

**Enriching the Lives and Livelihoods of the Poor**  
**Recent Impacts**

**Kanayo F. Nwanze**  
**Outgoing Chair, Center Directors Committee**

**AGM04, CIMMYT, Mexico**

Slide 1

Distinguished Guests

Dear Friends and Colleagues

I am deeply honored to take part in this historic commemoration of the establishment of the CGIAR – the largest strategic agricultural research alliance for the benefit of the poor in the world. It is indeed a great privilege to be here amongst you with some of the founder members of the CGIAR in this hallowed place, where the seed of the Green Revolution was first sown by the research network led by Prof. Borlaug.

Even after three and half decades, the CGIAR strategic alliance is more relevant and dynamic than ever before, testifying to the farsightedness of its founder members. Its research has provided a continuous stream of proven technologies, generating substantial impact in farmers' fields, in national production statistics and in smallholder householder welfare.

Slide 2

An impact study has shown that for every dollar invested in the CGIAR, \$9 worth of additional benefits have been produced in the developing world, catalyzing substantial additional “multiplier effects” for poor producers and consumers in the process. It is important to remember the point made by the Director of the Millennium Project Jeffrey Sachs that the combined annual budget of all our Centers is less than half of Monsanto's R&D budget alone.

### Slide 3

In Latin America for example, CGIAR's research on rice, maize, potatoes and beans have immensely helped millions of smallholder farmers and consumers. Since 1966, new rice technologies are estimated to have benefited Latin American consumers by more than US\$ 500 million per year, and rice producers by about \$450 million per year.

### Slide 4

By creating agricultural technologies for the benefit of the poor, the public goods research activities of the CGIAR are helping translate the aspirations put forth by the global community in the Millennium Development Goals to cut poverty in its many dimensions, such as low income, hunger, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and environmental degradation.

As we heard on Monday, the CGIAR through the Future Harvest Centers is involved in 3 of the 10 task forces of the UN Millennium Development Project and hosts the MDG Technical Support Center which was established in Nairobi in June 2004.

### Slide 5

The CGIAR Centers are increasingly realigning their programs to heighten their contribution to the Millennium Goals. It's my great pleasure to bring to your attention examples of recent impacts of our partnership-based research that has a greater focus on poverty reduction, improvement of human well-being, development of sustainable systems, improvement of policies that impact on agriculture, strengthening of national capacity, and development of innovative R&D tools that help in pro-poor research. I wish to conclude by highlighting a Collective Action initiative that the Centers have embarked upon to make the CGIAR system achieve greater integrity, efficiency and impact.

Slide 6

### **Reducing Poverty and Hunger**

The Rice-Wheat Consortium for the Indo-Gangetic Plains, involving several CGIAR Centers and national partners is helping smallholder farmers in South Asia save water, and fuel, and making their land sustainable. An improved technology involving zero tillage to sow wheat after rice has yielded benefits in India and Pakistan amounting to more than \$100 million in 2003 alone.

Slide 7

### **Reducing Poverty and Hunger**

Improved, drought-tolerant maize, producing 30% more yield than traditional varieties under dry conditions, is being grown on at least 250,000 hectares in southern Africa. The improved maize is being disseminated using a novel, cost effective, farmer-centered approach, through the Southern African Drought and Low Soil Fertility Project (SADLF), which is a collaborative effort between our scientists in Mexico and national programs in the region.

Slide 8

### **Reducing Poverty and Hunger**

Thanks to collaboration between our scientists in Peru and the national agricultural system in China, virus-free sweetpotatoes have been developed, leading to 30-40% increase in yields. Since 1997 the resultant economic benefit at farm and village levels, has been estimated at US\$550 million in yearly benefits to China's economy.

Slide 9

### **Reducing Poverty and Hunger**

The high potential of the New Rice for Africa (NERICA) for reducing poverty in Africa led to the selection of Dr Monty Jones, the Father of NERICA as the co-Laureate of the 2004 World Food Prize. The African Development Bank launched a \$30 million

project in 2003 to help West African countries disseminate NERICA. About 80% of the targeted beneficiaries of this project are the rural poor, mostly women. NERICA varieties are spreading fast in East Africa, especially in Uganda, where there is a growing NERICA boom.

Slide 10

### **Improving Human Well-being**

A research project carried out in rural Vietnam in partnership between the national program and our scientists in Colombia has stimulated widespread adoption of improved forages, leading to 30% increase in rural family incomes per year and major savings in time and labor, especially for women and children, who traditionally spend many hours each day feeding and herding livestock.

Slide 11

### **Improving Human Well-being**

Lentil, a staple food in Bangladesh is often called "poor man's meat" because of its high protein and micronutrient content. The national program in partnership with our scientists in Syria have developed improved lentil varieties that are bringing over \$12 million per year, boosting the country's economy and improving food security.

Slide 12

### **Developing Sustainable Systems**

The use of commercial fertilizer in Africa continues to decline because of high fertilizer prices. Thanks to innovative farmer participatory research, new practices such as leguminous tree cropping have been developed that improve soil fertility, increase crop yields and financial returns to farmers. After many years of slow spread, adoption of these systems has taken off in a big way in southern and eastern Africa through the out-scaling of farmer participatory research. More importantly, the very poor adopt fertilizer tree systems at the same rate as the wealthy and female headed households adopt at the same rate as male headed households.

Slide 13

### **Developing Sustainable Systems**

In the desert country of Mauritania, thanks to improved rice technologies and integrated crop management approach, developed by our rice scientists in Africa, rice yield has gone up from 2 tonnes per ha in early 1980s to more than 4 tonnes in 2000. Sahel 108, a high-yielding rice variety, covers about 70% of the rice-growing region in Mauritania and Senegal River Valley.

Slide 14

### **Developing Sustainable Systems**

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture came into force in June 2004, establishing a new framework for the use and exchange of genetic resources. The CGIAR, together with FAO, has launched a complementary initiative to establish the Global Crop Diversity Trust to raise an endowment, the interest on which can be used to support the Earth's most crucial agricultural biodiversity in perpetuity. We are delighted to announce that just one week ago, on October 20, the Trust entered into force as an independent international organization after 12 countries signed the agreement establishing the Trust. The Trust has raised more than \$50 million to date.

Slide 15

### **Developing Sustainable Systems**

To ensure that the Future Harvest Centers of the CGIAR can adequately discharge their responsibilities for conserving the in-trust collections under the new Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, the Centers have been granted \$13.6 million to upgrade their genebanks for the global public good. Coordinated by the System-wide Genetic Resources Program, this major upgrade commenced in 2003 and is nearing completion.

Slide 16

### **Policy Improvement**

A significant Conference on Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020 was organized this year in Uganda. Key technical, institutional, and political constraints to achieving food and nutrition security in Africa as well as priority areas and opportunities for interventions and actions emerged from the Conference, which will serve as reference points for improving agricultural policies for the region.

Slide 17

### **Policy Improvement**

From a detailed understanding of smallholder dairy systems in Kenya by our livestock researchers collaborating with Kenyan institutions and NGOs, lessons learnt have been scaled up and out to Uganda, Ghana, India and Sri Lanka. Research data is encouraging policymakers to support the evolution of their traditional dairy sectors through better access to microfinance; better livestock breeding, health, transport and marketing services; and pro-poor regulations.

Slide 18

### **Policy Improvement**

Significant steps were made this year in highlighting to high-level policy makers and international initiatives, such as the Copenhagen Consensus and 2004 G8 Action Plan, the benefits of investing in research on water, food and environment as a key to improving the livelihoods of millions in rural areas. The G8 Action Plan called for increased efforts in Africa and increased funding for the CGIAR with reference to the Challenge Program on Water and Food, FARA and NEPAD.

Slide 19

### **Strengthening National Capacity**

Building on the phenomenal success of the cassava pest control project in Africa, our scientists in Nigeria in association with various partners are helping countries in Africa to strengthen their capacity to fight cassava mosaic disease. A major cassava mosaic pre-emption project has been launched in southern Nigeria where the disease is expected to hit.

Slide 20

### **Strengthening National Capacity**

The involvement of CGIAR Centers in rebuilding agriculture in countries affected by conflict and natural disasters has benefited over 45 countries. Too often, aid agencies rely on massive seed shipments from abroad, often of unsuitable varieties. Our economists working on the problems of the semi-arid tropics have recommended that focus should be shifted towards strengthening local seed systems instead of replacing them by emergency seed aid.

Slide 21

### **Developing New Research Tools**

The Generation Challenge Program linking national systems, advanced institutes and several Future Harvest Centers, is helping to design an informatics platform to support genomics research for crop improvement around the world. This new capacity is allowing scientists to harness products of massive investment in genomic research in advanced labs and apply them to problems of the developing world.

Slide 22

### **Call for Collective Approach**

We are pleased that the CGIAR is being cited as a model of international development cooperation at its best, which has been effective in mobilizing science

in the service of poor farmers. But the challenges of today are infinitely more complex than before. The work of the Centers of the CGIAR and our partners is increasingly encompassing complex issues, including poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection and biodiversity. These require collaboration among Centers and with an increasingly diverse range of partners.

Slide 23

### **Call for Collective Approach**

The Centers, therefore, as part of a broad consultative process, has initiated a novel framework for their collective approaches. The thrust of this will be collective programs and decision making around common goals with farmers, national partners, regional and sub-regional organizations, in an effort to deploy collective Center resources more strategically and efficiently to meet the emerging challenges.

Slide 24

### **Call for Collective Approach**

Despite many successful efforts, we feel that *our collective action performance needs improvement*. A self-analysis and partner consultation showed us that collaboration has been impeded by the speed of external changes, governance and management difficulties in collaborations, competition and territoriality among Centers and, very importantly, inadequate resourcing of our collective endeavors.

However, we have had some notable recent collective successes, especially but not only in shared services. The Centers have created synergies and economies of scale in shared telecommunications, internal audit and human resource systems, and joint library subscriptions, among others. The Gender and Diversity program, commenced in 1999 and recently review, has been given a renewed mandate. Our Marketing Group, made up of CG Secretariat, donor and national support organization experts as well as experts from all Centers, has developed and is implementing an Integrated communications and resource mobilization strategy.

Slide 25

### **Call for Collective Action**

However, we are not satisfied to rest here with only the current portfolio of systemwide programs, Challenge Programs, many smaller inter-center collaborations and the shared services. We believe that additional, properly designed collective action can enhance the delivery of the CGIAR mission by bringing together the right partners and scientific disciplines to solve problems, by supporting institutional learning across Centers and between partners and ourselves through the cross fertilization of ideas, by enhancing the ability to speak with one authoritative voice on global issues, achieving further cost efficiencies in corporate services and reducing tensions and inefficiencies within the System.

Slide 26

### **Call for Collective Action**

In this belief, CDC and Board Chair representatives held a 2 day retreat and 1 day meeting with African partners in July at ILRI, Addis Ababa. The Retreat recommended a Framework for Collective action that was discussed widely in Centers and with Center Boards, circulated in August to all CG members and others, and discussed in September by the Science Council and the ExCo. Last week, the Framework was thoroughly debated at CBC and CDC and unanimously agreed by the Centers Board Chairs and the DGs.

Slide 27

### **Call for Collective Action**

The key decisions were to create the Alliance of **Future Harvest Centers** to better serve the CGIAR mission, to transform the Center Directors Committee (CDC) into the **Alliance Executive** with immediate effect, for the Committee of Board Chairs (CBC) to serve as the Board for the alliance and develop new roles, functions and principles for this and to adopt a robust set of 10 Guiding Principles, the first of which says: *Our allegiance is first and foremost to the poor.*

Slide 28

### **Call for Collective Action**

We do not intend to wait until the Alliance arrangements are fully in place, however, before acting. We have also agreed a number of areas of 'quick wins' starting in Sub Saharan Africa with a programmatic alignment pilot in east and central Africa. We will undertake a subregional Medium Term Plan, starting with getting the Centers existing work and then our partners work together. This will be complemented by a country coordination pilot in Kenya, a country with 8 Centers, including 2 headquarters, present.

Slide 29

### **Call for Collective Action**

We will also work with FARA through the SSA-CP and with the CGIAR SSA-Task Forces to gain convergence on the SSA processes, seeking two-way flows of ideas.

Although we have given priority to Sub Saharan Africa, I want to assure you that we will also enhance integration in other regions, building on the existing platforms for regional integration in Asia-Pacific (with APAARI), CWANA and LAC.

Slide 30

### **Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We hope these examples provide an insight to the vigor of our partnerships and the dynamism of the CGIAR system in the service of the poor.

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water and policy science are collaborative enterprises. Our achievements would not be possible without the support and commitment of each of you – Cosponsors, investors, farmers, scientists, and partner organizations in over 100 countries. What we need to do now is to move beyond pilot projects to a scale that will meet the Millennium Goals and this requires a renewed and sustained effort by all of us.

Slide 31

Thank you

---