



Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Document No: MTM/01/12
Distribution: General
Date : May 21, 2001

Mid-Term Meeting 2001
May 21 - 25
Durban, South Africa

Charting the CGIAR's Future – Change Design and Management

Report of the Private Sector Committee

The attached report from the Private Sector Committee is being circulated for information.

This item is for: Information Discussion Decision

Proposed Action: None

Summary of Discussions CGIAR Private Sector Committee Teleconference

May 8, 2001

The CGIAR's Private Sector Committee (PSC) held a teleconference on May 8, 2001 in lieu of a formal meeting at MTM2001. The teleconference meeting was chaired by Sam Dryden. Claudio Barriga, Wallace Beversdorf, Robert Horsch, Florence Wambugu and Selçuk Özgediz participated. Badrinarayan Barwale, Seizo Sumida and Barry Thomas sent regrets.

Agenda:

1. *Change design and management in the CGIAR*
2. *Private sector interactions with the World Bank*
3. *Rockefeller Foundation initiative on IPR*
4. *PSC participation at MTM2001*
5. *Work Program and future meetings*

1. Change Design and Management in the CGIAR

Sam Dryden opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted.

Selçuk Özgediz provided a summary of the main recommendations made by the CDMT. Sam Dryden summarized the key points made at the last Steering Group discussion of the CDMT paper. Much of the discussion centered on the proposed Global Challenge Programs (GCPs). The participants were generally supportive of the directions of change proposed by the CDMT, including those related to the role of partnership committees. Key points included the following:

- GCPs would likely promote greater synchrony between donor and beneficiary interests. The System appears to be neutralized at the moment because of the dichotomy between donor priorities and the expressed interests of the beneficiaries.
- The CGIAR appears too disconnected from the local level—although solutions to problems need to be found at the local level. Would the apparent centralization that would emerge from the change recommendations (Executive Council, System Office, etc) undercut the System's local focus? Thus, there is need to maintain healthy balance (Think globally, act locally!)
- Despite the title "global" name, the Challenge Programs should not ignore important regional concerns (such as SSA). They should also make provision for bottom-up planning and submission of GCP proposals, and ensure the programs' accountability to clients at local/regional levels, helping create alliances on relevant issues.
- GCPs should address real problems with real solutions. They should be solution-based, not activity-based.

2. Private Sector Interactions with the World Bank

Sam Dryden summarized the developments in the dialogue between the World Bank and major agro-biotechnology firms. He noted that the dialogue had focused on four policy issues: (1) public acceptance of biotechnology; (2) intellectual property issues; (3) harmonization of regulatory regimes; and, (4) design, finance and distribution of new technology. The Bank has also convened a similar meeting with representatives of NGOs.

The dialogue, so far, has led to better understanding of perspectives. The next steps should be identified shortly.

3. Rockefeller Foundation Initiative on IPR

Sam Dryden briefed the members on the RF initiative, which aims to generate a new mechanism for sharing technology. This would be in the form of a new entity as repository of technology as public goods. The initiative would be based on the concept of "regulated public goods (RPG)." RPGs would have some boundaries attached to their use.

The concept has been well received and pilot activities to test it are planned in SSA and South Africa. The next meeting is scheduled for July/August (in Rome). The PSC members associated with the Rome meeting will meet informally in the sidelines of the meeting to draw implications for the CGIAR and bring this item for discussion to the next PSC meeting.

4. PSC Participation at MTM2001

The PSC agreed not to have a formal meeting at or before MTM2001. The members attending the MTM (Dryden, Barriga, Thomas, Wambugu) will meet informally on May 22, 2001. The record of the teleconference will be modified based on views of non-participating members and will be made available to the CGIAR. Members attending the MTM will agree on sharing of responsibilities.

5. Work Program and Future Meetings

The members discussed the future work program of the PSC. Several members argued that it was time for the PSC to examine its future role and ask if it was making a difference in the CGIAR as a committee. Dryden observed that during its first five years the PSC provided policy advice to make the CGIAR more effective. It is time now to examine what role would serve the CGIAR the best during the next five years. It was agreed that this would be a major topic of discussion at the next meeting.

The members agreed that it would be useful to have a short face-to-face meeting in connection with the October CGIAR meeting and, possibly, another teleconference following MTM2001.