

September 6, 2002

CGIAR and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Dear Colleagues,

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) has just concluded, on September 4, in Johannesburg and we are pleased that agriculture and rural development issues are back on the international development agenda. WSSD caps a successful year-long effort to highlight the centrality of these issues to the overall sustainable development agenda, including effective CGIAR participation both in the preparatory committee meetings, discussions, and contacts leading up to and at the Summit itself. This brief overview aims to provide a flavor of these key activities which show that the CGIAR is well positioned in terms of future direction and member support.

Pre-Summit Key Activities

- Establishment of CGIAR System Task Force for WSSD (and WFS;5yl) at the 2001 MTM in Durban, to be chaired by IPGRI (Coosje Hoogendoorn).
- CGIAR participation in Prepcom II and III in New York.
- During Prepcom IV, on June 6 in Bali, Indonesia, Governments of Indonesia and, Netherlands, CGIAR and World Bank co-sponsored a Ministerial Roundtable, "Agriculture for Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development." Twelve Ministers/Deputy Ministers participated; Mr. Nitin Desai, WSSD Secretary-General, addressed the meeting. Copies of the report were distributed in plenary at the concluding session on June 7. Furthermore, the CGIAR co-organized with IFAD a side event on Forestry (CIFOR) and put forward an exhibition.
- CGIAR Secretariat and IFPRI contributed a paper, "Framework for Action - Agriculture for Growth and Sustainability in the 21st Century," to support the WSSD process. The paper benefited from comments by CGIAR co-sponsors (IFAD, FAO, UNDP, World Bank), Executive Council, and other key stakeholders. We are pleased that the core messages are reflected in the official document, "A Framework for Action on Agriculture," released at WSSD.
- A very successful pre-WSSD tour was organized by IFPRI for a group of international science journalists who visited projects and facilities of CGIAR Centers in Kenya, and will report extensively on CGIAR activities in this region.
- South African National Department of Agriculture and the CGIAR hosted a pre-Summit workshop, "Options for Research Agenda to Achieve the Sustainable Development Objectives of NEPAD," held at Pretoria on 22 and 23 August. Centers' and FARA representatives and the African SROs participated actively. The results were presented to the Summit at a half-day symposium at Ubuntu during the first week of the Summit which was well-attended by delegates and politicians, particularly from Southern Africa.
- CGIAR delegates co-organized the Stakeholder Forum Implementation Conference on Food Security in Johannesburg (24-26 August) which resulted in a range of new partnerships.

Key Activities during the Summit

- Frank Rijsberman, IWMI, and his team organized an impressive series of major water-related events at the WaterDome. The Dutch Prince of Orange Willem Alexander; Mr. Takehiko Endo, Sr. Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim of African Union; and Ian participated in a special event on the Challenge Program on “Water and Food.” Dutch Government announced their additional support of 25 million Euros for the proposed Challenge Program once approved by CGIAR. The Swiss Government also expressed a serious interest to support this Challenge Program.
- CGIAR participated in a USAID event, “Initiative to End Hunger in Africa,” chaired by Andrew Natzios and Emmy Simmons. Francisco addressed the meeting. USAID said it was increasing its support to the Initiative by over 25 percent – to \$148 million – to assist efforts at raising agricultural productivity and reducing poverty by 2015. Increased support to agricultural research, including the possibility of support to the Challenge Program on biofortification was also announced.
- “NERICA Rice: Hope for Food Security in Africa” was a well-attended special event co-hosted by Japanese Government, UNDP, WARDA, and CGIAR. Kanayo Nwanze; Monty Jones, FARA Executive Secretary; two NERICA farmers, Delphine Koudoo and Leyba Camara; and Ian addressed the meeting. We were pleased that Ms. Kawaguchi, Japanese Foreign Minister; Sr. Vice Minister Takehiko Endo; and Mr. Zephirin Diabre, UNDP Associate Administrator, also participated. Japan announced strong continuing support to CGIAR and proposed NERICA as a Type II initiative.
- IFAD-FAO-CGIAR co-hosted a side event to release the IFAD report, “The Rural Poor: Survival or a Better Life?” Ian joined Lennart Bage, IFAD President, and Ms. Ana Elisa Osorio Granado, Venezuela’s Environment Minister, in addressing this standing-room only event. We thanked IFAD for the excellent IFAD-CGIAR partnership exhibit at Ubuntu.
- A side event, “Challenge Programs: New Partnerships for Development Impact,” was organized by the CGIAR to brief participants about the concept of Challenge Programs for broadening partnerships and enhancing impact. The three Challenge Program proposals being reviewed were registered as Type II outcomes of WSSD. The meeting was chaired by Francisco, with opening remarks by Ian. Frank Rijsberman, IWMI, and Joseph Mukiibi, NARO-Uganda and FARA Chairman, also spoke. About 60 participants attended the meeting. At a subsequent lunch, Messrs. Jacques Diouf, Alvaro Umana, and Shantanu Mathur (representing three co-sponsors), and various delegates from CGIAR member countries took part in more in-depth discussions on modalities of Challenge Programs.
- The CGIAR statement to WSSD plenary, “Mobilizing Science for Growth and Sustainable Development: The Power of Partnership,” was delivered by Adel El-Beltagy, incoming Chairman, Center Directors Committee (copy attached). At an earlier occasion, Dennis Garrity, ICRAF, intervened on behalf of the CGIAR in the plenary debate on the “Framework for Action on Agriculture.”

- CIFOR and ICRAF joined with IUCN and WWF to co-sponsor a special event, “Forests as Resources for the Poor – The Rainforests Challenge.” David Kaimowitz briefed participants about the special challenges of conserving rainforests; Achim Steiner of IUCN chaired the event.
- International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and World Federation of Engineering Associations (WFEO) hosted a forum on “Food Security for Africa – Role of Research.” Francisco’s presentation highlighted the importance of sustained donor support for optimum research-for-development impact. At a related roundtable, “S&T Communication for Development,” Fiona Douglas briefed participants about the new CGIAR communication awards.
- A joint event was held by Global Conservation Trust (GCT) and Imperial College where the College released a new report, “Crop Diversity: the case for sustaining crop collections,” and plans were announced to establish the GCT for raising an international endowment of \$260 million to help maintain the world’s most critical plant collections. Switzerland confirmed its support to GCT, and the United States (Andrew Natzi), the U.N. Foundation and Egypt also announced their support.
- World Bank and Global Mechanism to Combat Desertification hosted a side event, “Scaling Up by Scaling Down: Using Global Programs to Deliver Local Benefits.” ICRISAT NGO collaborator, The Rev. A. Senyagwa, spoke at the event.
- CGIAR participated in a side event on drylands organized by IUCN and the World Bank.
- FARA, NEPAD, and CGIAR hosted a well-attended symposium, “Plant Genetic Resources for Africa’s Renewal,” at Ubuntu. M.S. Swaminathan delivered the keynote address. The event attracted a wide audience of delegates, scientists and NGOs.
- ICARDA, IFAD and Global Mechanism to Combat Desertification organized a special event to address the challenges of promoting sustainable agriculture in the Central Asia and Caucasus region.
- AfricaBio Science Forum hosted a one-day workshop, “Role of Biotechnology and Biodiversity in Sustainable Development,” which was held at Ubuntu; Coosje and other Center representatives participated actively in this event.
- IUCN organized a well-attended theme event on “Saving Biodiversity, Feeding the Poor” in which Dennis Garrity, Future Harvest (eco-agriculture), and IPGRI participated as speakers and panelists.

Several press events were held (briefing on agricultural science and technology consultations, water and food security, the Global Conservation Trust and the pre-Summit East African tour for international science journalists organized by IFPRI). CGIAR received good coverage in mainstream media (*Time*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Economist*, *Nature*, *Jeune Afrique*, *Summit Star*, BBC Online, and others). Booths at Ubuntu, NASREC under the banner “Power of Partnership,” and at the WaterDome described the research-for-development activities being conducted by the CGIAR.

Taken together, CGIAR participation in these events and interactions with Summit delegates has helped focus attention on the contributions public goods research is making toward achieving sustainable development, supporting Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conventions. With the support of CGIAR co-sponsors, we were actively engaged in discussions on agriculture, water and biodiversity both during the political discussions and the many side events. The CGIAR delegates, representing the Secretariat, 14 Centers and Future Harvest, worked together in a very productive manner to enhance the profile of the CGIAR and its goals. We would like to especially thank all the CGIAR Delegation members and the members of the CGIAR System Task Force (General and PA members) for their efforts. This is a preliminary, non-exhaustive report and we thought you would appreciate receiving a brief update on these events.

With best regards,

Ian Johnson, Francisco Reifschneider and Coosje Hoogendoorn

Attachments

CGIAR statement to WSSD Plenary

Key URLs linked to WSSD

- WSSD paper
http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/wehab_papers/wehab_agriculture.pdf
- CGIAR-IFPRI paper
<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/essd/essdext.nsf/43ByDocName/WorldSummitonSustainableDevelopmentAnalyticalWork>
- IFAD paper
<http://www.ifad.org/events/wssd/e/index.htm>
- Information on WaterDome
www.waterdome.net

Distribution

- CGIAR Members
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Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

**Mobilizing Science for Growth and Sustainable
Development:
*The Power of Partnership***

Statement at
World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

**Johannesburg, South Africa
August 30, 2002**

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite intensive efforts and some successes, widespread poverty, chronic hunger, extensive malnutrition, unfair markets, and pervasive environmental degradation have combined to make the goal of sustainable development appear elusive. At the dawn of a new century, the human family is facing daunting development challenges:

- 1.2 billion people live on the equivalent of less than \$1/day, and poverty is concentrated in rural areas;
- More than 800 million people, mostly women and children, go to bed hungry every day; paradoxically, rural areas where food is grown are the epicenters of hunger;
- Malnutrition stalks children and stunts their growth, an estimated 17 million children under five die each year with malnourishment contributing to at least one-third of these deaths;
- Earth's ecosystems are under dire stress; agricultural activities have transformed between one-third to one-half of the earth's land surface, parching aquifers, polluting waters, reducing habitats and biodiversity and smoke plumes are enveloping areas of sub-continental dimensions;
- Biodiversity is being lost at unprecedented rates; 25 locations around the world, occupying only 1.4 per cent of the world's earth, contain more than 60 per cent of the earth's plant and animal species it is such areas that must be protected, and
- Over the next 30-40 years, food demand is expected to double in developing countries where poor people spend a disproportionately large portion of their income purchasing food and are least able to afford it.

Sustainable agriculture holds the key to meeting these daunting economic, social and environmental challenges. Agriculture and the environment are closely linked as agricultural activities affect most of the world's natural resources such as land, fresh water, and biodiversity. Growth in the agricultural sector reduces poverty, feeds the world's growing population and protects the planet's ecosystems. Agricultural science and public goods research must be mobilized to meet the challenges outlined above.

The case for focusing on agriculture as a pathway to achieving sustainable development is strong.

Three of every four poor people in the developing world—900 million in all—live in rural areas and depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture (encompassing crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry) is the single most important sector in the economies of most low-income countries, accounting for one-fourth to one-half of gross domestic product (GDP) and the bulk of export earnings. Poor people's links to the land are critical for the sustainability of communities, pastures, forests and other natural resources. Therefore, a focus on agriculture and rural development must be on the front lines of any successful assault on poverty and environmental degradation.

CGIAR recognizes that at its core, sustainable development is about ensuring the well-being of people and the ecosystems on which all life depends. A recent study shows that the challenge of halving the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day (from 29 to 14.5 percent of all people in low and middle-income countries) requires 3.6 percent growth in per capita incomes, nearly twice the rate achieved over the past decade. While growth is a precondition for sustainable development, for such growth to be sustainable it must be economically viable, environmentally responsible, and socially acceptable. The evidence is incontrovertible: the war on poverty and environmental degradation must first be fought and won in rural areas.

There are many examples which show that countries with dynamic, growth-oriented agricultural sectors have been most successful in breaking the nexus of poverty, hunger and environmental degradation. This evidence is critically important for today's developing countries which have a large portion of their economies linked to agriculture and agribusiness.

Science and technology have been important and strategic elements in responding to the multifaceted challenges outlined above. The generation of global, specialized agricultural knowledge that has created new agricultural information, products and technologies specifically adapted to the crops, ecologies, and development needs of poor farmers is needed more than ever today. In the next decades, we should also see agriculture's interface increasing with human health and in the provision of environmental services. Undoubtedly, there has been and will continue to be a special role for the innovators and providers of global public goods, freely available to all. Their efforts harness the best of global knowledge for local impact. These efforts must continue.

Strategic alliances between national agricultural research and development programs, farmers, civil society, advanced research institutions and CGIAR-supported research centers have achieved major successes with positive local impacts that are congruent with the goals of Agenda 21. Let me highlight a few:

- Afghanistan's agriculture is being rebuilt. It is the most important sector of the economy. War, civil strife, and drought have depleted food production capabilities, In partnership with others, the largest seed supply effort in Afghanistan has been launched. Restoring growth in the agricultural sector is essential for sustainable development and lasting peace.
- NERICA, the New Rices for Africa, combine the ruggedness of local African rice species (*Oryza glaberima*) with the high productivity traits of Asian rice (*Oryza sativa*) that were the mainstay of the Green Revolution. This effort is transforming agriculture in the humid West Africa region where rice imports top 3.5 million tons; in Guinea alone, NERICAs are planted on 90,000 ha saving \$13 million in rice import bills;
- "Quality Protein Maize" (QPM) containing twice the amount of lysine and tryptophan compared to regular maize has been developed. Lysine and tryptophan are amino acids essential for increasing the quality of food. Currently, QPM is being planted on one million hectares in 20 countries, boosting food, nutrition and income security;

- Integrated aquaculture/agriculture techniques are boosting farm incomes and productivity – farms using IAA techniques produce 1.3 to 1.6 tons of fish per hectare, compared to less than 900 kg/ha in the standard methodology. The integrated pond/vegetable garden of IAA farms generate on average 72 percent of household income and are essential for food and nutrition security among poor farming communities in many parts of Africa;
- The recently-adopted International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture recognizes the importance of the collections held in public trust by the CGIAR as the central pillar of the multilateral system.

We all know that science and technology is not enough to address the challenges faced by the poor. The work of agricultural science is never complete and we certainly cannot rest on the laurels of past achievements. New challenges press on, requiring newer, innovative approaches.

Despite the centrality of agriculture in achieving sustainable development, agricultural issues are just beginning to be back on the international development agenda. In recent times, the agricultural sector has suffered from a combination of declining investments, pervasive urban bias, poor performance, inappropriate policies, and weak institutions. The decades of the 1980s and 1990s saw a precipitous decline in funding for agriculture and rural development. These trends must be reversed in light of the evidence: no country has been able to reduce poverty and protect its environment without improving its agricultural sector. Public goods research provides the new agricultural technologies that boost yields, create wealth, and conserve natural resources.

It is imperative to ensure access to information and to presently available technologies especially for those who have not benefited from the advances in science and technology. Yield differentials between African and Asian countries alert us to the unrealized potentials. At the same time, we must look ahead and there are worrying signs. Given the enormity of the development challenges, it is clear that cutting-edge science will need to be applied to problems of arid, semi-arid and tropical farming that were not solved before. And newer challenges are continuously being added to the list. But we must remember that modern science is a capital-intensive endeavor – in 1998, 22 OECD countries spent more on research and development than the total economic output of the world's 61 poorest countries. New alliances, new partnerships anchored in the common good are needed and scientific networking, capitalizing on the information and communication technology revolution, will be key.

Recognizing the daunting nature of development challenges confronting the human family, CGIAR has launched an innovative concept of "Challenge Programs" that target issues of global significance (e.g. water and bio-fortification among others). These Challenge Programs are designed to utilize cutting-edge science to create solutions for development problems. Challenge Programs are time-bound, inclusive, participatory, high impact research-for-development programs.

Developing countries need to be supported in their efforts to develop their scientific and technological capacities, create new age institutions, networking in new, broad-based public and private sector alliances that must adequately and fairly address the issues of intellectual property rights. National and international support must be given to the development of human resources necessary to harness the potential of the new institutional arrangements. We are delighted that CEOs of major private sector agricultural institutions, both North and South, have signed a statement of corporate support for strengthening cooperation between the private and public sectors to promote agricultural research and agricultural development as catalysts of growth and sustainable development. It is a welcome affirmation of the critical importance of public-private partnerships.

Equally important is to look at security in a broader definition that should include 'market security.' Agricultural subsidies in industrialized countries amount to \$350 billion every year. This is enormously wasteful and prevents the developing countries from gaining entry for their agriculture-related exports. Our collective quest for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including halving the number of hungry by 2015, will fail unless we address these shortcomings of the international trade system and promote the concept of market security. Fair access to fair markets is of critical importance.

The International Agricultural Research Centers (the Future Harvest Centers) supported by the CGIAR, its co-sponsors—FAO, IFAD, UNDP and The World Bank—and their partners in South and North are not overwhelmed by the severity of these multifaceted challenges. The Centers, Members, and civil society organizations are working hard to expand the endless frontier of science, generating global knowledge for local impact. Our efforts have won international recognition: CGIAR researchers have won the World Food Prize for the past three years.

Sustainable agriculture is a central pillar of growth and sustainable development. For more than 30 years, the CGIAR has demonstrated how international research, anchored in a public goods orientation, can be a key driving force behind sustainable agriculture, creating new knowledge that can help accelerate our efforts for achieving a sustainable and prosperous world. We are pleased that the CGIAR is being cited as an example of international development cooperation at its best, and that similar consultative groups are being explored for other sectors. We see this as an endorsement of the CGIAR model which has been effective in mobilizing science in the service of poor farmers of developing countries.

The Johannesburg Summit offers a genuine opportunity to increase awareness of and commitment to solving some of the most pressing issues of our time. Wise management of our natural resources and protection of the global environment are essential to achieving sustainable development—and thus alleviating poverty and hunger, and protecting the ecological base on which future food production depends. We commit ourselves to implementation and action.