

**Chairman's Announcements**  
**CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting, May 23, 2001**  
**Durban, South Africa**

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I now move on to the Chairman's Announcements.

**Condolences:**

C. Subramaniam, India's former Minister of Agriculture, without whom there could not have been a "green revolution" in South Asia, passed away last November. He was 90. An obituary in The "Economist" said he was so committed to using the new wheat varieties from CIMMYT in the 1960s, that he countered public fears about "foreign pests and diseases" by digging up the beloved cricket pitch at his home in Delhi and planting it over with CIMMYT wheat. Only then were the skeptics silenced. M. S. Swaminathan has said of Mr. Subramaniam that he "helped India's farmers to achieve in four years as much progress as they had managed in the preceding 4,000 years." Mr. Subramaniam was an outstanding leader, respected in India and beyond for his competence, compassion, and integrity.

I would suggest that our appreciation be recorded in the formal account of this meeting, and that a copy of the record be conveyed to his family.

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As I continue with the rest of my announcements, please hold your applause until the end.

**Welcome:**

I extend a warm welcome to:

- Member representatives who are at a CGIAR meeting for the first time;
- Observers from agencies and countries that, I hope, will change from observers to members before long;
- African national partners;
- Representatives of civil society institutions;
- All other "Friends of the CGIAR."

**Honors:**

I am pleased to share with you the following information about honors received by several members of the CGIAR family.

- **Carlos Ochoa**, CIP's Senior Scientist Emeritus, was awarded the first "William L. Brown Award for Excellence in Genetic Resources Conservation." I was privileged to participate in the award ceremony.
- **ICRAF's Director General Pedro Sanchez** was awarded a doctorate, honoris causa, by the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium for his work on restoring soil fertility to end hunger in Africa.

**ICRAF** has other honors to its credit, too:

- A board member, **Daniel Murdiyaso**, has been appointed Deputy Minister for the Environment, in Indonesia; **Glen Denning**, the Center's Director of Development, was awarded a Gold Medal by the Government of Cambodia for his work on rice while he was still

at IRRI; **August Jemu**, ICRAF's Training Coordinator, was elected to the Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. ICRAF's **2000 Corporate Report** received the Gold Award from the International Association of Communicators in Education.

- **Francisco Reifschneider** recently received Brazil's prestigious "Premio Jabuti," award for his book, "Capsicum Sweet Peppers and Hot Peppers in Brazil." I hope that his responsibilities as CGIAR Director will not deter him from continuing his interests as a researcher and author, even if the peppers he encounters at the CGIAR are somewhat different from the varieties he studied in Brazil.

#### **Cosponsors:**

We welcome **Peter Matlon** who is known to all of you, and is here as the UNDP representative in his own right, for the first time. Peter is currently Group Leader in the Environmentally Sustainable Development Group at UNDP.

#### **Centers:**

We have three new board chairs at the Centers:

- **Alex McCalla** at CIMMYT, in his fourth coming to the CGIAR. It is nice to have you at the table again, Alex;
- **Martha Stone** at ICRISAT. She has, among other attributes, a highly respected expertise in information technology, and that will be helpful to us all.

Alex and Martha are both Canadian nationals.

- **Sjarifuddin Baharsjah** of Indonesia at IRRI. He has been an invaluable member of the IRRI board, and his appointment as board chair acknowledges the contribution he has already made.

We have changes among center directors as well.

- **Hank Fitzhugh**, who is currently the CDC Chair, will be succeeded at ILRI by **Carlos Sere** of Uruguay.
- **Jeff Sayer** will be succeeded by **David Kaimowitz** at CIFOR,
- **Pedro Sanchez** will be succeeded by **Dennis Garrity** at ICRAF,
- **Lukas Brader** will be succeeded by **Peter Hartmann** at IITA.

David, Dennis, and Peter are US nationals.

Each of the Center Directors who will be leaving the CGIAR System has had a strong influence within their Centers and beyond. Jeff Sayer and Pedro Sanchez shepherded the evolution of forestry and agroforestry research in the CGIAR System. Hank Fitzhugh was the first director of the restructured ILRI. He has, moreover, been an inspiring leader during his period as CDC Chair. Lukas Brader has been an outstanding research leader, and has elevated IPM to its rightful place on the research agenda. We will miss all of them in their present positions. Their successors are all research leaders of eminence, and I look forward to their full immersion in the changes ahead of us.

#### **TAC:**

King Albert has appointed **Guido Gryseels** as Director of Belgium's Royal Museum of Central Africa. We are proud of the honor he has received, but will feel his loss very much. We will have another opportunity to say farewell to Guido in an appropriate manner.

Let us now have a round of applause.