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THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty-First Meeting, FAO Hqs., Rome (Italy), 12-17 March 1990

SECOND EXTERNAL PROGRAMME REVIEW OF IFPRI

Progress Report

(Agenda Item 8)

Objective of the Discussion

TAC is invited to note the progress made in the organization of the 2nd EPR of IFPRI, and to consider the specific list of questions.

TAC SECRETARIAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

March 1990

SECOND EXTERNAL PROGRAMME REVIEW OF IFPRI

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Terms of Reference

The 2nd EPR of IFPRI will be conducted under the new TORs and Guidelines for EPRs developed by the Committee at TAC 49 and approved by the CGIAR at ICW 89. A list of specific questions relating to IFPRI's programmes and impact is attached to this report as Annex I for TAC consideration.

Composition of the Review Panel

In accordance with the Standing Committee for External Review's at TAC 50 and after subsequent consultation with the Centre and Panel Chairman, the Panel was constituted as follows:

Dr. Ali M. Khusro (Chairman) (India)
Dr. Alain de Janvry (France)
Dr. Roger R.B. Leakey (U.K.)
Dr. Eduardo Venezian (Chile)
Dr. Doris H. Calloway (TAC Resource Person)
Dr. John H. Monyo (TAC Secretariat)
Dr. John Spears (CGIAR Secretariat)

Timing and Schedule of the Review

15-16 February 1990: Briefing of the Panel.

20-22 February 1990: The Chairmen and Members of the EPR and EMR Panels attended an IFPRI seminar on "Structural Change in African Agriculture", and the IFPRI Board of Trustees Meeting in Paris. The Board considered, among other things, a draft strategic plan of IFPRI and a new IFPRI initiative on environment.

24-28 February 1990: Panel visit to Senegal.

1-6 March 1990: Panel visit to Niger.

3-8 April 1990: Visit to Bangladesh and Indonesia by some Panel Members.

23-30 April 1990: Visit to Brazil and Colombia by some Panel Members.

29-31 May 1990: Attendance by the Panel Chairman and one Panel Member at a Meeting of the IFPRI Board of Trustee's Executive and Finance Committee in Washington D.C. This meeting will also be attended by the EMR Panel.

13 Sept./4 Oct. 1990: Main phase of the Review.

Following the main phase, the review report will be presented to TAC 53 in October 1990 and subsequently to the CGIAR at the Mid-Term Meeting in May 1991.

SECOND EPR OF IFPRI

LIST OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Who are the different client groups of IFPRI's research and related activities? How are these targeted in the research planning and results dissemination process?
2. IFPRI has devised a research strategy for its activities into the 21st century. It is based on IFPRI's perception of the evolution of the world food situation over the next ten to fifteen years and its judgement of the comparative advantage of the Institute to respond to the policy issues implicit in that perception. Is IFPRI's forecast of the evolving world food situation a correct one? Has IFPRI structured its strategic priorities in a way that appropriately responds to global trends in the areas of food and agriculture? How have NARS been involved in the IFPRI's programme planning?
3. IFPRI has evolved over the last decade from the establishment of its research base to its more recent emphasis on building national capacity for food policy analysis in developing countries through collaborative research. What are the most appropriate modalities in the next decade for giving priority to outreach and policy impact?
4. How adequately has IFPRI addressed its role in training and capacity building in NARS? Should IFPRI develop a more formal approach to training? Is there a felt need among IFPRI's research partner's for more formal mechanisms?
5. How complementary are the research activities of IFPRI with those of the other CGIAR Centres as a whole? Since 1986 IFPRI has increasingly outposted its senior research fellows to other IARCs. Has this contributed to an upgrading of policy analysis at those centres, and has it contributed to increasing inter-action between those centres and policy analysis and institutions in developing countries?
6. How does IFPRI's research contribute to poverty alleviation and to the enhancement of equity?
7. What role should IFPRI be playing in the area of environmental policy for agricultural sustainability, and in particular what integrational role might IFPRI play vis-a-vis other centers on this issue?
8. How does IFPRI ensure linkages and coherence between its disciplinary-based research programmes and its issue-oriented research areas?
9. How does IFPRI ensure that some of the most vital research issues emerging from time to time in developing countries are accommodated in IFPRI research programme?
10. To what extent is IFPRI working with private organizations/institutions in developing countries?
11. How does IFPRI measure its achievements and the impact of its research?
12. What is the relationship between IFPRI's micro surveys at the farm and household level and the synthesis which is required to address macropolicy issues? What is the comparative advantage of IFPRI for this type of research?