

## Progress Report on Implementation of EPMR Recommendations

**Center: International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)**

**Dates of EPMR Report Presentation and Discussion:**

**Interim Science Council: June 2003**

**CGIAR Executive Council: September 2003**

**CGIAR (AGM): October 2003**

Recommendation	Center's Response	Implementation		
		Milestones	Progress Achieved	Target Date of Completion
1. IPGRI position itself clearly by focussing on a number of topical research areas in which progress is lagging, where few others at the international and national level are active, and in which IPGRI has a comparative advantage. The Panel recommends that IPGRI take a holistic approach to decide in which topics it will invest further in order to excel.	Accepted	Topics clearly specified in the Center's strategic plan	Being addressed as part of IPGRI's Strategic Planning Exercise. The new strategy will be presented to the AGM in October 2004	October 2004
2. Explore opportunities for optimising use of forest genetic resources (FGR) network databases through meta-analyses across regions and other methods that would contribute to understanding of general global forest genetic resources patterns and dynamics.	Accepted	Across-region analyses of forest genetic resources data undertaken	Various opportunities are being explored. For example, a project proposal is being developed to aid restoration in dry forests and to examine the contribution of FGR to sustainable livelihoods. To develop a better understanding of the underlying scientific basis for landscape biodiversity restoration, the project will involve meta-analyses of existing forms of information.	First analyses should be completed by summer 2005
3. Proactively engage with CIFOR and ICRAF to review and update the 1993 agreement on their shared agenda, redefine roles as appropriate and implement mechanisms to facilitate regular interactions necessary for effective collaboration and information sharing.	Accepted	1993 agreement with CIFOR and ICRAF reviewed and updated; mechanisms for regular interactions implemented	There have been contacts with CIFOR and ICRAF at the DG and DDG-Research level. A technical meeting is expected to take place in the summer, to prepare updated and new arrangements for collaboration between the three centres.	January 2005

Recommendation	Center's Response	Implementation		
		Milestones	Progress Achieved	Target Date of Completion
4. Review the position of the <i>Musa</i> programme with a view to completing full integration of INIBAP into the Centre.	Noted	Options suggested by the Panel for full integration taken into consideration	Being addressed as part of IPGRI's Strategic Planning Exercise. The new strategy will be presented to the AGM in October 2004	October 2004
5. Develop, and obtain Board approval for, the Institute's policy and guidelines on research and breeding, including field trials, of genetically modified bananas and other crop products. The policy should articulate a clear strategy for obtaining public support for any introduction and field testing of GM crops in the environment.	Accepted	Policy and guidelines developed, approved by the Board, and promulgated	The first outline of a new IPGRI policy on GMOs was presented to IPGRI's Board in March 2004. The policy will be finalized for Board review in September 2004.	September 2004
6. Recruit a full time staff member with the necessary academic qualifications and experience in environmental and agricultural economics, preferably with a focus on PGR.	Accepted	Staff member with appropriate qualifications recruited	The Strategic Planning Exercise is addressing this issue. In the meantime, an Associate Scientist, specialist in agricultural economics, is being hired in a joint appointment with IFPRI for 2 years to strengthen the economic input to projects and to further advance the IPGRI agenda for economics research.	June 2005

Recommendation	Center's Response	Implementation		
		Milestones	Progress Achieved	Target Date of Completion
7. Over the next 5 years, the Institute should focus most of its resources for international policy work on supporting the national institutions with the implementation of the ITPGRFA and related provisions of the CBD.	Accepted	Increased support to national institutions in the implementation of ITPGRFA and CBD.	IPGRI is investing much time and energy on support to the International Treaty, which will come into force on 28 June 2004, and to the CBD. Related work at the national level to support implementation is being strengthened through various restricted projects. IPGRI will seek continuation of this support for 2006 and beyond. A CCER of IPGRI's policy work in March 2004, however, cautioned against IPGRI foregoing its activities at the international level, and therefore IPGRI is aiming for the right balance between international and national policy work.	Ongoing
8. Establish specific mechanisms to promote collaboration between the Regions at the Regional Director level.	Accepted	Increased inter-regional collaboration	Several activities are ongoing. IPGRI is strengthening the communication facilities for all its offices. Furthermore, Regional Directors meet together twice a year. This forum is now well established as a means to foster inter-regional collaboration within IPGRI.	Ongoing

Recommendation	Center's Response	Implementation		
		Milestones	Progress Achieved	Target Date of Completion
9. Review staff time allocation between research work and technical assistance, particularly in the Regions.	Accepted	Staff time allocation reviewed and rationalized in the context of the strategic plan	Being addressed as part of IPGRI's Strategic Planning Exercise. The new strategy will be presented to the AGM in October 2004	October 2004
10. More formal relationship between the Board and the Institute's management to ensure that the Board's governance role as overseer is effectively exercised.	Accepted	Measures suggested by the Panel implemented leading to more formal relationships between the Board and Management	Points I, ii, iii, iv, vi, vii and ix (see footnote) <sup>2</sup> were completed at the last Board meeting in March 2004. Points v and viii will be completed in September 2004.	March 2004 September 2004
11. More formal and transparent planning and decision making process is required with respect to the Institute's scientific programme	Accepted	Measures recommended by the Panel implemented	Point i <sup>3</sup> is being addressed as part of IPGRI's Strategic Planning Exercise.. Points ii, iii and iv are completed.	October 2004 March 2004

<sup>2</sup> i. A regular monthly interaction between the Board Chair and the DG.

ii. The agenda and minutes of the Management Executive Committee made available to the Chair on a timely basis.

iii. Board approval of a schedule of issues and expenditure levels on which management has to inform and seek approval from the Board.

iv. A discretionary annual imprest account of, say, US\$50,000 for the Board Chair.

v. An Board Executive Committee-Management Executive Committee conference call at least once between scheduled Board meetings.

vi. An invitation of the Board's Programme Oversight Task Group to the November project review meeting.

vii. More regular interaction between the Leader of the Board's Finance and Information Task Force and the Director of Finance and Administration.

viii. A strengthening of the financial and economic oversight by the Board through appropriate selection of the next three Board members.

ix. A review of the Board procedures, particularly as they relate to the composition of Board quorums and the voting rights of the DG.

<sup>3</sup> i. An appropriate ToR for the Management Executive Committee should be agreed with the Board and should include the requirement that all new projects are approved by the full MEC before being submitted to donors.

ii. The Management Executive Committee to meet regularly once a month, with agenda and minutes available on the Intranet to all staff in a timely manner.

iii. Regional Directors report directly to the DDGP.

iv. All activities with an annual budget of over US\$500,000 ...

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Center's Response</b>	<b>Implementation</b>		
		<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Progress Achieved</b>	<b>Target Date of Completion</b>
12. A key senior individual be exclusively dedicated to fund raising, working to the Board approved fund raising strategy incorporating an appropriate PR function.	Accepted	Senior staff identified and assigned exclusively to fund raising	Being addressed as part of IPGRI's Strategic Planning Exercise. The new strategy will be presented to the AGM in October 2004.	March 2005

Received April 25, 2004