

**Report from Parallel Session III
Discussion of the Fourth External Review of CIMMYT**

(CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting-May 28, 1998)

Chair: M Badawi; Secretary: P Sachdeva

The Fourth External Review of CIMMYT was discussed under the chairmanship of M Badawi (Arab Fund). The session was attended by over 70 participants. G Jenkins, chair of the Review Panel presented a summary of the panel's findings and recommendations. The Board Chair W Falcon, and the Director General T Reeves then presented the Center's response. The TAC commentary was presented by L de Vacarro, after which the floor was opened for discussion.

Highlights of Panel Recommendations

The Panel's overall view of CIMMYT is extremely positive. The Panel felt that the Center conducts high quality science and has an impressive record of achievements and impact, is well managed, and has a widely respected and vigorous leadership. The external Review has testified to the quality of research and its relevance and impact on the daily livelihood of hundreds of millions of rural and urban poor.

The.. Panel made 20 recommendations, that were broadly endorsed by TAC. Highlights follow:

Research Programs

- Ensure that CIMMYT's wheat germplasm carries effective combinations of genes resistant to all three rust diseases, and incorporates both improved yield potential and increased stress tolerance
- increase the information and germplasm flows between HQ and the regional offices
- increase collaboration between the biotechnology center and research programs
- investigate reasons for lack of adoption of improved maize OPV's and hybrids on more than 40% of the maize area in developing countries

Crosscutting Programs

- strengthen the work on natural resources management, and better integrate the economics and research programs
- improve priority setting and its linkages with resource allocation

Governance and Management

- develop full costing of the outputs of all breeding programs
- strengthen management information systems, and improve budgetary information flows to the Board
- commission an external review (CCEpR) of the project management system.