

ExCo Recommendations to the CGIAR on IPGRI¹

Marina Puccioni and Kevin Cleaver reported the conclusions ExCo/FC and PC had reached on the IPGRI EPMR, respectively:

ExCo/PC:

- PC endorsed the review recommendations, noting that the iSC concurred with them and that the Center's responses were all positive.
- The following recommendations and related issues were emphasized by some members of the Committee:
 - not to spread activities and resources too thinly;
 - IPGRI's role as a "purveyor of information/knowledge on PGR" rather than as an "honest" broker;
 - possibility for extending the Center's mission to genetic resources other than plant (iSC did not endorse this suggestion); and
 - need for discussion between FAO and IPGRI on the management of germplasm collected with IPGRI's support.
- PC strongly supported the recommendation to move towards full integration of INIBAP into IPGRI, safeguarding the banana research identity (logo) as suggested by iSC.
- PC noted iSC's observation that IPGRI'S CCERs provided excellent inputs into the EPMR process and commended the Center for organizing them. It recommends that CCERs be designed and organized in a way consistent with the requirements of the EPMRs.

ExCo/FC:

The Committee commended the leadership of IPGRI for the positive report. However, it believes that:

- Overall, the report is favorable but not sufficiently hard hitting.
- The Committee is concerned about the report's finding that IPGRI's pursuit of restricted funding has caused it to divert its programs from its core mission. It is happy to see that IPGRI agrees that there is a problem, and intends to monitor IPGRI's implementation of its response.

Discussion:

- Emil Javier noted that IPGRI plays an important facilitating role in furthering research on higher value crops such as banana, cacao and coconut, through networks.

ExCo Conclusions on the IPGRI EPMR and recommendations to the CGIAR:

- *ExCo recommends that the CGIAR endorse the recommendations of the IPGRI External Review.*

¹ Excerpt from Fifth Meeting of the CGIAR Executive Council (September 19, 2003) Summary Record of Proceedings, October 10, 2003.