



**Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**

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**Charting the CGIAR'S Future – Change Design and Management**

**Report of the NGO Committee**

The attached report from the NGO Committee is being circulated for information.

**This item is for**      Information       Discussion       Decision

**Proposed Action:** None

# Report of the CGIAR-NGOC for the period ICW2000–MTM2001 (November 2000 – May 2001)

## 1. Consultation with civil-society organisations

Prior to MTM 2001, the NGO Committee (NGOC) launched a broad consultation process with members of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including universities, small farmer organisations (SFOs) and NGOs worldwide. This led to a declaration on the proposals of the Change Design and Management Team (CDMT), prefaced by a statement on the research focus expected of the CGIAR: the *CSO Declaration for Durban, May 2001*. The NGOC endorses the vision, analysis and specific recommendations spelled out in this statement (see Annex 1 for the full text). The text was circulated electronically in English and Spanish. By the time the CDMT report was discussed by the CGIAR, over 70 CSOs had endorsed it; additional endorsements continue to come in.

In an open letter circulated electronically and as hard copy to all MTM participants, the NGOC highlighted several points made in the Declaration:

**Regionalisation.** It has long been our opinion that the CGIAR Centres should undergo a thorough reorganisation in which they would be reconfigured with a regional focus. We strongly feel the principal challenges to be met in developing production systems that are both pro-poor and environmentally sound are regional in nature – based on transnational *eco-regions* and the cultural and economic systems found in them. It is clear that the general commodity approach followed by most Centres has been too narrow and too removed to address these challenges adequately. The new regional “clusters” we propose would depend on *regional priority-setting* and *true multi-stakeholder partnerships* for their effectiveness. Unfortunately, despite early rhetoric, the change plan adopted on 24 May 2001 by the CGIAR has dropped most real regionalization content. We feel this error will seriously undermine the viability and effectiveness of the CGIAR System in the future.

**Real participation in priority-setting.** Since ICW 2000, a process of regional priority-setting has been initiated under the coordination of GFAR and TAC. This process will be key in any true restructuring of the CGIAR System. It is the only forum that has the potential for including all regional stakeholders on an equal footing – which is essential to address the mandate of the System. We are concerned about the risk of marginalising this endeavour from the change process. We would be prepared to support the GFAR regional priority-setting process if we could be assured that it would entail the real, effective incorporation of grassroots, small farmer and civil society stakeholders. That could provide the basis for *real participation in priority-setting*. On the other hand, “symbolic” or “token” consultation is unlikely to affect research in the ways needed, if it is to truly address poverty alleviation and sustainability.

**Representation in governance.** We support the efforts to improve the governance of the CGIAR System, but are concerned that they must produce a structure with *real stakeholder representation in governance*. Superficial participation will not resolve problems of lack of relevance to the reality of small farmers – only true participation in governance, priority-setting, agenda development and decision-making can assure this. We welcome the inclusion of the Chair of the NGOC in at least the interim Executive Council (EC), but are still very concerned whether the voices of civil society will be adequately heard in the EC subgroups or task forces that may design the processes of initiating Challenge Programs and creating the Science Council. We stress the importance of including expertise from not only science but also development to ensure that the science of the CGIAR is relevant to development issues. We underline the importance of establishing a *Farmer Committee* that will allow representatives of farmer organisations to make their voices heard in the CGIAR directly. The CGIAR has made considerable progress in opening up to stakeholder participation, but failure to address the issue of farmer representation at global level will minimise the credibility of the System’s claim for inclusiveness. As the CGIAR sets a role model for many organisations of

agricultural research, the creation of a Farmer Committee would send a strong positive signal to organisations at all other levels in the agricultural research and development world.

The NGOC is grateful to Ford Foundation for providing the financial resources needed to make the global consultation of CSOs by email and in the face-to-face workshop in Frankfurt leading up to MTM2001.

## **2. NGO/SFO workshop in Durban**

On 20 May 2001, the NGOC hosted a workshop of NGOs and SFOs in Eastern and Southern Africa to discuss agricultural research for development. It was organised by the two African NGOC members, Mutizwa Mukute and Monica Kipiriri, and was attended by about 40 participants. The objectives of the workshop were:

- to share information about local agricultural research and development strategies and activities
- to share information about global developments with a bearing on agricultural research and development
- to identify key issues in agricultural research and development in eastern and southern Africa
- to identify mechanisms for broader and deeper consultation among NGOs, SFOs, research organisations and other development actors in eastern and southern Africa
- to propose effective ways of relating with the CGIAR.

In the discussions of regional priority setting in agricultural research, the participants raised the following sets of questions:

- How do the local NGOs and SFOs relate with the CGIAR and national agricultural research institutes (NARIs) in this process? How can real partnership and ownership of regional priorities by NGOs and farmers be achieved? How can we derive synergies from this process?
- What is the added value of regional priority setting for NGOs and SFOs? In order to participate fully in the process of priority setting, it is important to identify the benefit to each stakeholder. The different roles of the different partners need to be defined.
- Where is the “bottom” in so-called bottom-up priority setting? Thus far, consultations have tended to take place only at regional and subregional levels. No effort has been made to initiate dynamic and vibrant discussions and interactions at national level. In this manner, it is difficult to achieve solidarity in facing national challenges.

The participants demanded accountability in the acquisition and use of funds for research. They also agitated for collaboration, partnership and complementarity among development actors such as government, research institutes, NGOs, SFOs and universities. This should lead to farmers' greater participation in and control of what happens in research, especially that which is funded by the public.

This new path in agricultural research would bring new challenges to the different actors:

- The government would need to create space for dialogue among stakeholders

- The media would need to publicise farmer successes and legitimise farmers' knowledge
- Farmers would take the lead in determining the research priorities and would be the beneficiaries of the research
- NGOs would facilitate the implementation of new partnerships
- Research institutes would provide technical expertise to address farmer interests linked to food security and sustainable use of the resources on which they depend.

Farmer representatives at the workshop challenged the NGOs to help empower farmer organisations to stand and speak for themselves. In terms of governance, it was proposed that Civil Society Councils for Agricultural Research and Development should be set up at national, regional and international level to monitor implementation of research with a view to greater impact.

The workshop participants gave priority to the following agricultural research and development issues:

- Re-orientation of tertiary educational institutes to focus on smallholder farmer priorities
- Low-external-input and sustainable agriculture integrated with natural resource management
- Land policy issues that have a bearing on land use and management
- Making a living out of marginal areas using the small pieces of land available
- Shifting research from on-station to on-farm
- Productivity enhancement
- Impact of trade on smallholder farmers
- Developing and evaluating truly participatory farmer-led research methodologies
- Impact of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on farmers and consumers.

In order to ensure that research has a developmental and empowering value, the participants proposed the following:

- Monitor and influence the research budgets and ethics
- Involve NGOs and SFOs in research priority setting and planning at all levels
- Generate technologies based on local knowledge in ways that integrate relevant scientific knowledge
- Raise scientists' knowledge and respect of local knowledge and its dynamics
- Lobby to create awareness among researchers, policymakers and donors about farmer needs
- Draw up a code of conduct between NGO or community-based organisations and scientists for handling research funds
- Strengthen institutions (NGOs, SFOs, networks) so that they can participate in and have impact on research decision-making
- Monitor institutional strengthening and real participation

- Base funding of research at local levels (e.g. municipalities, district/local government)
- Collaborate with local/regional universities and schools.

Regarding NGO/SFO relations with the CGIAR, the following proposals were made:

- Cooperate with relevant CGIAR Centres
- Increase participation of farmer organisations in CGIAR research
- Persuade the CGIAR to be responsive to civil society demands
- Highlight the work of good farmer-led researchers
- Structure the NGOC in such a way that it can pick up issues from civil society and ensure that they are dealt with responsibly in the CGIAR system
- Establish civil society councils at local, regional and international level that feed into the CGIAR system through the NGOC, among other structures
- Use the GFAR “space” to make changes in research content and approach at all levels
- Carry out collaborative research at all levels
- Lobby donors to support civil society positions and interests for resource-poor farmers
- Demand that the CGIAR Centres work as public institutions, addressing public concerns.

One of the chief concerns of the workshop participants was that there are increasingly less public funds going into agricultural research at the national level. Meanwhile, the private sector is putting money into public institutes for their own research. In the end, the research interests that are addressed have a profit motive, leaving out the interests of resource-poor farmers. The meeting resolved that this had to be changed by increasing the contribution of governments and municipalities to development-oriented research, building farmer capacity to lobby, and creating supportive government policies.

As a way forward after this one-day workshop, the participants proposed:

- Share the meeting recommendations and proceedings with CGIAR delegates and workshop participants
- Encourage the CGIAR to develop an organic/sustainable agricultural research programme
- Create a broad alliance to exert pressure on the research system
- Set up more consultative processes
- Disseminate results of CGIAR decisions to relevant stakeholders in the region
- Set up Southern and Eastern African Civil Society Research and Development Councils.

The press statement released from this NGO/SFO workshop can be found in Annex 2. The NGOC is grateful to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ), Misereor, GFAR and CGIAR for providing the financial means that made this workshop possible.

### **3. NGOC membership**

Three persons were selected by the NGOC as new members as of 1 January 2001: Monica Kapiroiri of Environmental Alert, Uganda; Mutizwa Mukute of PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) Association, Zimbabwe (seat of the Regional Office); and Antonio (Tony) Quizon of ANGOC (Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), Philippines

The NGOC thanks Miguel Altieri for serving since 1995 in the Committee and since 1997 as Chair and in the first half of 2000 as Co-Chair. Miguel continues to be very active in working together with the NGOC as coordinator of the project funded by Ford Foundation to enhance civil society inputs into the CGIAR (see Item 2).

The NGOC thanks Assetou Kanoute (Mali) and Julian Gonsalves (India) for their years of service in bringing NGO voices from Africa and Asia to the CGIAR. They continue to work together with the NGOC in maintaining contacts between the CGIAR and NGOs in their regions and by organising workshops that will strengthen participation of NGOs and farmer organisation in agricultural research. Julian has also been invited as an NGO representative in the IFPRI Vision 2020 conference in Bonn, Germany, in September 2001.

The NGOC currently has the following composition: 2 members from Asia, 2 from Africa, 2 from Latin America, 2 from Europe and 1 from North America. Of the total of 9 members, 2 are women. Selection procedures are underway for a person to replace Christian Castellanet (France) who will step down from the NGOC after MTM2001.

#### **4. Enhancing civil society input into the CGIAR**

Peter Rosset, NGOC member and Co-Director of Food First (Institute for Food and Development Policy) in the USA received a grant from Ford Foundation for enhancing civil society input into the CGIAR. The activities are being coordinated by Miguel Altieri, former Chair of the NGOC. Studies are being commissioned and an electronic conference was held on 8–19 January 2001. It involved 246 persons and was facilitated by Julio Berdegué and German Escobar of RIMISP (International Network on Methodologies of Farming Systems Research), Chile. Discussions centred on: inputs that civil society (CS) can provide to the CGIAR to better address the challenges of poverty alleviation, food security and natural resource conservation; main issues that international agricultural research (IAR) should address; common ground for partnerships between the CGIAR and civil society; and ways in which the NGOC could better influence IAR. The participants felt that: there should be increased transparency in the selection of NGOC members; the NGOC should try to represent the diverse viewpoints and interests of CS instead of just one view; the NGOC should consult CS organisations regularly through regional and subregional fora; communication between CS organisations, national agricultural research institutes and CGIAR centres should be improved; greater representation of CS in various bodies of the CGIAR should be promoted; CS should establish oversight mechanisms at Centre level; participatory and ecological approaches of NGOs should be better documented and communicated to the CGIAR; participatory processes of setting research priorities should be promoted; and the CGIAR should be encouraged to focus on pro-poor development-oriented research.

A face-to-face workshop of 27 persons from civil society was held in Frankfurt on 14–16 May 2001. This was organised by Miguel Altieri and Peter Rosset, with the assistance of Gudrun Soergel, administrative assistant of the NGOC. The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) covered the costs of hiring

an experienced workshop facilitator. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the CSO Declaration for Durban mentioned in Section 1 and reproduced in Annex 1. A second output was a proposal for an international alliance for agricultural research and development; a task force was set up to launch this alliance and is composed of members from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America, from both NGOs and SFOs. Monica Kapiriri of the NGOC is one of the task-force members.

Immediately after the workshop, GTZ hosted the NGOC for a discussion of the workshop outcomes and to share information about activities and plans.

Further activities underway or planned within the framework of the project to enhance civil society inputs into international agricultural research are: a) series of papers on agroecology and NRM, genetic resources strategy and the use of projection models by IFPRI; b) report on the Frankfurt workshop; c) meeting at CATIE (partly training in agroecology, partly building alliances among NGOs in Central America); and a donor meeting at ICW 2001.

## **5. Change Design and Management**

As member of the Steering Group for the Change Design and Management Team (CDMT), Ann Waters-Bayer participated in meetings in Washington DC in December 2000, in The Hague in February 2001 (to which she brought an overview of the main points coming out of the above-mentioned e-conference) and in Washington DC in April 2001. She made email and telephone contributions to the CDMT discussions on change, compiled and submitted the NGO responses to interim papers of the CDMT and contributed to a concept paper on the redesign of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Miguel Altieri and Peter Rosset contributed a statement to the CDMT based on the outcome of the above-mentioned e-conference.

On 17 April 2001 Pat Mooney (RAFI), Ann Waters-Bayer (NGOC), Patrick Mulvany (ITDG), Susanne Gura (FED), Monica Kapiriri (NGOC) and Francois Meienberg (Berne Declaration) addressed an open letter to the European donors of the CGIAR about the change process.

## **6. Regional activities**

**Southern and Eastern Africa.** Mutizwa Mukute and Monica Kapiriri organised a workshop for NGOs and SFOs in Southern and Eastern Africa on international agricultural research immediately before MTM2000 in Durban (see Section 2).

**Eastern Africa.** Monica Kapiriri developed a proposal for an NGOC strategy in Eastern Africa, to gain an overview of NGO activities and interests related to agricultural research, to raise awareness of NGOs about the CGIAR and GFAR (including the regional priority-setting process), to improve communications and linkages between them, and to synthesise subregional and regional views of NGOs to be forwarded to fora at higher levels. Communication will be based primarily but not exclusively on electronic means. The above-mentioned workshop in Durban is one step in this strategy. Donor support for the next steps is now being sought. A similar strategy is being developed by Mutizwa for Southern Africa.

**Western and Central Africa.** Former NGOC member Assetou Kanoute (Mali) is organising a workshop in West and Central Africa, in collaboration with CORAF (Conférence des Responsables de la Recherche agronomique africain), to inform NGOs about trends in agricultural research at various levels, to strengthen NGO representation in subregional and regional research fora, to generate an NGO vision for agricultural research and to improve partnerships between NGOs and the CGIAR. This workshop is planned for September or early October 2001. To achieve participation from NGOs in Central Africa, Assetou is taking up contact with former NGOC member Jeanot Mfou'ou (Cameroon).

**Asia.** Angela Briones, who was named as GFAR contact person in Asia at the meeting in Dresden in May 2000, is collaborating with NGOC members Dwi Muhtaman and Tony Quizon in planning activities to improve partnerships between NGOs, SFOs and CGIAR Centres in Asia. This will start with an email conference. Ann Waters-Bayer commented on a proposal by David Ingles, NGO liaison person at IRRI, for a workshop with a similar aim. Former NGOC member Julian Gonsalves (India) is seeking to forge linkages between these activities.

**Latin America.** Juan Sanchez and Jean Marc von der Weid are collaborating with Miguel Altieri in holding similar consultation processes in Latin America within this year, including an NGO workshop in Costa Rica in August 2001.

#### 7. NGO(C) representation: conferences, steering groups, committees

**Centre Boards.** Assetou Kanoute, former NGOC member, is currently serving as an NGO representative on the Board of Trustees of IITA.

**GFAR:** Jean Marc von der Weid continues to serve as NGO representative in the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research; the alternate is Christian Castellanet. Jean Marc has been involved in intensive email exchanges with the GFAR Secretariat. Also the NGOC Chair has commented on drafts of documents from the Secretariat. The NGOC has made its conviction known to the GFAR Secretariat that SFOs should be represented directly in the Steering Committee. The GFAR Steering Committee, together with TAC, has engaged in an experimental process of regional agenda setting or both national agricultural research systems and the CGIAR. Regional NGO contact persons named at the GFAR meeting in Dresden in May 2000 have participated in preparatory meetings of the regional fora in Latin American and Africa.

**CSD:** Peter Rosset has become the NGOC representative on the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Strategic Steering Group for the CSD preparations for the Rio+10 conference to be held in South Africa in 2002.

**GRPC:** Rene Salazar of SEARICE (Philippines) was nominated by the NGOC and appointed by the CGIAR Secretariat as NGO representative on the Genetic Resources Policy Committee, after former NGOC member Carmen Morales (Peru) stepped down in January 2001. He took part in the meeting on 20–23 February 2001 in India.

**SP-IPM:** Abou Thiam of PAN (Pesticide Action Network) Africa was nominated by the NGOC and appointed a member of the CGIAR Systemwide Programme on Integrated Pest Management. He attended the business meeting of the SP-IPM Working Group on 12-14 March 2001 in Kenya.

**KCNC:** Tony Quizon of ANGOC Philippines was proposed by the CGIAR Secretariat as a representative of the NGOC in the workshop organised by the Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation in Tokyo and was prepared to make a presentation on avenues for cooperation with NGOs in Asia, but was not granted an entry visa.

**ISNAR Workshop on Ecoregional Programmes,** Wageningen, Netherlands, 12–14 March 2001: Ann Waters-Bayer brought NGO views into the workshop, after having solicited and compiled views of some NGOs involved in the ERPs.

**IAC seminar on regional collaboration in agricultural research and development,** Wageningen, Netherlands, 15 March 2001: Ann Waters-Bayer presented views of NGOs (see publications).

**German Forum Environment and Development International Agricultural Research Project:** Monica Kapiriri is a member of the International Steering Group for this project, coordinated by Susanne Gura; communication is primarily by electronic means and through telephone conferencing. Ann Waters-Bayer is a member of the German Coordination Group for this project; the group has met several times in Bonn and Frankfurt to prepare NGO activities in and around the IFPRI Vision 2020 conference, the World Food Summit and discussions on the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. In this connection, Ann Waters-Bayer and several other persons who were involved in the NGO activities around GFAR2000 in Dresden contributed chapters to a book edited by Susanne Gura: *Food without Farmers? Agricultural Research Needs a Profoundly Changed CGIAR* (Bonn: Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, in press).

**FAO Forum on SARD:** Jean Marc von der Weid took part on a meeting of NGO and other CSO representatives in late March 2001 on sustainable agriculture and rural development, in preparation for the World Food Summit Five Years Later (WFS) in 2001 and the Rio+10 Summit in 2002. In the context of a wide CSO mobilisation to participate in the WFS, Jean Marc is coordinating a working group that is preparing background documents on a) food sovereignty/right to food; b) alternative production models for food security; and c) access to resources (water, land, biodiversity) as a basis for food security.

**NGO stakeholder meeting on NRM:** Jean Marc von der Weid and Ann Waters-Bayer, as well as former NGOC member Didier Pillot (France), were among the participants in a meeting of NGOs from the North and South hosted by the GFAR Secretariat in Rome, Italy, on 21–24 April 2001. The meeting aimed to work out a strategy for implementing the mechanisms proposed by NGOs for agricultural research and development in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management, InterDev, Prolinnova and PolicyNet, and to explore links with various FAO projects and the Participatory NRM network of the CGIAR. Following the meeting, the concept paper for the NRM framework of mechanisms was refined and revised proposals are being submitted to donors, for each initiative separately but in a coordinated fashion.

**Scaling up:** Julian Gonsalves coordinated the publication of *Going to Scale: Can we bring more benefits to more people more quickly?* that appeared in December 2000 and brings the highlights of the NGOC workshops on scaling up held in at the World Bank in Washington in October 1999 and at the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines in April 2000. These workshops and the publication were co-financed by the GFAR, the German Government (BMZ/GTZ), Misereor (Germany) and the NGOC. Julian is co-editing an issue of the *ILEIA Newsletter* (Netherlands) on scaling up, which will include some of the case studies from the two workshops. This issue of the journal is being partially funded by the NGOC.

**Advancing PTD:** Julian Gonsalves and Ann Waters-Bayer are collaborating in a team of persons from IIRR (Philippines) and ETC Ecoculture (Netherlands) on a study of experiences in institutionalising Participatory Technology Development (PTD) into mainstream organisations of agricultural research, extension and education. PTD is an approach designed to strengthen capacities of farmers and farming communities to experiment and innovate. A workshop based on the case studies is being prepared for 17–21 September 2001. The study-cum-workshop is meant to deepen the analysis of scaling up local initiatives in agroecology and NRM, pursued already during the NGOC-supported workshops on scaling up in October 1999 and May 2000, but now with a focus on innovative research and development partnerships. The project fits under the umbrella of the global programme ProInnova (Promoting Local Innovation) (see above) and is financed by Rockefeller Foundation, Netherlands Government (DGIS), Misereor (Germany), CTA and the NGOC.

## 8. Other activities of the NGOC

Gudrun Soergel, Administrative Assistant to the NGOC, is compiling an inventory of NGOs concerned with research and development in agriculture and NRM at global level, Mutizwa Mukute, Secretary General of PELUM, has initiated a similar inventory for Eastern and Southern Africa.

A simple brochure on the NGOC was prepared for dissemination at the Frankfurt and Durban meetings.

The NGOC webpage has been developed and will be put on the web within 2-3 weeks after MTM2001. It will be linked with the NGO page in the EGFAR website. Webmaster for the NGOC is Juan Sanchez. The temporary site is [www.ngoc-cgiar@clades.org](mailto:www.ngoc-cgiar@clades.org)

## 9. Publications and reports

Altieri M & Rosset P. 2001. **Enhancing the influence of civil society in determining the future research, institutional structure and governance of the CGIAR.** Background paper for civil society workshop, 14-16 May 20001, Frankfurt. 4pp

Berdegúe JA, Escobar G & Waters-Bayer A. 2001. **Enhancing civil society input into the CGIAR: Main points from an electronic conference, 8–19 January 2001.** 8 pp.

Gavi C. 2001. **The eastern and southern African NGO/SFO meeting on agricultural research and development, Durban, South Africa, 20 May 2001.** PELUM/NGOC (draft). 34pp.

INSPIRE-NRM (ProInnova/InterDev/PolicyNet). 2001. **New mechanisms for strengthening partnerships in research and development of ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management: concept paper.** 16pp

Kapiriri M. 2001. **NGOC strategy for Eastern Africa.** 6pp

NGOC. 2001. **Strategy workshop to enhance civil-society inputs into the CGIAR, Frankfurt, Germany, 14–16 May 2001.** NGOC (draft). 10pp.

- Waters-Bayer A. 2000. **Civil society perspectives on agricultural research as a global public good.** Paper presented at CGIAR seminar "Frontier Science, Global Public Goods and the CGIAR", Washington DC, 23 October 2000. 5pp.
- Waters-Bayer A & von der Weid JM. 2000. **International agricultural research 2000: a time of change in structure and governance.** Background paper for civil society e-conference. 6pp
- Waters-Bayer A. 2001. **Recherche et biens publics : la société civile doit jouer son rôle.** *Courrier de la Planète* (in press).
- Waters-Bayer A. 2001. **Some NGO views on international collaboration in ecoregional programmes.** Paper presented at ISNAR/IAC International Seminar on Regional Collaboration in Agricultural Research and Development, Wageningen, 29 March 2001. 5pp
- Waters-Bayer A. 2001. **The Global Forum on Agricultural Research from an NGO perspective: An opening for genuine partnerships?** *Agriculture + Rural Development* 8 (1): 18-20. (French version: **Le Forum mondiale sur la Recherche agricole: le point de vue d'une ONG – une ouverture vers d'authentiques partenariats?** *Agriculture + Développement Rural* 8 (1): 17-20)
- Waters-Bayer A. 2001. **The process of change in international agricultural research for development and the role of NGOs.** In: Gura S (ed), *Food without farmers? Agricultural research needs a profoundly changed CGIAR* (Bonn: Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung), in press.

## **Annex 1: CSO Declaration for Durban, May 2001**

*The NGO Committee (NGOC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) launched a consultation process with members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including universities, small farmer organizations (SFOs) and NGOs from Africa, Latin America, Asia, North America and Europe prior to the CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting (MTM) 2001. This has led, among other things, to a declaration on the proposals of the Change Design and Management Team (CDMT), prefaced by a statement on the research focus expected of the CGIAR. The NGOC contributes this international declaration by CSOs as an input to the discussions in Durban about the CDMT proposals. The statement has been endorsed thus far by: Food First, USA; LATIN, Indonesia; SEARICE, Philippines; RRAFA, Thailand; MODE, Philippines; Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa; PAN-UK; SOS-Sahel, Ethiopia; ILEIA, Netherlands; CLADES, Latin America; Zoology Dept Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; RAFI; German NGO Forum Environment and Development; SANE; ETC Ecoculture Netherlands; AS-PTA Network Brazil; GRET, France; ANGOC, Philippines; Berne Declaration Switzerland; Agricultural Missions, USA; WHY, USA; Indigenous People's Biodiversity Network; Kechua-Aymara Association for Sustainable Livelihoods, Peru; Movimiento Agroecologica Chileno; Center for Social Forestry–Cariboo/CIDA; ANPED / Northern Alliance for Sustainability; Harvest Help; Biotechnology Trust Zimbabwe; Matapos Research Station; SACRED Africa; Africa's Farms Certified Organic; Rainman Landcare Foundation, Farmer Support Group; SAFEAGE; Institute for Sustainable Development Ethiopia; Veld Products Research and Development; SEAAFSRE; Enproct Research Group, Zoology Dept, Nigeria; Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns; ITDG-UK; African Farmers Organic Research and Training (AFOREST), Zimbabwe; FIAN-Philippines; Bioforum-Indonesia, WAHLI Indonesian Forum for Development; Farmers of Orissa, India; Centro Internazionale Crocevia, Italy; Agromisa, Netherlands; CEBEDES Benin; Green Foundation, India; Down to Earth, Indonesia, SARDI, United Methodist Church; ISEC, University of Cordoba, Spain; Federation of Indonesian Peasant Unions (FSPI); MYRADA, India; MASIPAG, Philippines; League for Pastoral Peoples; Southeast Asian Council for Food Security and Fair Trade; Volunteers for Rural Development, India; Indonesian Foundation for Education and Self-Reliance; NGO Coordinating Committee on Development, Thailand; Foundation for Sustainable Development, Thailand; Fundacion Swissaid-Colombia; MAELA; Movimiento Horticultores Urbanos, Argentina; Taller Ecologista, Argentina; Accion por la Biodiversidad; IPSA, USA; Women and Community Association, Nicaragua; Women, Food and Agriculture Network; NASSA, Philippines. The text is circulating electronically in English and Spanish and is in the process of being endorsed by additional organizations.*

### **Research focus of the CGIAR**

The historical challenge of the CGIAR as a key international publicly funded research organization should be to focus all its resources and efforts on the masses of poor farmers, especially those who live in marginal environments and have not benefited from modern scientific advances but who nevertheless play a major role in producing basic food crops and enhancing agricultural biodiversity. In this light, the group welcomes the planks in the TAC's vision "A food secure world for all", which emphasize poverty reduction, combating hunger and malnutrition and integrated natural resources management. These goals are in line with the vision that most CSOs have of a more diversified agriculture that is based on local resources and responds to local needs by meeting first the requirements of internal markets.

We feel that fundamental ingredients are still lacking in the emerging CGIAR strategy. We re-emphasize that the new strategy must:

- a. be farmer-led, in the sense not only that farmers are actors in research, but also that the whole research agenda is driven directly by farmers' needs and aspirations via partnerships in governance;
- b. conceive research as part of a social process to develop knowledge that empowers farmers and enhances their capacity to innovate, rather than make them dependent on external institutions and technologies;
- c. include issues of access to resources (e.g. land reform), policy changes and political will, in view of the fact that solutions to the problems of rural poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation transcend the limits of agricultural science.

The following criteria can serve as guidelines for defining and implementing a research agenda relevant to the urgent problems facing agriculture in less-developed countries:

<b>Research should be:</b>	<b>... and not:</b>
Farmer-driven	Mainly scientist-led
Directed at the needs of the poor/vulnerable	Mainly commodity-based
Intimately linked to farmer-to-farmer learning	Top-down extension
Based on agroecology as a scientific basis, and traditional knowledge as a starting point	Reductionist approaches and large-scale high-external-input monoculture
Fully inclusive of smallholders and the landless	Focused on better-off farmers
Fully inclusive of women, indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups	Focused on male farmers
Producing outputs that cannot be privatized and that remain in the public domain	Accepting patent/IPR regimes
Based on participatory breeding methods	Using transgenics
Embedded in a larger context of policy development that emphasizes poverty alleviation, especially in rural areas	Following a commodity approach
Directed at food security, especially in marginal/vulnerable environments where the poor live, and guided by concerns of national food sovereignty, right to food and equity	Directed at crop productivity
Based on full and real participation of SFOs and other CSOs in priority-setting, agenda formulation, research collaboration, governance and decision-making	Token, symbolic consultation
Funded in an open and transparent manner with funds accessible to non-CGIAR actors via competitive mechanisms	Guaranteed to the CGIAR centers only
Address issues of resource access for poor people, e.g. land, water, genetic resources	Accepting current resource access and distribution as given
Based on priority setting that starts at the local level and is integrated upwards through partnerships in which SFOs and community-based organizations are key actors	Based on priority setting globally or in Washington DC
Use germplasm that remains held in trust for humankind and not subjected to IPR	Privatized

## ***Proposals of the Change Design and Management Team (CDMT)***

We recognize the efforts being made to restructure the CGIAR and appreciate the open, inclusive and iterative approach to developing the proposals. While welcoming some of the CDMT's proposals, we are deeply concerned that the recommended changes are not balanced and will not be successful in bringing the CGIAR closer to fulfilling its mission. We recommend that the change proposals focus on devolving governance and implementation of agricultural research and development to regional structures.

In general, the seven broad recommendations represent an attempt to centralize and streamline some management and governance functions while decentralizing and regionalizing more of the work. The move to centralize some functions is acceptable if the countermove to regionalize is successful. In effect, the recommendations speak indirectly to what the donors do not want rather than what is wanted. The proposal to move half of the research funding to Challenge Programs (CPs) in the next few years when the new CPs are not clearly accepted and understood means that the CGIAR is not happy with how half of the research funding is currently spent. MTM should directly confront its dissatisfaction with the current work and structure of the international agricultural research centers.

Specifically referring to each of the seven proposals in the CDMT report:

1. *[Global] Challenge Programs.* We applaud the principle of providing funding incentives to change the focus of CGIAR-supported work but do not support the examples of CPs given. We would support, however, CPs developed directly around the mandate of the CGIAR. Any CP should enhance the value of Public Goods. The process of identifying the CPs is not clear and should be exclusively through regional priority setting.
2. *Enhancing the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS).* We support the proposal as expressed but ask why this has not been achieved in the last 30 years, despite being a stated priority of the CGIAR. We welcome the explicit shift of focus from NARIs (Institutes) to NARS but ask how this will be realized and what monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to allow all constituencies to ensure its realization. We stand ready within our abilities to share the required work.
3. *Enhancing Science Output.* We welcome the inclusion of development, ethical and biosafety concerns in this proposal but would wish to see these incorporated in the expertise of the Council members, not only in the global and regional pools of experts. The Council should be renamed the "Science and Development Policy Council".
4. *Longer-term Finance.* Without detailed research programs addressing the mission of the CGIAR, there is little justification for increased finance. However, the proposal to create an Endowment Fund to secure the future of the CGIAR gene banks in the public domain is welcomed.
5. *Executive Council.* We believe that this principal governance committee of the CGIAR should be comprised of the major actors in agricultural research and development. That the only governance committee proposed is comprised exclusively of donors is a significant step backwards. The proposed structure will not allow the NGO Committee to fulfill its mandate nor will it strengthen CGIAR partnerships with NGOs and SFOs.

6. *System Office and Centers Support.* We recognize the efficiency gains that could be achieved by this office but demand that this be balanced by greater emphasis on regionalization of CGIAR-supported activities. We reject the "Future Harvest" slogan.
7. *Evolutionary Restructuring Approach.* While welcoming the intention to merge and cluster Centers, the competitive scrambling for resources among Centers initiated by the CPs will not lead to the desired restructuring.

**Alternative proposal: regionalization**

In order to be able to focus its work on farmer-led research and development to achieve food and livelihood security and ecosystem integrity, the CGIAR needs to shift the governance and implementation of agricultural research and development activities to regional structures. These should build on existing regional and subregional fora, especially within the framework of the GFAR. We would encourage a more comprehensive change of the CGIAR in this direction.

Endorsing the idea expressed by the CDMT of "centers without walls" as the culmination of an evolutionary restructuring process, we envision in the next 5-6 years a new CGIAR structure composed of interdisciplinary regional clusters of scientists who act as catalysts, animators and researchers in partnerships as determined by Regional Boards composed of members of farmer organizations, NGOs and other members of Civil Society and the scientific community. These may be supported by Regional Science and Development Policy Councils. A key function of the regional clusters will be to strengthen NARS through collaborative interdisciplinary research, technical backstopping, methodology development and facilitating learning platforms. Funding for research will be open to all constituencies. The scientists in the regional teams and NARS will participate in global networks for exchange and address special supraregional tasks.

**Assuming a continuation of the level of support that the CGIAR currently enjoys, this new arrangement would free up massive resources to mobilize research programs to scale up already existing successful initiatives benefiting the poor, as well as new ones, implemented at regional and local levels, emphasizing cross-regional collaboration when needed to reinforce local impact. As part of the transition, the legal ownership of *in situ* and *ex situ* gene banks and germplasm collections held by CGIAR centers in trust under the auspices of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should be placed under the governing body of the new International Undertaking upon its completion.**

## **Annex 2:**

### **PRESS STATEMENT FROM A MEETING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND FARMER ORGANISATIONS IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

convened by the NGO Committee (NGOC) of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)  
Durban, South Africa on 20 May 2001.

“To fulfill the mission of the CGIAR to promote sustainable agriculture for food security in developing countries, agricultural research must alleviate poverty and respond to the needs and priorities of poor farmers” declared delegates from over 40 non-governmental (NGO) and farmer organizations in eastern and southern Africa in Durban on Sunday.

The international agricultural research agenda must be genuinely ‘bottom-up’ and set at the local level, especially by resource-poor farmers. Priorities include food security and sustainable use of natural resources; respecting farmer knowledge; sustaining livelihoods on limited land; low external input production systems; land tenure and production policy; and the development and introduction of appropriate curricula at tertiary institutions.

Adequate response to these priorities would require participatory processes wherein

- governments should create space for all development actors;
- media should publicise and legitimize indigenous knowledge;
- farmers should determine research priorities and ensure they benefit from research;
- NGO’s should facilitate implementation of new partnerships;
- research institutes should ensure farmer participation in the identification and, where appropriate, conduct of research.

As a way forward, the delegates emphasized the need for further consultation as well as capacity and awareness building with and among civil society organizations at local, national, regional and global levels to enable them to achieve greater impact on the international agricultural research agenda setting.

The delegates endorsed the recommendations of the civil society consultative meeting convened earlier this month in Frankfurt, Germany by NGOC which called for the CGIAR to

- evolve from commodity- to ecoregional-based institutes with cross cutting programmes; and
- promote real and respected participation in priority setting and governance by all stakeholders, especially small farmer organizations.

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#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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