

## **ExCo 11 Conclusions and Recommendations<sup>1</sup>**

### **2.b. ExCo ad hoc Committee on Funding System Priorities**

#### **Conclusions:**

- *The Chair thanked the ad hoc committee for addressing the large workload in a very deliberate way, recognizing that this is a complex issue and it is important to take time and develop methodologies that allocate resources efficiently.*

### **3.a. Medium-Term Plans and 2007 Financing Plan**

#### **Conclusions and ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR:**

- *ExCo recognized that the transition to presenting work programs in the framework of the System Priorities is a work in progress which will be improved and refined over time.*
- *SC could strengthen its horizon-scanning activities to identify potential areas for innovative research.*
- *ExCo recommended CGIAR approval of the 2007 financing plan, with the suggestion to validate the funding projections submitted by Centers, where necessary and possible. ExCo also asked that time series data for funding and expenditures should be presented in both nominal and real terms, beginning next year, and that the CGIAR Secretariat should continue to closely monitor financial risks across the Centers and report to ExCo.*

### **3.b. Report from Science Council**

#### **Conclusion:**

- *The Chair thanked the SC Chair for the report.*

### **3.c. Challenge Programs**

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations to the CGIAR on SSA CP:**

- *ExCo recommends the CGIAR to request FARA to develop an action plan that addresses the concerns raised by ExCo members and the Science Council on the findings of the inception phase review. ExCo feels that the accountability and the ownership of the program must remain with FARA, and that the measures that have been requested as part of the action plan are conducive to strengthening FARA's capacity to successfully implement SSA CP, and its future activities.*
- *Furthermore, as elements of the action plan, FARA is requested to:*
  - a) present critical milestones for the three year post inception phase;*
  - b) undertake an evaluation of its existing skills gap (with a special emphasis on methodologies and criteria to be used to evaluate the IAR4D concept), that*

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Eleventh Meeting of the CGIAR Executive Council (October 17-18, 2006) Summary Record of Proceedings, October 30, 2006.

*needs to be filled by the most appropriate providers with a view to strengthening the present capacity. As critical elements of this capacity strengthening exercise FARA is requested to focus on M&E as well as on capacity building of regional partners involved in the implementation of activities.*

- c) adjust the financial proposal for years 2007-09 to reflect the scaling back of the activities to three pilot sites from the proposed nine, and*
- d) develop a research program that has clear cross-site linkages.*
- *ExCo also recommends to membership that the Science Council play an advisory role in helping FARA identify the type of expertise that is required to increase the capacity of the institution, as highlighted above.*
- *ExCo recommends that the CGIAR reviews progress achieved by SSA CP until December 2007 at AGM07 against the critical milestones and indicators that were requested as part of the action plan. In order to avoid burdening FARA with excessive reporting to the CGIAR, ExCo further recommends that the action plan is accepted as the SSA CP MTP for the period 2007-2009.*
- *Finally, ExCo recommends to the CGIAR that the action plan be presented to ExCo for review and approval, following pertinent inputs from the Science Council and the CGIAR Secretariat, if required.*

***ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR on Challenge Programs—Moving Forward:***

- *Due to the removal of the objection previously raised by a Member and satisfactory discussion which addressed the concerns of additional Members, the CGIAR Secretariat confirmed that the Challenge Program selection process would initiate soon, as previously approved by CGIAR membership, on a no-objection basis.*
- *ExCo requested the SC and CGIAR Secretariat to complete an analysis of lessons learned by early 2007, complemented by inputs from the ExCo ad hoc Committee on Funding System Priorities, in order to better inform Membership of the features of and the progress achieved by existing CPs.*
- *The approval of new CPs will be based on the current process which had been previously approved by the CGIAR Membership, and linkages with the CGIAR-approved System Priorities will be made explicit in the call for concept notes. Furthermore, SC views on CPs as tools to implement priorities will be made available as background documents to the process for the benefit of project proponents.*

**4.a. Stripe Review of Corporate Governance of CGIAR Centers**

***Conclusions:***

- *The Alliance Board is requested to submit to AGM06 a comprehensive and cohesive response to the stripe review recommendations that addresses each of the recommendations.*
- *The response should clearly indicate how the Centers are implementing the recommendations, including timelines.*

#### **4.b. Alliance Representation on ExCo and at AGM**

##### ***Conclusions and ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR:***

- *ExCo recommends to the CGIAR approval of option 2 (1 Alliance representative at ExCo and 1 at AGM), with an alternate participating, as currently practiced by several members. The Charter would be amended, after approval by CGIAR Membership.*
- *ExCo also requested the CGIAR Secretariat to make a special effort to prepare a short preliminary concept note for AGM06 if possible, on the overall ExCo size and composition that would later be expanded to also include outcomes from the CSO forum at AGM06, if required.*

#### **4.c. CGIAR Alignment in SSA and Beyond**

##### ***Conclusions:***

- *ExCo thanked WCA and ESA for their efforts and progress to date. It expressed appreciation that the process takes time to implement but encouraged Centers to move forward expeditiously.*
- *ExCo recognizes the value of an evolutionary approach to aligning Center activities in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- *ExCo believes that the Science Council and the Alliance should work closely together to develop the instruments and approaches for regional and operational planning.*
- *ILRI and ICRAF are encouraged to continue their efforts to align more closely.*
- *ExCo requests the Alliance to develop clear governance arrangements for the sub-regional MTPs. The Alliance should submit a report to CGIAR for discussion at AGM06.*

#### **4.d. Adding Value to the CGIAR System: Oversight Role of ExCo**

##### ***Conclusion:***

- *The Chair thanked the CGIAR Secretariat for preparing the note, which is to be shared with Membership for a better understanding and discussion of the roles of ExCo, and encouraged ExCo to consider ways to improve its oversight role.*

#### **5. Report from the Centers**

##### ***Conclusions and ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR:***

- *The Alliance is requested to present to AGM06 an analysis of options on pooling reserves, as previously requested by ExCo, which clearly indicates its position on the issue.*
- *The CGIAR Secretariat should facilitate efforts by Center finance directors and other experts to revisit and clarify the issue surrounding the benchmark for Center reserves which need to take into consideration risk management issues.*
- *In the future, Center reports should focus on the key issues faced by Centers, in addition to listing activities that have been undertaken.*

## **6.a. ICARDA EPMR**

### ***Conclusions and ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR:***

- *ExCo recommends that the CGIAR endorse the EPMR recommendations.*

## **6.b. ICRAF EPMR Follow-up**

### ***Conclusion:***

- *The ICRAF BOT, in collaboration with the CGIAR Secretariat, will report on their assessment of the progress made by the Director General on the Performance Improvement Plan by February 2007.*

## **6.d. System Office Review**

### ***Conclusions:***

- *ExCo welcomed this first external review and its findings/recommendations, recognizing that this should be considered work in progress.*
- *The upcoming System Office workshop (October 20, 2006) should be used to discuss follow-up actions from the review as recommended by the Steering Committee.*

## **9. CGIAR Personnel Matters**

### *Science Council Membership*

- ExCo recommends to the CGIAR Roelof Rabbinge (The Netherlands) for appointment as Science Council Chair.
- ExCo, furthermore, unanimously agreed to recommend to the CGIAR Hans Herren (Switzerland) for appointment as Science Council Member.