

Summary of ExCo 8 Discussion and Recommendations to the CGIAR on IFPRI EPMR¹

P. Pinstrup-Andersen noted that, as he was the DG of IFPRI during part of the period covered by the EPMR, he has recused himself from all discussions on the report to avoid any perceived or real conflict of interest.

Ruben Echeverria presented the SC commentary and noted that, overall, IFPRI has received a very positive evaluation. The SC was pleased with the performance of the Center in terms of its science, management and strategy, and aspects such as integration of the ISNAR program and contributions to the HarvestPlus CP. IFPRI has a new DG and a rising budget. The peers of the Center consider it to be a premier food policy research institute. The SC has endorsed all 10 recommendations of the Panel, and it is pleased the Center has accepted nine of the 10, while generally welcoming the 10th.

F. Reifschneider noted that the CGIAR Secretariat supports all of the recommendations on governance and management and is content with the Center's response and the SC Commentary. CGIAR Secretariat recommends endorsement of the EPMR's recommendations by ExCo and the CGIAR.

Discussion:

- Members complimented the quality of the report and expressed support for the recommendations.
- Some members noted that IFPRI had a very broad agenda and suggested that there is need for greater focus. For example, IFPRI's comparative advantage to coordinate the Global Open Agriculture and Food University (GO-AFU) is not clear.
- Several members expressed concern that the ISNAR program does not appear to be maintaining its global mandate. The Program is important to other regions besides SSA.
- Two shortcomings of the EPMR process were highlighted: (1) SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) was dealt with trivially by the report, and (2) there is no clear analysis of the adequacy of the Center's self-assessment mechanisms, including the Center Commissioned External Reviews (CCERs).

Conclusions and ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR:

- *ExCo recommends that the CGIAR endorse the EPMR and its recommendations.*
- *ExCo notes that:*
 - *The global nature of the ISNAR Program should be protected;*
 - *IFPRI should reassess its comparative advantage in coordinating GO-AFU;*
 - and*

¹ Excerpt from Eighth Meeting of the CGIAR Executive Council (May 11-12, 2005) Summary Record of Proceedings, May 31, 2005.

- *SC and the CGIAR Secretariat should follow-up the ExCo comments on the EPMR process.*