



31 August 2006

Dr. Ruben Echeverria,  
Executive Director,  
CGIAR Science Council  
FAO, Rome, Italy

Our ref: 2006/FARA/ESUCGIARSC/005

Dear Ruben,

**RE: FARA'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SCIENCE COUNCIL  
REVIEW OF THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA CHALLENGE PROGRAMME (SSA CP)**

I would like to register FARA's deep appreciation to the CGIAR Science Council (SC) Secretariat; first for assembling and supporting a high quality and dedicated review panel, and second, for allowing us sufficient time to consult widely as we prepared a response to recommendations from the review. FARA applauds the panel's commendable effort in accomplishing the review within a very tight schedule and making very constructive observations and recommendations, in particular endorsing the Programme's continuation to its next phase.

I am pleased to submit FARA's response to the panel's eleven recommendations. This response is the result of consultations among FARA stakeholders that participated in the SSA CP review exercise. We welcome all the recommendations and wish to reaffirm our high regard for the SC's vital contribution to assuring that the quality of science in the SSA CP is of the highest standard. FARA looks forward to continuous dialogue with the SC with a view to achieving our common goal, that is, a resounding success of the SSA CP that would be manifest through significant contribution by agricultural research to improving livelihoods for millions of Africans.

Yours sincerely

Monty P Jones (Ph.D, D.Sc)  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
**Encl.**