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02:49 AM

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Subject: Update on CG Priorities and Strategies Exercise

Dear Ian:

I am pleased to inform you that the arrangements for the Step 1 Stakeholder e-Consultations on CGIAR priorities and strategies have progressed well. We now have five Stakeholders Panels organized - Global (20), LAC (19), CWANA (19), SSAfrica (22) and Asia (23). The number of participants in the panels are indicated with the numbers in parentheses. The electronic consultations will run from 14 April to 5 May.

The Panels will be moderated by Peter Gardiner (Global), Willem Janssen (LAC), Don Plucknett (CWANA), Howard Elliot (SSAfrica) and Jock Anderson (Asia) with backstopping from iSC/ SCOPAS. The e-Consultation process is being orchestrated by the NGO RIMISP in Chile which has set up a dedicated web site for this exercise www.rimisp.org/isc <<http://www.rimisp.org/isc>> which is linked to the Science Council's web site.

For each Panel we approached a broad range of stakeholder groups identified with the help of CGIAR Stakeholders including GFAR, CBC, CDC and PSC. In all 168 people were contacted, and 103 have accepted to participate.

To inform the process, we commissioned short "think pieces" from individual experts, regional/subregional organizations and CGIAR Centres. More than 20 think pieces are posted on the RIMISP web site as essential readings for the participants. There are also other reference documents on the RIMISP web site as well as on the Science Council web site.

The output of the e-consultation -- a synthesis of prioritized list of issues, opportunities and knowledge gaps that should be addressed by the CGIAR and its partners -- will be posted on the web for three weeks in May for an Open Consultation to provide an opportunity to garner additional suggestions, obtain a broader sense of sense of priorities among stakeholders, and achieve a broader sense of ownership of the process and its outcome.

The GFAR meeting at Dakar on 22-24 May will provide an opportunity to discuss the outcome of Step 1. GFAR has made provision for this in the

agenda. Alain de Janvry will make the presentation.

The iSC/TAC 84 meeting in Rome in June will discuss the draft report on CGIAR Priorities and Strategies Step 1. The Council will review the proposed Scientific Consultations process for Step 2 aimed at translating the critical issues, opportunities and knowledge gaps from Step 1 into a list of prioritized research programmes and topics, and implementation strategies by Centres.

We should be ready by end of June to turn over to the incoming Science Council for its consideration the outcome of Step 1 of the PS exercise including suggestions/ideas on how to organize/manage Step 2.

I plan to attend the ExCo meeting in May and will provide further update on the progress with the CGIAR priorities and strategies exercise.

With best regards.

EMIL