CGIAR Receives Financial Commitments for 1991

Washington, D.C.—Donors indicated today, during a 1991 funding session at the CGIAR's annual meeting here, their continued support to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers by providing $244 million of funding for 1991. This represents a $10 million increase or approximately four percent more than this year's funding of about $234 million.

Several important donors (United States, United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland) have made firm commitments to increase their contributions to the CGIAR while many other donors are not in a position to finalize individual levels of support. The increase for the United States is primarily due to the CGIAR's increased emphasis on natural resource management issues.

Ravi Tadvalkar, the CGIAR's Senior Financial Officer, said that in view of the pressure faced by development organizations for funding, the commitment by donors to provide increased resources is a welcome indication of their faith in the CGIAR's continued effectiveness.

The CGIAR began in 1971 with four research centers established under the aegis of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations in Columbia, Mexico, Nigeria, and the Philippines. Initially 15 donors contributed $15 million. Since then, the number of donors has grown to over 40 providing more than $240 million — almost a 17-fold increase in contributions in 19 years.

Today, the CGIAR is an informal association of over 40 governments, international organizations, and private foundations that supports a system of agricultural research and development around the world. Currently, the CGIAR funds 13 international agricultural research centers providing support for food crop and livestock research to benefit developing countries.

A large part of the resources donated to the CGIAR are provided by the world's richest nations, but donors also include Brazil, China, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

The top national contributors to the CGIAR in 1990 were the United States, Japan, Canada, United Kingdom, and Germany.

(End)