

Conclusions and Recommendations of Parallel Session II Agenda Item (c). External Review of IPGRI

The External Review of IPGRI was discussed in Parallel Session II under the chairmanship of William Dar. The Chair of the Review Panel, Calvin Qualset, presented the findings and recommendations of the Panel. Overall, the Panel's assessment of IPGRI's work was very positive, i.e. IPGRI is a well-managed institution with sound programmes. However, the Panel made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Board and management.

Wanda Collins, Chair of IPGRI's Board, and Geoffrey Hawtin, Director General of IPGRI expressed appreciation to the Panel for its recommendations and informed the CGIAR members participating in the session of the actions that are being planned or already undertaken as part of the center's responses to some of the recommendations. Ralph Riley, TAC member, presented the committee's commentary on the Panel's report pointing out the issues where there were differing views between TAC and the Panel.

The members were pleased with the findings on the state of affairs at IPGRI and commended the center for the good progress it has made during the review period. They expressed confidence in the capacity of the institute to continue playing its role in the global effort to conserve and utilize plant genetic resources. A number of members commented on some issues raised either by the Panel or by TAC or by both. These included the following:

- research function/mandate of IPGRI
 - IPGRI's role as a catalytic and facilitator institution is fully endorsed; however, it should consider complementing its outsourced research with hands-on in-house research
- policy research
 - members reiterated the view that IPGRI should continue to develop its capacity for genetic resources policy research; some support the proposal to bring into the staff legal expertise to tackle the complex "gene policy" landscape
- maintaining focus in priority areas of work

The EPMR reaffirmed the benefits of integrating INIBAP with IPGRI. The members endorsed the full integration of the INIBAP program and the continuation of the INIBAP support group as an advisory group.

William Dar concluded the session by pointing out the need to discuss further the issues raised.