

NEWS CGIAR

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INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH GROUP MEETS TO DISCUSS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Washington, October 15-- Intellectual property rights and the conservation and use of plant genetic resources will be discussed by the week-long conference of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to be held in Washington, October 25-29.

The issues involved will be explored by two panels reflecting the diversity of views and presenting a wide range of expertise from both inside and outside the CGIAR. New challenges for the CGIAR arising from the International Treaty on Biological Diversity will also be discussed. Another item high on the agenda is the CGIAR Action Plan to follow up on UNCED, the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The CGIAR is an informal association of 41 governments, international organizations, and private foundations supporting an international research system for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and management of natural resources in developing countries.

The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly sponsor the CGIAR which maintains 18 international research centers with a consolidated budget of \$300 million, some 1,700 scientists and a total staff of 12,000.

About 350 donor and center representatives will attend International Centers Week. V. Rajagopalan, Chairman of the CGIAR and Vice President of the World Bank, will preside.

James Gustave Speth, the Administrator of UNDP, will speak on "The Global Crisis of Underdevelopment" in delivering the Crawford Memorial Lecture, a highlight of the CGIAR conference.

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