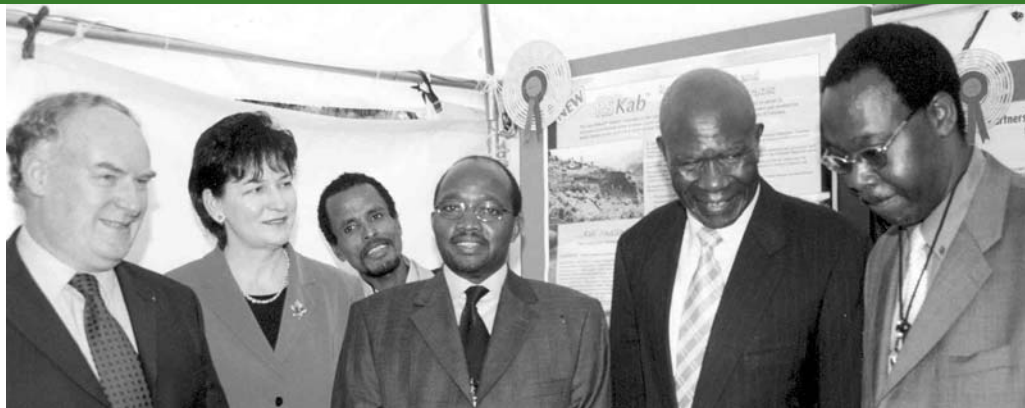


cgiarNews

Nourishing the future through scientific excellence

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Right to left: Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman; Hon. Susan Whelan, Canada; Hon. Kipruto arap Kirwa, Min. of Agriculture, Kenya; Hon. Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya, and Dr. Romano Kiome, Director General of the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute at AGM03.

Kenya Hosts Annual General Meeting 2003: Ringing Endorsement for CGIAR's Mission

CGIAR Annual General Meeting 2003 (AGM'03) — the first to be held in Africa — was hosted by the Government of Kenya and held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). The meeting brought together nearly 1,000 stakeholders, who share a commitment to promoting growth and sustainable development in Africa.

The meeting was opened by Hon. Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya. "Agriculture and rural development is crucial for the structural transformation and sustained economic development of Africa," he said, setting the bar high for the proceedings. "This meeting provides an opportunity for mobilizing experiences and ideas in agricultural science and technology, necessary for reducing poverty on the continent of Africa."

AGM'03 broke new ground in several areas. Notably, it provided a forum for the open exchange of ideas, increasing space for optimal interaction among Members and CGIAR scientists and staff. An informative set of field visits provided stakeholders with an opportunity to view first-hand the beneficial impacts of research. The Innovation Marketplace celebrated and recognized innovative projects being implemented by farmer groups and civil society organizations. Finally, a CGIAR Ministerial Roundtable brought together African Ministers from Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Mali for a substantive discussion on consolidating an African vision for agricultural research and development. Other participants

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CGIAR Chairman

Ian Johnson

CGIAR Director

Francisco Reifschneider

CGIAR Members

African Development Bank
 Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
 Asian Development Bank
 Australia
 Austria
 Bangladesh
 Belgium
 Brazil
 Canada
 China
 Colombia
 Commission of the European Community
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Denmark
 Arab Republic of Egypt
 Finland
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Ford Foundation
 France
 Germany
 Gulf Cooperation Council
 India
 Indonesia
 Inter-American Development Bank
 International Development Research Centre
 International Fund for Agricultural Development
 Islamic Republic of Iran
 Ireland
 Israel
 Italy
 Japan
 Kellogg Foundation
 Kenya
 Republic of Korea
 Luxembourg
 Malaysia
 Mexico
 Morocco
 Netherlands
 New Zealand
 Nigeria
 Norway
 OPEC Fund for International Development
 Pakistan
 Peru
 Philippines
 Portugal
 Rockefeller Foundation
 Romania
 Russian Federation
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
 Syrian Arab Republic
 Thailand
 Uganda
 United Kingdom
 United Nations Development Programme
 United Nations Environment Programme
 United States of America
 World Bank



Message from the Chairman and Director

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to present you with "CGIAR News," the fall/winter edition. For your convenience, an e-version is also available at www.cgiar.org

This issue provides an overview of the various events and significant outcomes of Annual General Meeting 2003 (AGM'03), hosted by the Government of Kenya at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).

The meeting was a landmark event, the first Annual General Meeting held in Africa. We believe it will not be the last.

Innovation is a maxim that best describes AGM'03. In consultation with CGIAR Centers, Members, and Partners, the format of the meetings were designed to maximize interaction and cross-fertilization of ideas while making sure that the business of the CGIAR progressed. We pay tribute to our colleagues at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ILRI and World Agroforestry Centre for ensuring the smooth conduct of the meetings. A revamped program of field visits allowed stakeholders to view first-hand the beneficial impacts of research efforts by CGIAR and partners. A new Science Council has been appointed. The reform program is on track. An Innovation Marketplace was launched, and a CGIAR Ministerial Roundtable was held. In a growing signal of confidence in the CGIAR, we welcomed the Gulf Cooperation Council as the 63rd Member. And, for the first time ever, the CGIAR financing plan topped \$400 million.

Through these pages, we are delighted to share these good tidings with you. We hope these are of interest and would welcome comments which may be sent to cgjar@cgiar.org.

With best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

Cordially,

Ian Johnson
 CGIAR Chairman

Francisco Reifschneider
 CGIAR Director

Gulf Cooperation Council is CGIAR's Newest Member

At the Annual General Meeting 2003, the Gulf Cooperation Council (formally known as The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf) joined the CGIAR by acclamation. This brings to 63 the total number of CGIAR members, including 25 developing and 22 industrialized countries. GCC is a regional organization created in May 1981 by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

"We are delighted to welcome the Gulf Cooperation Council as a CGIAR Member," said Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development. "It is a signal of confidence, both in the CGIAR and its ability to deliver science-based solutions geared to the special needs of poor farming communities."

The GCC delegation was led by Mr. Hilal Saud Al-Busaidi, Director of Water and Agriculture, and included the representative of Qatar which presently holds the rotating

Presidency of the GCC. Separately, the GCC delegation met with Mr. Johnson and Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director, to discuss further strengthening of CGIAR research activities in the dry areas. The decision to join the CGIAR was unanimously reached by the Ministers of Agriculture (with approval from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and subsequent budgeting of the contribution by the Ministers of Finance) of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. ICARDA's Arab Peninsula Regional Program (APRP) based in Dubai has been identified as a priority area for investment.

Discussions are underway for national and local institutions to invest in future CGIAR-related programs targeting the GCC's region's priorities, as well as for the expansion of key partnerships with institutions such as Dubai-based International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and the Islamic Development Bank. 

Announcements

Welcome to New Center Board Chairs:

Eugene Terry, ICRAF-World Agroforestry Centre, succeeding Lucie Edwards
Isher Judge Ahluwalia, IFPRI, succeeding Geoff Miller

Honor Roll

A comprehensive list of honors, awards, and scientific recognition received by CGIAR scientists was distributed at Annual General Meeting 2003. A copy is available on the CGIAR website, www.cgiar.org

In Memoriam

Wilfried Thalwitz, Fifth CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice President, passed away in Brussels. In a tribute, Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman, dedicated his opening address to the Annual General Meeting 2003 to the memory of Mr. Thalwitz. His legacy is being nurtured through a *Wilfried Thalwitz Fellowship for Young Scientists*.

Walter Rill, Austrian Representative to the CGIAR. Mr. Rill had a distinguished career of public service at the Ministry of Finance and previously as an Executive Director of the World Bank. In the latter role, he was instrumental in strengthening Austria-CGIAR relations and ensuring sustained Austrian support to CGIAR.

Derek Tribe, Australian Representative to the CGIAR, founder of The Crawford Fund, and author of such classics as *Doing Well by Doing Good* and *Feeding and Greening the World*.

The entire CGIAR family mourns the passing of these strong supporters.

Public-Private Partnership to Boost Cassava Production in Nigeria

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (Shell) announced a \$20 million sustainable development partnership in Nigeria. The agreement was announced in Washington D.C. by Andrew S. Natsios, USAID Administrator, and Sir Philip Watts, Chairman of the Committee of Managing Directors of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies. USAID and Shell initially plan to focus their work on food security through a cassava cultivation support program; the prevention of malaria; and supporting the shrimp export industry.

The cassava project will be implemented by IITA, a key partner with the Government of Nigeria in implementing the Nigerian Presidential Cassava Initiative.

The cassava project is expected to be the first to commence by the end of 2003. Its aim is to provide greater income for cassava farmers in 11 Nigerian states.

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From the Chair — CBC

The Committee of Board Chairs (CBC) works closely with the System Office to enhance the corporate spirit between the 16 independent Centers, Members, and Stakeholders that together comprise the CGIAR System. For example, we have:

- Developed model guidelines of grievance procedures
- Developed a process to increase Members' inputs into the selection of CGIAR nominees to Center Boards
- Established terms-of-reference for a comprehensive study of remuneration packages across the Centers
- Developed a new board orientation programme that is dynamic and in line with the changing needs of governance

We also want to add our collective voice to key issues and challenges confronting the CGIAR System. There are two important advances that CBC believes are critical to helping CGIAR fulfill its mission effectively and efficiently.

The first is the Science Council (SC), arguably the most important driver of our science-based agricultural research system, in addition to being its most important "check and balance." CBC will continue to work to maintain and strengthen the SC's role as a powerful and independent source of advice to the System, operating without fear or favor. The SC has some urgent tasks on hand:

- More rigorous comparative analysis of Challenge Programs
- Developing performance indicators to increase System effectiveness
- Completing the strategic planning and priority-setting exercise
- Taking the lead in the proposed African Task Force while ensuring that it is science-driven and recognizes FARA as a key partner

The second is the evaluation of CGIAR by the World Bank's Operations Evaluation Department (OED). CBC believes the OED report is useful. We are prepared to contribute to the reforms recommended in the paper. On organizational structure, we urge that the federation model proposed earlier be re-examined and a written CGIAR charter be developed. We encourage coordinated, inclusive change management processes to avoid the negative impacts of change on Centers.

We are committed to working with all partners in putting food production and poverty alleviation back on the top of the development agenda.

John E. Vercoe
Chairman, Committee of Board Chairs

New ISNAR-IFPRI Alliance

At AGM'03, the CGIAR requested that the Boards of ISNAR and IFPRI carry out a transfer of governance and relocation of ISNAR's programs to IFPRI.

This move will further strengthen agricultural research and innovation in developing countries. The new ISNAR program will relocate to Africa in Addis Ababa under IFPRI governance.

Agricultural research in developing countries is facing new challenges that require new institutional arrangements. Researchers need to consider the ongoing globalization and its effects on agricultural trade. Concerns with the environment and with health issues have to be balanced with productivity goals. To address rural poverty, agricultural research needs to increase the value added of crop, live-stock, fisheries, and forestry production. "ISNAR's alliance with IFPRI will enable us to better fulfill our mandate of strengthening agricultural research in developing countries," says Jacques Ekebil, Interim Director General of ISNAR.

Relocating the new ISNAR Program in sub-Saharan Africa brings it into closer contact with its main target region, and it will be an identifiable entity within IFPRI. The new Program aims to work in partnership with national and regional organizations and the CGIAR Centers. The primary theme of the Program will be to produce new knowledge on institutional change that enhances the impact of agricultural research. The secondary theme will be to enhance the performance of agricultural research institutions by strengthening their organization and management. Joachim von Braun, Director General of IFPRI, stresses that "while the main focus of attention of the new Program will be Africa, it will maintain its global mandate and remain active in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and the West Asia and North Africa region."

A Program Advisory Committee consisting of NARS leaders and specialists on the main themes will help guide these activities. 🌱

CGIAR Ministerial Roundtable

African Agricultural Research and Development: Designing the Way Forward



A highlight of AGM'03 was a CGIAR Ministerial Roundtable co-hosted by H.E. Kipruto arap Kirwa, Minister of Agriculture, Kenya, and H.E. Susan Whelan, Minister for International Cooperation, Canada.

Designed as an open forum, the Ministerial Roundtable brought together public leaders and leading development practitioners to discuss how to enhance the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

“Kenya is delighted to host the Ministerial Roundtable,” said Minister Kirwa in opening remarks. “By featuring a broad range of perspectives, the Roundtable will help us to consolidate an African vision for agricultural research and development, foster cooperation, and strengthen partnerships.”

H.E. Ato Belay Ejigu, Minister of Agriculture, Ethiopia, spoke about the important role of science and technology in meeting Africa’s developmental needs, noting the need to capitalize not only on conventional technologies, but also on emerging, promising ones such as biotechnology and new information and communication technologies.

In his presentation, H.E. Seydou Traoré, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Mali, addressed the special challenges of arid agriculture, and lamented the declining budgets being devoted to agriculture. He noted that Mali has made significant progress in this regard, and that its agricultural budget is second to that of education.

The special challenges of fostering agricultural growth in countries recovering from conflict was of particular interest. H.E. Mammadou Koné, Minister of Scientific Research, Côte d’Ivoire, gave an extensive overview of his country’s efforts in mobilizing science and technology for growth in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Kazuo Kodama, Deputy Director General, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Japan (representing H.E. Yoriko

Participants at the Ministerial Roundtable: H.E. Seydou Traoré, Min. of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Mali; H. E. Ato Belay Ejigu, Min. of Agriculture, Ethiopia; H.E. Susan Whelan, Min. of Int’l Cooperation, Canada; H.E. Kipruto arap Kirwa, Min. of Agriculture, Kenya; H.E. Mammadou Koné, Min. of Scientific Research, Côte d’Ivoire; Ian Johnson, Chair CGIAR, and Mr. Kazuo Kodama, Deputy Director General, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Japan.

Kawaguchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan) described Japan’s efforts in fostering international research and cooperation in rice development, and the promise held out by the New Rices for Africa (NERICAs) developed by WARDA-The Africa Rice Center.

Speaking on behalf of Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, Richard Mkandawire, NEPAD Agriculture Advisor spoke about the new opportunities being offered by NEPAD, especially the decision taken by African governments at the Maputo Summit to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture within the next five years. Given the political will demonstrated at the highest levels of state and government, he said NEPAD provides the much needed policy environment and strategic-oriented action approaches necessary for success.

In a special address, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute of Columbia University and Special Advisor to the U.N. Secretary General made a passionate plea for increasing development assistance for agriculture, health, and nutrition for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. His remarks resonated with the audience and drew repeated applause.

After questions from the floor, an animated discussion followed. Participants queried the Ministers and Prof. Sachs about the role of local knowledge, the challenge of strengthening institutions, and the special needs of urban agriculture. Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman, summed up the Roundtable, noting that a substantive discussion had taken place, one that was wide-ranging and with all stakeholders. 🌱



Agriculture has incredible power to promote sustainable development, and with sustainable development comes prosperity, peace and security.

Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture 2003

"Fulfilling the Promise: the Role for Agricultural Research" was the theme of the 2003 Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture delivered by Susan Whelan, Canadian Minister for International Cooperation at AGM'03.

The lecture honors the memory of Sir John Crawford, a founding father of CGIAR and attracted a standing-room only audience at the United Nations Conference Center.

"Agriculture has incredible power to promote sustainable development, and with sustainable development comes prosperity, peace and security," said Minister Whelan. "In rural areas, where most of the world's absolute poor live, agriculture is integrally linked to health, education, the private sector, water and the environment. There is a moral imperative to undertake agricultural research that will benefit the poor."

Minister Whelan covered a substantive range of topics. Beginning with a survey of contemporary challenges facing scientists and policy makers, the lecture provided fresh insights on new, inclusive forms of partnership needed to meet the challenges of our times.

While congratulating the CGIAR on its achievements, Minister Whelan challenged the scientists to rise to even higher levels of performance. Saying that experiences of the past must generate wisdom about the future, she questioned whether CGIAR's organization model — based mostly on commodities and agro-ecologies — was still the optimal one for addressing complex system dynamics common in smallholder agriculture?

Concluding on a philosophical note, she noted that investing in research is an act of faith; faith being "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." She underscored Canada's continuing faith in the CGIAR's research, and announced details regarding Canada's contribution to CGIAR — an increase of \$5 million to the yearly \$12 million Canadian contribution to CGIAR's core funding.

In his remarks, Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman noted that "The raison d'être of the Crawford Lecture is simple. It seeks to challenge all those involved in agricultural research and development to think outside the proverbial box. I am delighted that Minister Whelan has accomplished the task so well," he concluded.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Minister Whelan received a standing ovation. 🌱

Full text of the lecture is available at www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

World Food Situation: IFPRI Analysis

IFPRI presented its new report, *Food Security: New Risks and New Opportunities* at AGM'03. The findings are illuminating, and call for urgent actions now.

By 2050, the percentage of the world's children who are malnourished could drop dramatically from the current 31 percent to 11 percent, if policymakers respond to the global challenge of hunger. However, the report warns, rates will drop only modestly if there are serious policy or technology failures in the next half-century.

"We have come to a major crossroads for the world food situation," said Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and lead author of the report. "Fifty years from now, one child in four could be suffering from chronic hunger, or it could drop to one child in ten. The outcome depends on decisions made now and in the next few years."

Progressive policy actions that are needed include:

- Increasing public spending on agricultural and rural development by both developing and industrialized countries

- Expanding investment in agricultural research
- Higher levels of investment in education, social services, and health
- Improving irrigation efficiency

The "progressive policy" scenario projects that after 2015 child nutrition will improve steadily in all developing regions of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa. Latin America, the Middle East, and China virtually eliminate child malnutrition by 2030.

The paper also provides two pessimistic scenarios, which leave 135–140 million children malnourished in 2025 under "policy failure" and "technology and resource management failure" scenarios.

"While pessimistic, these scenarios are possible, if current trends worsen," warns Mark Rosegrant, report co-author and director of Environment and Production Technology at IFPRI. "These projections should raise alarm bells for governments in both developing and industrialized countries." 🌱

For more information, visit www.ifpri.org

Challenge Programs Gather Momentum: Gates Foundation Awards \$25 Million Grant to HarvestPlus

The CGIAR Challenge Programs launched over the past year are making steady progress.

HarvestPlus

In a significant development and vote of confidence for the Challenge Program concept, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$25 million grant to HarvestPlus (formerly known as the Biofortification Challenge Program). The award was announced at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman, Joachim Voss, Director General, CIAT, and Howarth Bouis, Director, HarvestPlus, briefed journalists about the research program to combat malnutrition, a leading cause of child deaths in the developing world, by improving the nutritional quality of

staple foods in developing countries. The first crops to be developed by the HarvestPlus initiative include those most widely consumed in the developing world, such as rice, wheat, maize, beans, cassava, and sweet potato.

Speaking about the special nature of development challenges to be addressed by HarvestPlus, Howarth Bouis, Director of HarvestPlus noted that those most affected by malnutrition, the rural poor, are also the most difficult to reach with traditional nutrition programs.

"Biofortified crops have the potential to transform the health of these communities by allowing them to grow crops that are naturally fortified with essential micronutrients" he explained.

For more information, visit www.harvestplus.org

Water and Food

With the completion of inception phase, the research agenda of "Water and Food" Challenge Program was launched in Nairobi at a special conference held at United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). The meeting gathered scientists, policy makers and interest groups from across the globe to debate water, food and environment challenges, and to set the research agenda for the coming years.

The Water and Food Challenge Program has received strong signals of support. More than one-third of the \$100–120 million goal for the initial six year research phase has already been committed by The World Bank, Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark and Norway.

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CGIAR Science Awards 2003

Every year, a much-anticipated highlight of the Annual General Meeting is the announcement of winners of CGIAR Science Awards.

This year was no different, except that the occasion was made all the more memorable with Hon. Moody Awori, Vice President of the Republic of Kenya, presenting the awards to the winners.

“Science and technology are shaping our lives in myriad ways,” said Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development. “This year’s awards demonstrate how CGIAR scientists are making tangible improvements in the lives of farmers, adding to the stock of knowledge that will increase incomes while promoting prudent use of biodiversity and soil and water resources.

The winners of the CGIAR Science Awards are:

Dr. Abdul Mujeeb Kazi of CIMMYT was named **Outstanding Scientist** for generating and making available new genetic diversity for wheat improvement. He has created numerous complex combinations in the wheat family, including interspecific hybrids across the wheat genomes. This wealth of genetic variation has been widely distributed and made available to the global scientific community.

Dr. Jonathan Crouch of ICRISAT was honored as **Promising Young Scientist** for leading an effort to develop the upstream biotechnology and genetic enhancement program at ICRISAT. He has championed holistic, multidisciplinary approaches to resolving previously intractable problems through multi-sector biotechnology-based partnerships and was instrumental in establishing the Applied Genomics Laboratory at ICRISAT.

The Outstanding Scientific Article was awarded jointly to two papers:

- “Dietary Aflatoxin Exposure and Impaired Growth in Young Children from Benin and Togo: Cross-sectional Study” by Y.Y. Gong, K. Cardwell, A. Hounsa, S. Egal, P.C. Turner, A.J. Hall, and C.P. Wild published in the *British Medical Journal* on July 6, 2003. This research points to the need to address aflatoxin contamination in stored food grains — particularly maize and groundnuts — in warm and humid areas of West Africa — authors **Cardwell, Hounsa and Egal** are from IITA



Recipients of CGIAR Science Awards 2003

Standing (L to R): Rejab Ssetyabula, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award; Y.Y. Gong, Outstanding Scientific Article; Olivier Hanotte, Outstanding Scientific Article; Jowelia Ssekiyanja, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award; Jonathan Crouch, Promising Young Scientist; Salome Gamelenga, farmer, Outstanding Partnership Award; Manuel Lantin, CGIAR Secretariat;

Seated (L to R): Regina Kapina, VITAA Partnership Coordinator, Outstanding Partnership Award; Abdul Mujeeb Kazi, Outstanding Scientist; Flora de Guzman, Outstanding Scientific Support Award; Fina Opio, Chair, VITAA Steering Committee, Outstanding Partnership Award.

- “African Pastoralism: Genetic Imprints of Origins and Migrations” by Olivier Hanotte, Daniel G. Bradley, Joel W. Ochieng, Yasmin Verjee, Emmeline W. Hill, J. Edward O. Rege and published in *Science* on April 12, 2002. The paper is the first continent-wide study of the genetic diversity of cattle in Africa. Based on seven years of research, it represents a landmark in work to characterize, conserve, and better use indigenous animal genetic resources for the benefit of the continent’s poor — authors **Hanotte, Ochieng, Verjee and Rege** are from ILRI.

The Outstanding Partnership Award recognizes the **Vitamin A for Africa program**, coordinated by the CIP under its Director General, **Hubert Zandstra**, for its work with 44 local and international development organizations implementing the program in **Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda**. VITAA is a research and public health initiative that aims to combat widespread vitamin A deficiency by promoting the growth and consumption of new varieties of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes that have high levels of beta-carotene which the body uses to make vitamin A, along with taste and texture characteristics preferred by African consumers.

The Outstanding Scientific Support Award was given to **IRRI’s Genetic Resources Center Support Team and Ron Cantrell** for contributing to effective and efficient operation of IRRI’s rice genebank, one of the largest in the network of genebanks supported by the CGIAR. The national support

team is primarily responsible for storing, testing, multiplying, characterizing, distributing, and documenting seed samples. **Flora de Guzman** received the award on behalf of the group. IRRI has received this award three years in a row.

CGIAR Communication Awards

Outstanding Journalism Award to Pallava Bagla, an Indian journalist, for his article “Drought Exposes Cracks in India’s Monsoon Model” published in *Science* in 2002 and for a body of scientific articles published in mainstream media and reputed journals.

Outstanding Communications Award to WorldFish Center for the **Fish for All Campaign** that placed on global and national agendas the critically important way fish contributes to the food needs of 1 billion of the world’s poor, provides livelihoods to 120 million low-income wage earners and is challenged by a degrading natural resource base. **Meryl J. Williams**, Director General, **WorldFish Center**, received the award. 🌱

Innovation Marketplace '03 Celebrates Spirit of Innovation

The Innovation Marketplace '03 was launched in Nairobi to promote, expand, and strengthen relationships with civil society while catalyzing innovation across the CGIAR system.

The winners of the Inaugural Innovation Marketplace '03 are:

- **Best Innovative Partnership Program to Mr. Nyine Bithawa and Ms. Anke Weisheit of Rukararwe Partnership Workshop for Rural Development**, in partnership with World Agroforestry Centre, for a program that is strengthening the capacity of herbalists in conservation and use of medicinal species. The prize carried a cash award of \$15,000 and a scroll. The judges felt the program adopts an innovative approach that is enhancing prosperity, encouraging diversification, systems sustainability, and that addresses the critical issue of genetic resources conservation while contributing to health and livelihood improvements.
- **People’s Choice Award to Mr. Wonwossen Diresse Bezabih of Tikurso Innovative Farmers Group**. The prize carried a cash award of \$5,000 and a scroll.

These two winners were chosen from 10 finalists, who in turn were selected from 45 entries. The first round of evaluation was conducted by Milagre Nuvunga of Ford Foundation, Davinder Lamba of Mazingira Institute (a local NGO) and Erica Kanja, Innovation Marketplace Event Manager.

The second round of evaluation was conducted by Luis Arango of CORPOICA (Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research), Denis Despereaux (France), Mangala Rai (India), and Franklin Moore (USA).

Innovation Marketplace '03 thanks all participants and representatives of civil society organizations who responded enthusiastically to the call for nominations. 🌱



Innovation Marketplace poster display.

Parliamentarians and CGIAR: Strengthening our partnership with a vital constituency

The Latin maxim, *Vox populi Vox Dei*, notes that the voice of the people is the voice of God. As people's representatives, Parliamentarians are at the front lines in the battle against hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation. They play critical roles in developing, supporting, and financing public policies to achieve sustainable development.

In an effort to increase awareness and visibility among this vital constituency, two CGIAR briefings were held recently.

In Ottawa, a CGIAR briefing for Canadian Parliamentarians was hosted by Honorable Susan Whelan, Canadian Minister for International Cooperation in the House of Commons. In addition to the Minister, key public officials who attended the event included: Claude Duplain, Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture and Agri-Food; Rose-Marie Ur, Vice Chair of Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food; Walt Lastewka, Chair of Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, and Peter Stoffer of National Democratic Party, among others.

Over lunch, the discussion focused on the role of public goods research, the challenges posed by intellectual property rights, and special efforts needed to jumpstart agricultural growth in Africa.

Members of the diplomatic corps who attended included H.E. Green Josiah, High Commissioner of Kenya, H.E. Samuel Odoi-Sykes, High Commissioner of Ghana, H.E. Amadou Diallo, Ambassador of Senegal, and others. From CGIAR,

Carlos Seré, Director General, ILRI; Hubert Zandstra, Director General, CIP; Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman and Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director, attended the briefing together with officials from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In a fortunate coincidence, Drs. Henri Carsalade and Louise Fresco of FAO who were visiting Ottawa also attended the briefing.

A booklet on the Canada-CGIAR Partnership was prepared for the meeting and is available at www.cgiar.org

In New Delhi, a CGIAR delegation led by William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT met with 12 Members of Parliament (from the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament) for a policy dialogue on key issues facing Indian agriculture. The meeting was co-hosted by IFPRI, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Farmers and Industry Alliance (IFIA).

"India is a leading supporter of the CGIAR," said William Dar in opening remarks. "We have begun a process of dialogue, one that will help spread knowledge and raise awareness about the urgent need to mobilize food and environmental science in promoting sustainable agriculture, both in India and globally."

The meeting was structured as an interactive session. Parliamentarians asked questions, sought clarifications, and



H.E. Green Josiah, High Commissioner of Kenya; Bruce Montador, Vice President, CIDA; Carlos Sere, ILRI; Hubert Zandstra, CIP; Hon. Susan Whelan, Canada; Ian Johnson and Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR



William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, represented the CGIAR at a policy dialogue with Indian Parliamentarians.

offered suggestions for future research topics to be undertaken by CGIAR in India. In his presentation, Suresh Babu of IFPRI highlighted the policy challenges facing India's agricultural sector. Mr. Chengal Reddy of IFIA proposed a potential model for institutionalizing the process of policy dialogue between Indian Parliamentarians and CGIAR.

In addition to the Parliamentarians, senior scientists from India's national research programs, policy makers, journalists and CIMMYT and IWMI scientists attended the meeting.

Overall, the briefings were successful in initiating dialogue with key decision-makers committed to agriculture and rural development, and additional briefings are planned for 2004. 🌱

Innovative research preventing pesticide misuse wins British environmental award

Rampant pesticide misuse by millions of farmers in developing countries pollutes the environment, threatens the health of farmers and their families, and also sets the stage for secondary pest infestations that cause devastating crop losses.

An innovative, IRRI-led research project to prevent pesticide misuse garnered Britain's Green Apple Environmental Award. The project — funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation — has encouraged millions of Vietnamese rice farmers to reduce pesticide use. In addition to environmental and health benefits, the project is helping many farmers to reduce input costs by US\$30–50 per season — equal to a month's income in Vietnam.

"This project has exposed only the tip of the iceberg regarding the inappropriate use of agricultural pesticides in the developing world," said K.L. Heong, IRRI entomologist and leader of the award-winning project. "We convinced farmers to reduce their pesticide use, but no sooner did the project end, the continued marketing of such products caused pesticide use levels to climb again."

According to Dr. Heong, major multinational pesticide corporations act responsibly by organizing educational and awareness programs for farmers and other pesticide users. However, the same cannot be said for local dealers in many countries. It is local dealers who actively persuade poor farmers to use pesticides inappropriately. And many of them are very creative in their marketing and promotion.

First launched in 1994 in the Mekong Delta — one of Asia's great rice bowls — the IRRI-led partnership's research and subsequent campaign marked a milestone in rice production.

First, it clearly identified the damage caused by misapplied insecticides that kill insect predators thereby encouraging pests that would otherwise have been controlled. Second, it developed innovative and effective methods of communicating important scientific information to farmers.

In addition to Dr. Heong, key partners include Monina Escalada, a communications professor at the Philippines' Leyte State University, now seconded to IRRI; Nguyen Huu Huan, the vice director general of Vietnam's Plant Protection Department; and Vo Mai, Dr. Huan's predecessor.

The project combined solid scientific research and innovative communication techniques. "We got a group of actors to play out a series of brief comedies, relating solid scientific facts through rustic situations to make the audience laugh," Dr. Heong explained. "We found these simple, humorous messages fixed themselves in the minds of thousands of farmers."

Subsequent surveys have confirmed the beneficial impacts. In project areas, insecticide use was halved (1.7 applications per season, down from 3.4 applications). The number of farmers who believed that insecticide use would bring higher yields fell from a high of 83 percent to 13 percent. Equally important, the number of farmers who realized that insecticides killed natural enemies of rice pests rose from 29 percent to 79 percent.

"We should be training extension workers to communicate more effectively with farmers and delivering accurate information to farmers," Dr. Heong concluded. "We can't afford to leave pesticide education to those who profit by spreading misinformation about these chemicals." 🌱

Cassava Production in Nigeria continued

The program will improve technology transfer to address cassava mosaic disease and to develop cassava processing. It will also help identify further commercial markets for cassava, such as ethanol production, livestock feed and use in baking. In addition to being a staple food, starch from cassava is already used in other industries including textile manufacturing.

Mr. Natsios said, "Investing in people is perhaps the single most important factor in achieving long-term economic growth. USAID is proud to partner with Shell in the Delta region, particularly as we embark on implementing a new \$350 million, five-year program of development and capacity building throughout Nigeria." Shell will contribute \$15 million over the next five years to the partnership and USAID will contribute \$5 million. 🌱

For more information on USAID, visit www.usaid.gov
For IITA's work on cassava improvement, visit www.iita.org

Indonesian President thanks CIFOR

The importance of CIFOR's research received the Presidential seal of approval at CIFOR's 10th Anniversary celebrations at Indonesian President Megawati's Palace in Bogor.

The ceremony celebrated CIFOR's tenth year in Indonesia and was attended by some 200 people, including the Indonesian President, Ibu Megawati Soekarnoputri, Dr. Muhammad Prakosa, Indonesia's Minister of Forestry, Ambassadors, donor representatives and CIFOR partners.

"I wish CIFOR a happy anniversary (and) success and progress in its endeavors to achieve its noble objectives," said President Megawati. She congratulated CIFOR on its successes and for the role its research plays in assisting Indonesian efforts to meet the challenges in the country's forest sector.

Minister Prakosa also complimented CIFOR on its achievements saying he was "pleased to see that in the 10 years since it was established, CIFOR has become a leading international research institution in forestry."

"We, at the Ministry of Forestry, have also obtained benefits from CIFOR's presence here in Indonesia with collaborative programs to improve the capacity and capability of our research institution. A number of our staff have worked with international researchers at CIFOR to gain experience and knowledge through joint research programs.

"CIFOR has also made significant contribution to us by generating new ideas, provoking dialogue and providing high quality analyses about the relationship between forest and people.

"I am confident that CIFOR will continue to make an important contribution to both international and national dialogue on forest policy by helping



President Megawati presents a small tree to a student from a local primary school.

to shape the debate and providing crucial analyses of complex and often politically sensitive issues," Minister Prakosa said.

"CIFOR thanks all its supporters for recognizing the importance of forest research in reducing poverty and protecting the environment," said David Kaimowitz, CIFOR's Director General. "Indeed, using forest research to reduce poverty and protect the environment is really what CIFOR is all about. Put simply, CIFOR's mission is to find ways for rural people to use forests sustainably to earn a living."

"In December 1995 the Government of Indonesia designated 300,000 hectares of forest in East Kalimantan, to be developed as a model of exemplary forest management. This is an example how the Government of Indonesia has supported CIFOR's research activities," Minister Prakosa said.

David Kaimowitz described the Malinau Research Forest as "a living laboratory of all the social, economic, and biological changes taking place in the world's tropical forests."

"Undoubtedly Malinau is one of the world's most exciting forest projects, and for that we need to thank the Government of Indonesia, the Bupati of Malinau, Pak Marthin Billa, the Ministry of Forestry, and local villagers. We also thank important donors such as the ITTO, the MacArthur Foundation and the Governments of the United Kingdom and Germany," Kaimowitz said.

Some 30 journalists covered CIFOR's 10th Anniversary with stories appearing on the front page of Indonesia's major daily, Kompas, other major newspapers and on several TV bulletins. 🌿

ICRAF Celebrates 25th Anniversary

For millennia, farmers have planted trees on their farms for the benefits they provide. Yet, it was only 35 years ago that the term agroforestry was coined and gained entry into the scientific lexicon. And for 25 years, ICRAF-World Agroforestry Centre has been at the forefront, advancing the frontiers of agroforestry science while increasing awareness about the crucial role of trees in enhancing food security, increasing income and assets for the poor, and in providing environmental services at local to global levels.

It was therefore fitting that the World Agroforestry Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary by hosting a conference "World Agroforestry and the Future." Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman, was on hand to kick off the celebrations, joining Eugene Terry, Chairman of the Board; Dennis Garrity, Director General, staff, and partners in celebrating this important milestone. Participants were taken on field trips

to agroforestry sites in the Nairobi vicinity, and a 3-day science forum was held to synthesize past achievements and provide 'state-of-the-art' analyses on four themes:

- Land and People: Partners using trees for productive landscapes and sustainable livelihoods.
- Trees and Markets: Conserving and domesticating trees and connecting smallholders with markets.
- Environmental Services: Pro-poor agroforestry strategies for local conservation and global benefits.
- Strengthening Institutions: Improving capacities for effective research development and education.

Looking to the future, the World Agroforestry Centre's new frontier is to focus on the products, processing, and marketing of tree products and services. 🌿

For more information, visit www.worldagroforestrycentre.org

ISNAR hosts CGIAR Information Managers Consortium

As a knowledge-driven system, the CGIAR works at the frontiers of food and environmental science, developing farming solutions geared to the needs of millions of small farmers in developing countries.

How to better grasp the new opportunities offered by the ongoing knowledge revolution was the topic debated and acted upon by CGIAR Information Managers at their annual meeting held at ISNAR.

Key objectives of the meetings were to:

- Review Consortium activities and plan for 2004
- Review on-going partnerships with other organizations and explore options
- Explore new issues and technical developments
- Review ICT-KM Strategy (with emphasis on the proposal for a Virtual Library).

Efforts are underway to establish a CGIAR Virtual Library, an important part of the newly-approved CGIAR ICT-KM Strategic Plan. It's basic function will be to integrate information of all CGIAR libraries in a common referencing system, thereby providing rapid access through a resource

portal to all other data and information objects produced by the CGIAR. In addition to increasing significantly the number of journals available electronically in the CGIAR system, the Virtual Library will also facilitate access to other important sources of information such as the Web of Science and E-CAB.

"The benefits of a Virtual Library will surpass our expectations," says Luz Marina Alvaré of IFPRI. "It will enable CGIAR scientists and partners in far-flung corners to access diverse information collections from a single platform."

A highlight of the meeting was a visit to SWETS, a top journal aggregator located in Lisse, Netherlands. Members of the CGIAR Consortium negotiated better journal subscription rates, and ways in which electronic accessibility could be enhanced to gain access to more online resources without extra costs.

Resource persons from FAO, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), and the University of Amsterdam participated in the meeting. 🌿




CGIAR System Office Workshop

As a global alliance, the CGIAR must operate as an integrated, cohesive and coherent system to be effective in delivering its mandate of mobilizing science in the service of poor farmers.

System Office Workshop Participants

At the 2nd System Office (SO) meeting held in Washington, DC, efforts to develop complementary business plans and implement a performance management system received a boost. Representatives of SO units gathered to report on the implementation of the Integrated Operating Plan 2003, and to streamline and develop unit work plans for 2004.

All System Office units were represented. The System Office Steering Committee was represented by Meryl Williams, Director General, WorldFish Center and Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director. Adel El-Beltagy, Director General, ICARDA will represent the Center Directors Committee (CDC) on the System Office Steering Committee in 2004.

The SO Steering Committee and the CDC Chair guided the discussion and helped to further clarify the vision for a future SO governance structure. On the second day, participants dealt with the question of how to move ahead with performance management of the System Office. A number of targets were set and processes established, including a common budgeting and reporting format for 2003 and 2004.  For more information, visit www.cgiar.org

Nairobi hosts Annual General Meeting 2003 continued

included a representative from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute of Columbia University and Special Advisor to the U.N. Secretary General.

"This is the first AGM being held in Africa, and it will not be the last," said Ian Johnson, CGIAR Chairman, in opening remarks to the stakeholder meeting. "A dynamic response from CGIAR requires that we give Africa a central place in our efforts, but also be attentive to the pressing needs of other developing regions as well." His remarks titled "An Ever Evolving CGIAR" drew applause from the participants.

Notable outcomes of AGM'03 include:

- Endorsement of the ongoing reforms which are on track
- Approval for the IFPRI-ISNAR Program alliance
- Establishment of a high-level Science Council to guide the CGIAR's scientific efforts
- Rise in membership: the Gulf Cooperation Council formally joined the CGIAR, increasing the number of members to 63 (25 developing countries and 22 industrialized countries)

- Establishment of two Task Forces — to decide on appropriate CGIAR programs and configuration of Centers
- A preliminary CGIAR budget for 2004 of \$400 million — the highest so far
- Increased collaboration between Centers (e.g. CIMMYT and IRRI, CIFOR and World Agroforestry Centre)
- Launch of a "Biosciences Laboratory" at ILRI and funded by Canada (C\$ 30 million)
- Strong and continuing support for Challenge Programs — which are bringing additional resources (human, technical, and financial) including from the private sector such as the Gates Foundation

"The Government of Kenya, especially Minister Kirwa and his colleagues at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute have been remarkable hosts," said Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director. "The CGIAR owes them our collective gratitude, both for their hospitality and for ensuring the smooth and effective conduct of the meetings. The assistance of ILRI and World Agroforestry Centre is noteworthy and gratefully acknowledged." 

For more information, visit www.cgiar.org

Challenge Programs continued

Through a major competitive selection process, 50 research projects have been approved for funding. On average, each project includes 7 institutions. The approved projects will contribute to achieving impact on the ground by focusing on nine benchmark river basins, working closely with local water managers and farmers. Overall, 15 CGIAR Centers, 162 national programs, 20 NGOs, and 31 advanced research institutions are participating in the projects.

The Nairobi conference was covered by international and local media. 

For further information, visit www.waterforfood.org and www.cgiar.org

CIMMYT Hosts World Bank Managers for Study Visit

Twenty-one World Bank managers traveled to Mexico in October to explore joint World Bank-CGIAR activities. At CIMMYT, they witnessed first-hand how scientists are developing a new generation of wheat- and maize-based technologies that will help nourish, clothe, educate, and sustain a burgeoning world population well into the next century.

In developing countries, agriculture is the backbone of the economy. To tackle stubborn rural poverty head on, new crop and farming technologies are urgently needed to boost yields, create wealth and prevent environmental harm.

The first field visit was to maize fields in El-Batán where participants saw war being waged against Striga, a parasitic weed that decimates yields, and is responsible for causing \$1 billion in losses to farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Next, participants saw how day length and temperature can severely impact maize productivity. Rising pestilence, too, is a bane for maize farmers. David Bergvinson, CIMMYT Entomologist, discussed maize pests and the importance of building pest resistance, both in the field as well as after harvest. CIMMYT's Insect Resistant Maize for Africa (IRMA) project in East Africa is bringing biotechnology to farmers' fields and world-class biosafety facilities to Kenya's national program.

A program highlight was a presentation by Alex McCalla, Chairman of CIMMYT's Board, entitled "An Overview of the Role of Agriculture in Economic Development: An Annotated Journey Through Some Interesting Literature." Normally a semester-long course, this *tour d'horizon* provided participants with a history of global agricultural and economic development, squeezed into a 90 minute session.

Staff from all five CIMMYT research programs — Maize, Wheat, Natural Resources Management, Biotechnology, and Economics — tackled the issue of conventional versus cutting-edge approaches to increasing agricultural productivity and reducing poverty in developing countries. The seminar was designed as a 'duel' between the two camps, but at CIMMYT both approaches mesh and are being deployed. Breeding efforts to overcome biotic and abiotic stresses were



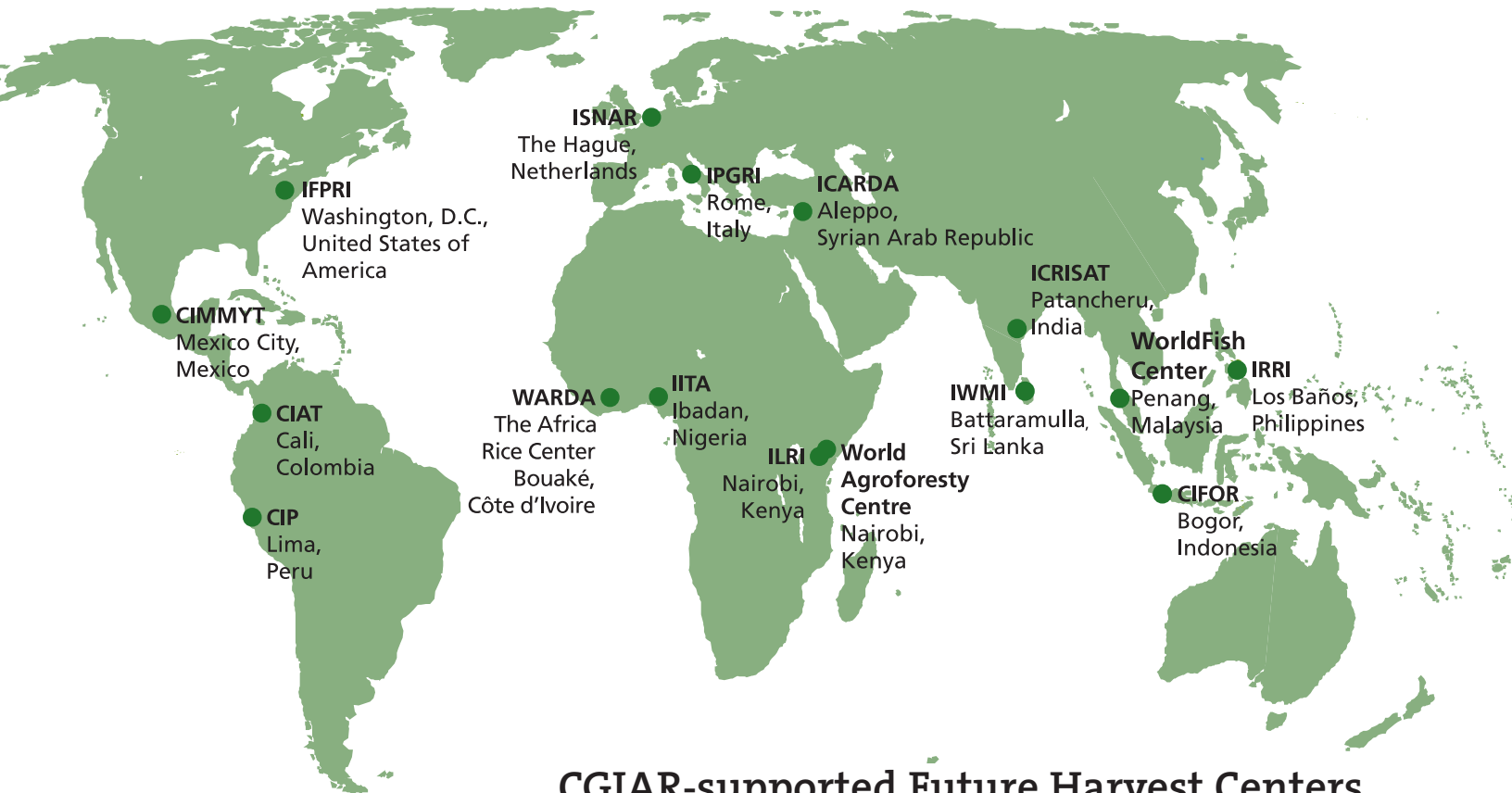
CIMMYT field visit

described and participants were shown how the breeding programs inform and shape the biotechnology agenda, and how biotechnology breakthroughs in turn help improve breeding speed and efficiency.

Subsequently, the visitors saw wheat breeding plots at the El-Batán research station. Wolfgang Pfeiffer and Richard Trethowan, CIMMYT Wheat Breeders, gave an overview of the history of wheat breeding at CIMMYT, discussing the future needs of developing countries and how CIMMYT is gearing to meet them. The breeders showed plots of wild relatives of wheat. These looked quite unkempt compared to the bread wheats, except that they contain a host of untapped genetic traits that can be used to improve stress tolerance in wheat. Wheat scientists refer to the wild relatives as their "kitchen," because they hold the "ingredients" breeders need and use to cook up high-yielding, locally-adapted, stress tolerant wheat varieties for the benefit of poor farmers.

At the conclusion of the field visits, Masa Iwanaga, Director General, CIMMYT spoke about the evolution, current status, and future challenges facing CIMMYT and the CGIAR system. Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director, provided participants with an overview of the CGIAR reform program. One participant, a former CGIAR researcher, raised a point that is often neglected in discussions about global food security and agricultural development: "If funding for CIMMYT's wheat program was stopped today," he said, "in 5 years maybe, but definitely within 10 years, wheat production in the developing world would plummet to pre-1950 levels."

The two-day visit was useful, both for the visitors for whom agricultural research is just one item on their smorgasbord of responsibilities, but also for CIMMYT scientists who learned about how the World Bank views agricultural research in a developmental and poverty-reduction context. 🌱



CGIAR-supported Future Harvest Centers

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
www.ciat.cgiar.org

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
www.cifor.org

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
www.cimmyt.org

International Potato Center (CIP)
www.cipotato.org

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
www.icarda.org

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
www.icrisat.org

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
www.ifpri.org

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
www.iita.org

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
www.ilri.org

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)
www.ipgri.org

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
www.irri.org

International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR)
www.isnar.cgiar.org

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
www.iwmi.cgiar.org

West Africa Rice Development Association–The Africa Rice Center (WARDA)
www.warda.org

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
www.worldagroforestrycentre.org

WorldFish Center
www.worldfishcenter.org