



Section II  
The Main Decisions





## The Main Decisions

The main decisions taken at the Cairo Mid-Term Meeting<sup>1</sup> are encapsulated below:

### BROADER PARTNERSHIPS

#### **1** New CGIAR Member

Thailand was admitted to CGIAR membership by acclamation, bringing the total number of developing country members to eighteen and total CGIAR membership to fifty-four.

#### **2** Positioning the CGIAR in the Global System

The Group reaffirmed that the key focus of the CGIAR will remain the generation of international public goods. Conserving germplasm, increasing productivity, protecting natural resources, improving policy, and building capacity will likely constitute the primary dimensions of future CGIAR work. The CGIAR will continue to be needed as a leader and focal point in people-centered, interdisciplinary, international research related to questions of natural resources man-

agement. The CGIAR should increasingly operate through partnerships, take advantage of new breakthroughs in science, and increase its efficiency.

As this topic will be the main focus of the CGIAR system review, all stakeholders were encouraged to share their views on the positioning of the CGIAR in the global system with the review panel.

#### **3** Follow-up to the Global Forum

The Group endorsed the report of the GFSC, its recommendations on implementing the Global Forum Plan of Action, and the decision to establish two secretariats, one for the GFSC and the second for the NARS GSC.

It was agreed that the GFSC secretariat would be based at the World Bank's ESDAR in Washington. IFAD, FAO, and ISNAR—the three possi-

bilities identified for the secretariat's location—will develop a mechanism, in consultation with the NARS GSC, to jointly sponsor the NARS GSC.

#### **4** NGOC and PSC

The Group welcomed the reports received from the NGOC and PSC, on the respective activities of the committees since ICW96 and their planned activities.

### RESEARCH AGENDA

#### **5** 1998 Research Agenda and Funding Requirements

The Group endorsed the substance of the 1998 research agenda as recommended by TAC. The Group adopted a financial planning target of \$335-340 million for the 1998 research agenda, as recommended by the Finance Committee, and commissioned the preparation of center financing plans for approval at ICW97.

#### **6** Center Medium-Term Research Plans for 1998-2000

The Group endorsed TAC's recommendations for the 1998-2000 medium-term planning period, including the proposed distribution of resources among centers. The Group noted the recommendations of the Finance Committee that a no-growth scenario be explored, in view of constraints on ODA budgets that might affect the size of the \$400 million investment recommended for 2000. The Group agreed to continue to review financial requirements on an annual basis.

#### **7** Biotechnology in the CGIAR

The Group agreed that the CGIAR will move ahead to increase the conduct of biotechnology research carried out by the centers, and took the decision to create two specialist panels, under the auspices of TAC, to review biotechnology issues and

<sup>1</sup> A customary Preliminary End of Meeting Report, which serves as a preliminary summary of highlights, was issued in Cairo on the last day of MTM97 and distributed to participants on their departure from the meeting hall. That report is not a comprehensive, official record, unlike the Summary of Proceedings and Decisions.

to deal comprehensively with intellectual property rights issues, respectively. The panels will be constituted and will meet prior to ICW97.

## **8** GRPC

The Group endorsed the report received from the GRPC, and commended the GRPC, in particular, for the workshop it held on ethics and equity, which addressed critical issues. The Group expects to receive the report of the workshop by ICW97.

The Group strongly supported continued open access to the genetic resources collections held in trust by the centers, and noted the action taken to roll over the existing agreements with FAO, signed at ICW94, bringing the in-trust germplasm collections of the centers within the International Network of Ex Situ Collections under the auspices of FAO.

## **9** Central/Eastern Europe and Central Asia/Caucasus

The Group agreed that, while some resources have been made available for start-up costs for a CGIAR effort in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, a sustained effort is necessary to ensure that additional financial commitments will be

forthcoming. The Group agreed, as well, that the CGIAR should be flexible in keeping to the "spirit" of Lucerne. Centers with potential programs in the region were encouraged to pursue them.

The Group welcomed Russia's interest in collaborating with the centers.

## **10** TAC

The Group endorsed the report received from TAC, noted TAC's strategic studies on research priorities for marginal lands and on the CGIAR's commitments in Latin America and the Caribbean and its plans to conduct external reviews of CIMMYT, IRRI, IFPRI, and CIFOR in 1997, and of ICRAF, ICLARM, ILRI, and the Systemwide Genetic Resources Program in 1998, and encouraged TAC to continue its efforts to refine CGIAR activity classifications and the development of a logical framework format.

## FINANCE

### **11** 1996 Financial Outcome

The Group adopted a report from the Finance Committee on the 1996 financial outcome. In 1996, support for the research agenda totaled \$304 million, as ex-

pected. Special efforts taken by the Group at MTM96 resulted in \$10 million in support for five centers facing financial difficulties in 1996, and four centers facing shortfalls took action to reduce staff. Disbursements by members were slower in 1996 than in 1995, and there was inadequate financing of some systemwide programs.

### **12** 1997 Funding Prospects

For 1997, aggregate center projections result in an overall estimate of funding of about \$325 million, which is in line with expectations. The recommendations of the Finance Committee to provide \$3.2 million to CIAT, ICRISAT, and IRRI, thereby implementing the special action proposed at ICW96, and \$2.0 million to ICRISAT, ILRI, ICARDA, and several systemwide programs, to help resolve financial shortfalls, were endorsed by the Group. The actions taken should ensure that the research agenda is not only fully financed at the system level, but for most centers as well. These steps indicate the priority accorded by the Group to protecting the heartland of the CGIAR research agenda and to ensuring its financing.

## GOVERNANCE

### **13** Cosponsors and OC

The Group received a report from the cosponsors, and endorsed a report received from the Oversight Committee.

### **14** System Review

The third review of the CGIAR system was formally launched at MTM97. The Group took note of developments since ICW97 regarding the appointment of panel members for the system review, stressed the importance of ensuring an independent and transparent review, and expressed its interest in interacting closely with the panel throughout the review process. Members suggested strategic issues for the consideration of the review panel, and several CGIAR committees agreed to prepare briefing papers on key aspects of the CGIAR. It was noted that the review will be constructively forward looking and help to position the CGIAR system for the future.

### **15** IAEG

The work program proposed by the IAEG was broadly endorsed by the Group, with the expectation that it would incorporate the suggestions made by the Group at MTM97.

In particular, the IAEG should strive to generate impact information faster and express such information in simple terms. The Group also endorsed plans to expand the IAEG's membership from three to four members, and the recommendations of the cosponsors with respect to strengthening the IAEG's support structure and the level of consultation between the IAEG and TAC, centers, and members.

The cosponsors will continue to examine other options and also review the rationale for maintaining strict independence. The IAEG's support structure should be strong enough to cater to both the needs of the centers and of the system. The system review should examine the future role and effectiveness of the IAEG within

the CGIAR's governance structure.

## **16** External Reviews

The external program and management reviews and TAC's commentary thereon of three centers—ICRISAT, ISNAR, and IPGRI—were endorsed during MTM97.

ICRISAT. The Group reaffirmed ICRISAT's important role in the semi-arid tropics, and welcomed the significant changes that have occurred in the center during the past few months, particularly the reorganization of the board, the selection of a new Director General, and the efforts underway for a smooth and orderly transfer of management. The Group supported TAC's recommendation that a briefing on actions taken by the board and management be presented to TAC73 in September.

ISNAR. The Group welcomed the significant progress made by ISNAR over the review period and ISNAR's efforts to put in motion a process for implementing the recommendations of the EPMR and of TAC, and noted that ISNAR expects to complete an outline of its new strategy by ICW97.

IPGRI. The Group expressed confidence in the capacity of the center to continue playing an important role in the global effort to conserve and utilize plant genetic resources, endorsed in particular the full integration of the INIBAP program into IPGRI, and noted that IPGRI will face a new range of opportunities in the future. The Group welcomed the follow-up actions planned by IPGRI's board and management on the issues raised during the review.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### **17** PARC

The Group endorsed the report received from PARC on its recent and planned activities. PARC was encouraged to continue to mount exhibits at major international meetings in the future, as such exhibits were seen as providing a forum to increase awareness of the work and impact of the CGIAR.

### **18** Dates of Future Meetings

1997 ICW, October 27-31, Washington, DC, USA

1998 MTM, May 25-29, Brazil

1998 ICW, October 26-30, Washington, DC, USA

1999 MTM, May 24-28, To be determined

1999 ICW, October 25-29, Washington, DC, USA



