

## **Contribution to the Third CGIAR System Review from a Latin American Perspective**

Based on the report and the discussions during the first day of the ICW 98 the representatives of the undersigned Latin American countries would like to offer the following initial contributions to the discussion.

- We view our contributions to the CGIAR not from the viewpoint of traditional donors but as investments in our own countries and regions to harvest socioeconomic and ecological returns. In addition, we have developed technologies and processes which could be further exploited for the benefit of other regions with similar agroecological conditions, together with CGIAR centers.
- Competitiveness, in addition to poverty eradication, sustainable use of natural resources and equity issues are of paramount interest to Latin American countries.
- The CGIAR and its centers must support poverty eradication in the developing world wherever it is located. Latin America has some 70 million rural poor.
- Additional research targeted towards the development of low potential areas should be supported with incremental resources but not at the expense of resources allocated to research targeted to better endowed areas.
- The undersigned countries have identified a strong need for improved inter-CG center linkages to promote more efficient use of scarce resources at the disposal of the CGIAR.
- A key issue which seems to have received very limited attention in the report is the question related to the quality of the agricultural produce and not just productivity. We recommend that improved attention be given to quality in two respects: 1. to occupy new markets in a competitive world, and 2. to develop better quality food and through it improve nutrition and health.
- We strongly suggest improved regional focus of TAC in research priority setting which reflects on centers' mandates.
- We recognize the importance of additional Latin American countries joining the CG. For this to materialize significant changes are required in recommendations 15 and 16 which are of an exclusory nature.
- Our experience indicates that there would be advantages in establishing the CGIAR as a legal entity. However the mandate and responsibilities of this new entity still needs considerable discussion and clarification.
- We recognize that it is too early to support the idea of a central body and we suggest that the key is improved consultation and participation of developing countries which may require the eventual establishment of a consultative arrangement.
- The undersigned put in a word of caution for the eagerly sought participation of the private sector in view of the recent emergence of oligopolies. Truly national companies of medium or small size must also participate.
- Finally, we recognize that some of the Latin American NARS should be seen as true partners of CG centers and that multiple modes of cooperation ought to be developed for the benefit of the Region as well as other regions to which our products and technologies are of use.

**(Brasil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela)**