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Chairman's Announcements

Opening Session

CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting 1998

Brasilia, Brazil

May 25, 1998

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have a few announcements to make, before we adopt the agenda for MTM97.

MEMBERSHIP

I am delighted to announce that President Museveni of Uganda personally informed me, when I visited his capital recently, that Uganda had decided to join the CGIAR. We agreed on the next steps to be taken, and I very much hope that an Ugandan delegation will be with us at ICW98. Uganda's membership will bring the South-North balance to 20-21, tantalizingly close to parity. I invite you to join me in a round of applause for Uganda and President Museveni.

AGENDA

The theme of this year's MTM is "Mobilizing Science for Global Food Security." Agenda items are expected to help us clarify our thoughts on this goal, and enable us to take concrete action towards its realization. As at other recent CGIAR meetings, parallel sessions have been arranged for the consideration of some items.

The proposed research agenda and modified MTPs will be the basis of how science is mobilized at the centers in the immediate future. Reports from two expert panels will provide us with guidance on the extent of biotechnology research we should undertake, and on the issues connected with intellectual property we will need to address in responding to the biotechnology challenge.

The external reviews will demonstrate how well scientific excellence is already being nurtured and deployed. The work of the partnership committees should indicate the continued effectiveness of a partnership mode. Recommendations from the Global Forum for Agricultural Research will provide us with an opportunity for further broadening and strengthening partnerships. The overarching agenda item, giving cohesion and strength to the rest of the agenda, is the system review. Once again I thank Maurice Strong and his colleagues for being with us, and I anticipate a highly productive interaction with them.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

You will be pleased to know that the public awareness campaign for agriculture planned by center directors with your blessings is now up and running. It has a leader, Barbara Rose, formerly of IFPRI; a home, at the CGIAR Secretariat; and a distinguishing name, "Future Harvest." Clearly, the system's renewed public awareness campaign is vigorous, and is in reliable hands.

Some of you would have learned more about the progress and future of this campaign, at this morning's breakfast briefing sponsored by our colleagues from Japan. For the benefit of those who missed that briefing, let me mention two developments. As you might recall, an important strategy of the campaign is to recruit a number of high level ambassadors, following the UNICEF model. This is being done, with great success. Another aspect of the strategy you approved, is for several studies to be commissioned, so that the links between agriculture and various aspects of human experience could be determined. The first of these studies, on the connections between agriculture and peace and conflict, is now underway. It is being conducted by Norway's International Peace Research Institute. Others are planned. More details will be shared with you, as these become available.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There is always a time at these meetings when we have to welcome new colleagues and friends, in the confident expectation that they will leave as strong an imprint on the work of the CGIAR as their predecessors to whom we have said or will say farewell. Let me start with the cosponsors.

Cosponsor Group

Jorge E. Illueca is now the new CGIAR representative from UNEP, succeeding **Franklin Cardy** who has moved to the World Bank. Mr. Illueca is UNEP's Managing Director and Assistant Director, Programs.

The Centers

Turning to the Centers, let me start with Board Chairs.

Board Chairs

David R. MacKenzie has succeeded Martha ter Kuile as the new chair of **CIP**.

Ragnhild Sohlberg is the new chair of **ICRISAT**. She succeeds R. S. Paroda.

Marcio de Miranda Santos has succeeded Wanda Collins as the new chair at **IPGRI**.

TAC

Five new members joined TAC at the beginning of this year. They are: Michael Cernea, Alain de Janvry, Maria Antonia Fernandez Martinez, Elias Fereres, and Usha Barwale Zehr. They replaced Ted Henzell, C. H. Hanumantha Rao, Sir Ralph Riley, Peter Magnus A. Tigerstedt, and Maria José Zimmermann whose terms have ended.

IAEG

The Impact Assessment Evaluation Group has been strengthened by the addition of two new members: Cristina C. David, and Frans L. Leeuw.

HONORS

International recognition of the scientific achievements of center staff is an important validation of our mission and our programs. It is, as well, cause for personal satisfaction among the men and women who work wholeheartedly, year in, year out, to mobilize the best of science to help the poor and hungry. I am delighted, therefore, to announce the following honors received by our center colleagues. The announcements are in alphabetical order:

Norman Borlaug was honored with the Humanitarian of the Year award in Canada.

CIP has received the Global Potato Congress 1997 Award, the International Potato Award presented by France, the Special Regional Award for the Quinoa Project, and the La Paz Scientific Merit Award.

C. L. L. Gowda of ICRISAT received the Vietnamese Medal of Agriculture and Rural Development “for distinguished contributions to groundnut development in Vietnam.

Gurdev S. Khush, Head and Principal Plant Breeder Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology Division at IRRI was appointed Honorary Visiting Research Professor of the Norman Borlaug Institute for Plant Science Research, De Montfort University, England.

R. S. Paroda, the former chair and currently a member of ICRISAT’s board, and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), was awarded India’s prestigious Padma Bhushan, for “distinguished and excellent service” in the field of Science and Engineering, specifically plant breeding.

Per Pinstруп-Andersen, Director General of IFPRI received the Charles A. Black Award presented annually by the Iowa-based Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST). The award is given to a food or agricultural research scientist who has made significant scientific contributions in his or her field and communicates the importance of this work to the public, policymakers, and news media.

Roelof Rabbinge is the recipient of his country’s highest award, Knight Order of the Dutch Lion.

Tim Reeves received an award from PCARRD for his successful efforts to forge linkages among CIMMYT’s research partners.

Dharmawansa Senadhira, Plant Breeder and Program Leader of Flood-Prone Rice Ecosystem research at IRRI, was chosen as one of the three laureates of the Fukui International Koshihikari Rice Prize for his contribution to improvements in rice production through plant breeding.

Virendra Pal Singh, an IRRI agronomist was given a Plaque of Appreciation by the Rice Research and Development Workers of Eastern India, in recognition of his initiative and support to rice research and development in the region.

Let us honor all these women and men who have given of their best to the CGIAR and continue to do so. Please indicate your support with a round of applause.

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We can now take up the next item of business, which is adoption of the MTM98 agenda.