

## **Highlights of the ExCo Program Committee Meeting**

(September 18, 2003)

The Executive Council Program Committee held its second meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2003 at the CGIAR Secretariat Office. The following members participated in the meeting: Marina Puccioni (Chair), Franklin Moore/Rob Bertram, Dietrich Leihner, and Magdy Madkour. Attending as observers were Emil Javier, Adel El-Beltagy, Usha Barwale, Shellemiah Keya, A. Fardous, Uzo Mukwonye and William Dar.

### **IPGRI EPMR**

- PC endorsed the review recommendations, noting that the iSC concurred with them and that the Center's responses were all positive.
- The following recommendations and related issues were emphasized by some members of the Committee:
  - not to spread activities and resources too thinly;
  - IPGRI's role as a "purveyor of information/knowledge on PGR" rather than as an "honest" broker;
  - possibility for extending the Center's mission to genetic resources other than plant (iSC did not endorse this suggestion);
  - need for discussion between FAO and IPGRI on the management of germplasm collected with IPGRI's support.
- PC strongly supported the recommendation to move towards full integration of INIBAP into IPGRI, safeguarding the banana research identity (logo) as suggested by iSC.
- PC noted iSC's observation that IPGRI'S CCERs provided excellent inputs into the EPMR process and commended the Center for organizing them. It recommends that CCERs be designed and organized in a way consistent with the requirements of the EPMRs.

### **ICRISAT EPR AND EMR**

- PC endorsed the review (EPR and EMR) recommendations, concurring with the iSC. It was pleased to note that ICRISAT accepted all the recommendations and has committed to implement them.
- On the recommendation to move the Center's headquarters to Sub-Saharan Africa, the Committee agreed to ICRISAT's plan to create a task force that would carry out an in-depth study of the programmatic issues, costs, host country agreements, and donor support for various scenarios of the move.
- PC endorsed a suggestion to establish a CGIAR Task Force to consider CGIAR's overall agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Task Force should consider opportunities for synergies and rationalization in the work of CGIAR Centers and other actors, in the region. An earlier initiative exploring programmatic

integration in sub-regions should be revisited. A review of the current “crop mandate model” was suggested.

- The PC stressed that, although the genebank will remain in India, the responsibility for it, as an international public good, will remain with the CGIAR.
- The PC agreed with ICRISAT on the importance for the Center not to lose stakeholders in India and continue its activity especially in other Asian countries.

### **Monitoring of Implementation of EPMR Recommendations**

- PC was pleased to note the progress made by CIP in implementing the EPMR recommendations.
- The role of the PC in monitoring implementation of EPMR recommendations should focus on issues that have systemwide programmatic and policy implications. Such issues should be identified by the Science Council.

### **CSD-11/WSSD and other international Task Forces**

- PC asks ExCo to clarify its requests to PC under this heading.
- PC noted the results of CSD-11 and the progress in the work of relevant task forces (IAC Panel for mobilizing S&T to increase productivity and food security in Africa, international assessment of agricultural S&T, and MDG task force on hunger).
- PC noted the work program of CSD-11. Aimed at addressing priority actions and commitments to implement the outcomes of WSSD, CSD’s work is organized as a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles. The first cycle (2004/2005) will focus on water, sanitation and human settlement.
- To follow up on CGIAR participation in the implementation of the outcome, a suggestion was made to revive the systemwide task force that organized and coordinated CGIAR’s participation in the WSSD. The CDC chair informed the Committee that a CDC subcommittee has been given the responsibility for coordinating it.

### **ExCo Oversight of Medium-Term Plans (MTPs)**

- PC members felt that the Committee could play a significant role in facilitating ExCo’s oversight over the Center’s MTPs. Mechanisms and process to carry this out should be discussed with the Finance Committee and SC.

### **Concept Note on Poverty Mapping**

- PC appreciated the presentation made by FAO on poverty mapping. It recognized the importance of poverty mapping to the work of the CGIAR and agreed that it should contribute to reduce duplication of effort among agencies involved.
- PC noted the request for its presentation at AGM03.

## **OED Meta-Review of the CGIAR**

- PC noted the suggestion for a more comprehensive discussion of the OED Meta-Review report. It also noted that the item is included in the agenda of AGM03.