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**CGIAR Plenary Conference to Discuss  
Priorities and Strategies for Agricultural and  
Environmental Research: Will Celebrate 20th  
Anniversary of World's Largest International  
Group for Non-Military Research**

Washington, Oct. 15 – A review of the priorities and strategies for international agricultural research will be the main theme of the Plenary Conference of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), due to meet in Washington, October 28-November 1, for its annual International Centers Week. This review comes at a crucial time as CGIAR is embarked on a major expansion and reorientation of its activities to strengthen the links between research on agricultural productivity and natural resource management.

The CGIAR is an informal association of over 40 governments, international organizations, and private foundations that was established in 1971 to support a system of agricultural research and development around the world. The World Bank, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are its cosponsors. At present, the CGIAR supports 16 international agricultural research centers, providing about \$322 million for food crop, livestock, and forestry research to benefit developing countries. With a total staff of some 14,000, including 1,700 senior scientists, the CGIAR is the largest international institution for agricultural development and probably the largest international group for non-military research.

Some 300 representatives of member countries and organizations and officials of the 16 CGIAR centers will attend the meeting. Wilfried P. Thalwitz, Chairman of the CGIAR and the World Bank's Senior Vice President for Policy, Research, and External Relations, will preside.

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The meeting will commemorate the 20th anniversary of CGIAR's founding. The CGIAR Chairman will deliver the Crawford Memorial Lecture highlighting the observance on October 31. The lecture is sponsored by the Australian government in honor of the late Sir John Crawford, an eminent agriculturalist, educator, and statesman, who was the first chairman of the CGIAR Technical Advisory Committee.

Other major agenda items during ICW will be devoted to:

- CGIAR's involvement and participation in the "Earth Summit", the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED),
- funding requirements for the CGIAR centers and donor pledges,
- presentations on past and continuing research programs at 10 CGIAR centers,
- establishment of a new center on forestry research, and
- the status of work of the CGIAR's Task Force on Biotechnology (BIOTASK).