The year 2002 will be remembered as the Year of the Summits. At diverse fora and locales, the international community coalesced around a set of critical themes such as the challenges of financing development, reducing hunger and promoting sustainable development. The consensus emerging from the summits was unequivocal: partnerships are key to reducing poverty, hunger and environmental degradation — the global challenges that are integrally linked to the research-for-development efforts of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The reports presented in this document demonstrate how the CGIAR alliance is helping to fulfill the objectives of the 2002 summits by mobilizing agricultural science to reduce poverty, foster human well-being, promote agricultural growth and protect the environment. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of our partners representing the public and private sectors, civil society and farmer groups, and the broader scientific and academic community in industrialized and developing countries. Our achievements and positive impacts would simply not be possible without their unstinting support.