

The Private Sector Committee (PSC)  
International Centers Week Meeting  
Status Report

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Washington, DC  
October 27-31, 1997

## SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Private Sector Committee (PSC) was formed by the CGIAR close to two years ago. The mandate of the PSC is to provide the CGIAR with private sector perspectives on international agricultural research and to foster new partnerships between private and public sectors. The Committee is made up of 12 persons representing a cross-section of 'for-profit' and other institutional sectors, with equal representation from north and south.
- 1.2 A major contribution of the PSC in the last two years has been in the area of biotechnology. The PSC presented a perspectives paper on biotechnology at the Mid-Term Meeting in Cairo. The PSC invites and welcomes feedback from the CGIAR community.
- 1.3 The PSC is currently exploring different models for partnership. It is interested in establishing contacts with the various CG Centers on issues of mutual interest and benefit which could foster greater partnership. This effort builds upon earlier work and is a follow-up of the PSC questionnaire to the Centers.
- 1.4 The Committee will continue its interest and involvement in biotechnology and propriety sciences particularly in relation to the issue of intellectual property. However, they look forward to collaborate with the CG centers on other areas of mutual interest such capacity building, post harvest technology and Integrated Crop Management.
- 1.5 The Private Sector is very heterogeneous. The PSC is representative of a small private sector group. They require the guidance of all CGIAR stakeholders-i.e; all of you, in order to find the right priorities for the agenda. They are therefore looking forward to a continued and enhanced dialogue with you.

### The Committee

- 2.1 The Chair and the distinguished delegates may be aware that PSC of the CGIAR system was formed nearly two years ago with the first meeting of the committee held at the end of 1995.

2.2 The Private Sector Committee is advisory not operational. The original mandate is to provide the CGIAR with private sector perspectives regarding international agriculture and development as well as to foster new pragmatic partnerships. The mandate has evolved to including PSC suggestions on new initiatives such as the positioning of the CGIAR system in biotechnology. This initiative was reported in details at the Cairo Mid-Term Meeting in May 1997 with a paper presented to the meeting and submitted to the CGIAR System Review.

2.3 The members of the Private Sector Committee serve in their individual capacity. Six of the members represent developing countries of the South and six from the developed world of the North and include gender representation. The members have interest in agriculture development and related research representing heterogeneous corporate and institutional interests. As an example, I represent the sub-Sahara Africa as a new member and my company Coda is an indigenous small size company involved in agriculture consultancy and planning. The current

2.4 PSC members are:

Andreas J. Buchtig (Out-Going Co-Chair) Germany	Alejandro Rodriguez (Out-Going Co-Chair) Mexico
Pramod K. Agrawal India Chair	Assia B. Alaoui (In-Coming Vice Chair) Morocco
Bernard P. Auxenfans	Mohamad Hasan Indonesia
Sam Dryden Amaratunga (In-Coming Chair) USA	Carol M. Canada
Mohamed A. Ghandor Mwaniki Egypt	Dinguri Nick South Africa
John M. Preston being USA	New Members are identified
Selcuk Ozgediz (Secretary) CGIAR Secretariat Washington, DC	

2.5 The CGIAR Secretariat at the World Bank in Washington, DC has been most helpful, efficient and effective. On behalf of PSC, I wish to thank both the staff and the leadership of the Secretariat.

#### PSC Activity Report

3.1 This is the seventh PSC meeting. The Committee expects to meet three times a year. Consistent with the global make-up of the Committee, meetings have been held in various geographical areas which have included north Africa, north America, Latin America, and western Europe. During the last three meetings, and in the last Mid-Term Meeting in Cairo, the PSC has reported to delegates of the CGIAR system, NGOs, Donor Community, International Organizations, institutional and other interested parties. Without repeating myself, I would like to summarize and highlight a few views of the Private Sector Committee:

1. From the inception the PSC has emphasized the cross-sectional and heterogeneous make-up of the private sector. The spectrum ranges from large transnational to small indigenous companies in the least developed areas.
2. The PSC mandate continues to evolve to address the broad vision and objectives of the CGIAR. An example of this is the paper on Strengthening CGIAR—Private Sector Partnerships in Biotechnology which presents private sector perspectives.
3. The PSC continues to identify, analyze and evaluate the cross-section of global stakeholders including small indigenous private sector in developing countries.
4. The PSC is working together to identify areas of common interest and complementarity between CGIAR System and the private sector in order to enhance agriculture research and development.
5. The PSC is addressing issues of improved strategies for effective transfer and dissemination of appropriate and alternative technologies in order to achieve Best Agricultural Practices.
6. The PSC will continue to make contributions on issues of Proprietary Science with focus on the issues relating to intellectual property rights.

7. Increasing awareness of the vision, mission and activities of CGIAR in the private sector is important for fostering partnership. The PSC is investigating how this can be best done.

#### PSC Immediate Future Challenges

- 4.1 During the Private Sector Committee deliberations held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC between October 24-27,1997 the PSC Committee made a priority of the immediate challenges.
- 4.2 PSC will continue to make contributions in biotechnology. As stated earlier in this report, PSC prepared, reported on and submitted a paper on Biotechnology as an advisory input to the CGIAR System. PSC would appreciate feedback from the Centers on this issues.
- 4.3 PSC will continue to investigate the most effective ways for promoting networking between Center research managers and private sector corporate research managers within the context of mutual exchange, effective experience and collaboration especially in research and development.
- 4.4 PSC expects to provide perspectives on post-harvest and related appropriate technologies, and extension.
- 4.5 The PSC will explore specific and concrete models of partnership to involve private sector, CGIAR system, including the NARS a well as national sub-sectors in developing countries and possibly carry out case studies on partnership models.
- 4.6 We need suggestions from all of you in order to fulfill the CGIAR\PSC vision and mission.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

With this last remark Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates I conclude my brief statement made on behalf of the Private Sector Committee.

I thank you for the opportunity and your attention.