clear assignments and a time table for action from MTM2000 onwards.

It has been agreed, as well, that it should be left to the incoming Chairman to decide the timing of the next meeting of the Consultative Council, which could be before or after ICW. This is consistent with an earlier decision that the Council would be convened at the Chairman's discretion.

**Propositions 6 and 7** covered the composition and functions of the Consultative Council. Decisions on these issues will be deferred until after governance matters have been resolved.

An **eighth** proposition from the floor referred to the GFAR/CGIAR relationship. While all supported the strong ties that exist between GFAR and the CGIAR, we agreed that more specific aspects of that relationship will be reviewed at ICW2000.

There are some issues that came up in discussions that we have left for future resolution.

We need to do much better in terms of gender issues, not as a matter of political rhetoric, but in a transparent effort that to ensure that we respect the role of women in agriculture and agricultural research. This is not something that we can evade or ignore. I appeal to all of you to support the gender program – it is grossly underfunded.

We need, as well, to improve the way we communicate the results of research to appropriate publics. Clearly, despite the outstanding efforts of Barbara Rose and “Future Harvest”, current efforts are inadequate. We need to mobilize professional help.

Finally, at the request of several members, I suggest that a strong signal is required expressing the concern of the agricultural research community that the lack of an international agreement on a multilateral system of access, exchange, and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture poses a major threat to the very future of international agricultural research.

**Conclusion:**

Again, colleagues, I thank you for your cooperation. Let me stop here on the summation of MTM2000 – before I take the liberty of sharing my farewell thoughts with you.

ends