

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

**Annual General Meeting
Stakeholder Meeting: CSO/CGIAR Forum
December 4-5, 2006
Washington, D.C.**

**Summary Record
of
Proceedings**



*CGIAR Secretariat
(A CGIAR System Office Unit)
The World Bank
Washington, DC
January 22, 2007*

Abbreviations and Acronyms Used

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CP	Challenge Program
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
ExCo	CGIAR Executive Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research
ICT-KM	Information and Communications Technology and Knowledge Management
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SGRP	Systemwide Genetic Resources Program

International Agricultural Research Centers Supported by the CGIAR

Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT)

Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP)

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Bioversity International (Bioversity)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

The Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

WorldFish Center (WorldFish)

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CGIAR AGM 2005—Stakeholder Meeting

Timed Agenda

Monday, December 4, 2006

Opening Ceremony for the AGM

- 17:00 – 18:30 **Official Opening of AGM06**
(a) Opening remarks: Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR Director
(b) Opening presentation: Kathy Sierra, CGIAR Chair
(c) CGIAR Update
(d) CGIAR Awards; Remarks: Paul Wolfowitz, World Bank President
- 18:30 **Opening of Exhibition and Viewing:** World Bank President, CGIAR Chair, Dignitaries and Participants

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Stakeholder Meeting (CSO Forum)

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome**
Francisco Reifschneider
Masters of Ceremony: Simone Staiger, Klaus Von Grebmer
- 09:15 – 09:30 **Introductions**
Masters of Ceremony (MCs) invite participants to introduce themselves to each other
- 09:30 – 11:00 **Finding Common Ground**
A World Cafe
MCs coordinate the facilitated round table discussion
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 12:30 **CSO-CGIAR Partnerships: Looking Back and Moving Ahead**
Chat-Show Format
Host – Lauri Fitz Pegado
Panel: Jonathan Wadsworth
 Monica Kipiriri
 Tom Remington
 Carlos Sere
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Sharing Lessons from Experience**
Round table Discussions focused on Innovation Marketplace posters.
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 16:30

Creating Avenues for Working Together

Roundtable Discussion

Francisco Reifschneider explains Competitive Grant Scheme

16:30 – 17:30

Innovation Marketplace Awards & Close

Awards Ceremony: Kathy Sierra and Francisco Reifschneider

18:00 – 19:00

2006 Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture

“Food for All: A Challenge for the 21st Century” by the
**Honorable Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate
and Chairperson of the Senate Foreign Relations and Defense
Committee**

CGIAR AGM 2006—Stakeholder Meeting

Official Opening of AGM06

The CGIAR Annual General Meeting opened on Monday afternoon, December 4, 2006 at the Hilton Washington Hotel with approximately 700 participants attending.

(a) CGIAR Director Francisco Reifschneider welcomed the meeting participants. He acknowledged the presence in the opening session of two former CGIAR Chairs: Mr. David Hopper (Chair from 1987 to 1990) and Mr. Rajagopalan (Chair from 1991 to 1993). Joining them at the head table were Franklin Moore of USAID in special recognition of the holding of the meeting in the US; Eija Peju from the World Bank which was the host institution of 2006 AGM, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Chair of the Science Council; Jim Godfrey, Chair of CGIAR Centers Alliance Board; and Joachim Voss, Chair of the CGIAR Centers Alliance Executives. The CGIAR Director then formally introduced Kathy Sierra, the new Chair of the CGIAR. Ms. Sierra is currently the Vice President of the recently launched Sustainable Development Network (SDN) of the World Bank.

(b) CGIAR Chair’s Opening Statement

Addressing the AGM participants for the first time as the ninth Chair of the CGIAR, Kathy Sierra delivered an opening statement on the subject “Working with Partners to Confront the Challenges of Change”

The new CGIAR Chair cited a number of key issues that challenge the CGIAR currently and in the future. They were as follows:

- climate change
- new plant and animal diseases
- “hidden hunger” resulting from micronutrient deficiency
- loss of biodiversity
- water scarcity
- over-exploited marine fisheries
- high cost of fossil fuel
- access of poor farmers in developing countries to fair markets
- improving African agriculture to reduce poverty and hunger

To be able to meet the above challenges, she said that the CGIAR must clearly define its comparative advantage, ensure that its science is of the highest quality, realign its institutions for effectiveness and efficiency, develop true partnerships, and move faster to change the way it works. (The full text of the Chair’s opening statement can be found at: http://www.cgiar.org/pdf/agm06/agm06_chair_opening_speech.pdf)

(c) CGIAR Update

CGIAR Director Francisco Reifschneider, provided an update on the developments (“A snapshot of the CGIAR, 2006”) since the last AGM.

In his presentation, he cited that among the good news in 2006 was the continuing recognition of the importance of agriculture and agricultural development and the priority it was accorded in the global agenda. This was attested by major international awards on agriculture and activities related to it. The forthcoming World Development Report, a flagship publication by the World Bank, was also mentioned as a recognition of the key role that agriculture plays in accelerating growth and reducing poverty in developing countries.

He also highlighted a number of unfavorable trends that are of concern to the CGIAR. They were: decreasing agricultural ODA; continuing subsidies which distort markets; and knowledge inequities as indicated by the fact that the most cited scientific publications are concentrated in a few countries. However, he also pointed out what appears to be positive trends in the evolution of public finance.

Highlighting the key developments in the CGIAR, he specifically mentioned the increasing trend in financial support; the growing number of members; and the critical changes brought about by the first phase of the reform program and the principles that guided it. He also shared his views on the important issue of resource mobilization, which he said is not only about financial resources but also about networking, mobilizing knowledge, mobilizing intellectual property, and mobilizing human resources. The engagement with CSOs, i.e. the holding of a CSO forum at AGM06, is a major component of resource mobilization strategy.

The CGIAR Director also took the opportunity to highlight the key messages of a stakeholder perception survey conducted by an external organization. The survey results showed that there is perception from both members and partners of improved performance of the System over the past five years. They also reaffirmed the importance of achieving greater efficiency, transparency, accountability, and engagement with wider range of stakeholders/partners, all of which were principles that have guided the reform program.

In closing, he expressed his thanks and appreciation to all CGIAR members, colleagues in the CGIAR centers, and the rest of the stakeholders for the support that he received in the course of his term as CGIAR Director. (Francisco Reifschneider’s presentation can be found at: http://www.cgiar.org/pdf/agm06/agm06_FR%20presentation%20opening.pdf)

(d) 2006 CGIAR Awards

The CGIAR awards ceremony has always been a major highlight of AGM. It is an opportunity for the System to collectively recognize scientific excellence and achievements in science, including in science communications. The CGIAR Director said that the awards have heightened the interest and desire to excel in scientific endeavors across the System. They are a major source of motivation for scientists, both in the laboratory and in the field. Much progress has been made

in strengthening the awards, but efforts for further improvement should continue. For instance, the nomination process could be made even more open and inclusive, by allowing nominations from members, partners, and other stakeholders.

The 2006 award nominations were evaluated by two distinguished groups. The science awards were evaluated by Per Pinstrup-Andersen (SC Chair), Gloria Montenegro (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile), and A.H Zakri (United Nations University). The panel for the communication award was composed of Robert Lamb (One Planet Pictures), Mike O'Shanahan (Institute of International Environment and Development), and Kristyn Schrader (World Bank External Affairs).

Given the highly favorable feedback from the 2005 awards ceremony, a combination of slides and short films/video to bring to the stakeholders a personalized glimpse of the award-winning research and research-related activities was used again in the 2006 ceremony.

The following were the winners of the 2006 CGIAR Awards:

Outstanding Communication: Patrick M. Maundu of the **African Leafy Vegetable Project** in support of the campaign to increase consumption of nutritious African leafy vegetables for better nutrition. The project is coordinated by Bioversity International and implemented in partnership with public and private organizations in Kenya. As a result of the project's communication initiatives, the sale of leafy vegetables increased by 1100 per cent in two years. The award was presented by Kathy Sierra and Jim Godfrey to Ruth Raymond (Head of the Public Awareness Unit of Bioversity International) who received it on behalf of Patrick Maundu.

Outstanding Scientific Article: Malcom J. Gardner et al.- Genome sequence of *Theileria parva*, a Bovine Pathogen that Transforms Lymphocytes. Published in 2005 in *Science* journal, this contribution from the Institute of Genomic Research (TIGR), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and 5 partner institutions reported on the genome sequence of the cattle parasite *Theileria parva*. The work represents a significant advance in understanding the biology of the parasite critical to the development of a vaccine against the East Coast Fever, a disease that kills one million cattle each year in Sub-Saharan Africa. Given the pathogen's close relationship with the malaria parasite, the research work could also give valuable contribution to the global program to develop a vaccine against malaria. Vish Nene (TIGR) and John McDermott (ILRI) received the award on behalf of the authors from Kathy Sierra and Per Pinstrup-Andersen.

Outstanding Scientific Support Team: CGIAR Virtual Library Team for launching and supporting the CGIAR Virtual Library. By bringing together both CGIAR and external resources in one place, the library has significantly increased researcher's access to knowledge and is therefore greatly contributing to the strengthening of agricultural research capacity. The Virtual Library is part of the CGIAR's ICT-KM investment program, which is supported by the World Bank. Luz Marina Alvaré, the CGIAR Virtual Library Team Leader and head of IFPRI's Library and Knowledge Management received the award on behalf of the team from Kathy Sierra and Joachim Voss.

Outstanding Partnership: The CGIAR Genebank Community (Genebanks of CGIAR Centers (CIAT, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IITA, ILRI, IPGRI, IRRI, and Africa Rice Center (WARDA)) and partner institutions (FAO, IFPRI, and SGRP) for effective stewardship of genetic resources, which are public goods that are central to the work of CGIAR and its partners. The genebanks are repositories of over 600, 000 accessions of some 3000 staple crops, forage, and agroforestry species essential to human food security and nutrition. Kathy Sierra and Eija Pehu presented the award to Jane Toll (Coordinator of the Systemwide Genetic Resources Program (SGRP) at Bioversity International) who received the award on behalf of the partnership.

Remarks from the President of the World Bank

At the CGIAR Chair's invitation, Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, joined the ceremony at this point. Kathy Sierra was pleased to note that the World Bank President has taken time from his busy schedule to join the CGIAR AGM opening ceremony. In introducing the President, she said that Mr. Wolfowitz has a long history of interest in agriculture and development. She further noted that since joining the World Bank, Mr. Wolfowitz has expressed repeatedly his strong support for agriculture and agricultural research for development.

Mr. Wolfowitz reaffirmed his interest in agriculture and in the CGIAR. He noted that AGM06 is the third CGIAR event that he has attended, mentioning specifically the Challenge Program presentations in the World Bank early in March 2006. He said he was "impressed with the ways in which the CPs are applying science to develop solutions for the challenges of improving natural resource management as well as crop productivity and quality." The World Bank's hosting of AGM06 presented an opportunity to strengthen the important partnership between the CGIAR and the World Bank Group.

Having learned about the past achievements of the CGIAR and the impact of its research, the World Bank President noted the need for more research and science applied to the specific problems of African Agriculture. He was pleased to know that 47% of current CGIAR investments is dedicated to Sub-Saharan Africa. While noting that agricultural research is critical to the Bank's activities in rural development at the national, regional, and international levels, he also pointed out that for African agriculture and African economy to grow, they would also need sound policies, strong accountable institutions, appropriate infrastructure, and fair markets.

In closing, he said he would be looking forward to hearing further research breakthroughs. He very much appreciated the opportunity to join the CGIAR in celebrating excellence and achievement in science by presenting the 2006 Science Awards.

Outstanding Senior Scientist: Bir Bahadur Singh, an Indian national and a plant breeder at IITA from 1979 to April 2006, for his outstanding research in cowpea leading to the development of several improved varieties, sustainable cropping systems and participatory approaches that contributed to enhanced food security, family nutrition, and income of farmers in the tropics. His major contributions have been early maturing cowpea varieties for the tropics and pyramiding genes for resistance to over 10 diseases, as well as tolerance to drought and heat. Key to this success was his skill in team building and forging effective partnerships among

scientists from different research institutions. Mr. Wolfowitz and Mr. David Hopper (former CGIAR Chairman) presented the award to Mr. Singh.

Promising Young Scientist: Thomas Dubois, a young Belgian scientist at IITA, for his work on bio-protection of bananas against pests and diseases. Mr. Dubois has developed tissue culture banana plants that are protected by beneficial strains of fungal endophytes. He excels at delivering this product to the farmers, partly by establishing public-private partnerships, as well as maintaining a high level of scientific excellence. Banana is a key staple not only in Uganda where Mr. Dubois is posted, but also in other countries in East and Central Africa. The award was presented by Mr. Wolfowitz and Mr. Rajagopalan (former CGIAR Chairman).

Outstanding Scientist: Ram P Thakur, an Indian national and a senior plant pathologist at ICRISAT, for his significant contributions in disease management of pearl millet and sorghum, two important cereal crops in the semi-arid tropics of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. His most outstanding contribution in recent years has been through a project with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, where he successfully monitored the virulence change in the pathogen population. His work helped breeders to develop pearl millet hybrids with durable resistance to downy mildew, an extremely important disease. This strategic research has helped in avoiding epidemics and has thus prevented huge economic losses. Mr. Franklin Moore joined Mr. Wolfowitz in presenting the award to Mr. Thakur.

CGIAR King Baudouin Award: International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) for its research on stress tolerant maize for food security, livelihoods, and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan-Africa. CIMMYT took the lead in abiotic stress research using managed stress environments, formulating applied and practical breeding approaches, and demonstrating significant breeding progress under highly variable random stress conditions through one of the largest plant breeding experiments ever undertaken in Africa. For the national agricultural research systems in the developing world, the approach is a low-cost methodology. Through CIMMYT's African Maize Stress (AMS) project and South African Drought and Low Soil Fertility (SADLF) project, a total of 44 stress-tolerant hybrids and 29 open-pollinated varieties of maize are benefiting large number of farmers in eastern, central, and southern Africa.

Ambassador Frans van Daele of Belgium was invited to join Mr. Wolfowitz and Kathy Sierra in presenting the award to the winner. Masa Iwanaga (Director General) and Marianne Bänziger (Director, Global Maize Program) received the award on behalf of CIMMYT.

Opening of Exhibition and Viewing

In concluding the AGM opening ceremony, Kathy Sierra and Francisco Reifschneider invited all AGM participants to visit and view the exhibits. Attention was also drawn to the winning entries to the CGIAR's first photo competition called "An Eye on Change through Agricultural Science".

Box 1

Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture 2006

The 2006 Sir John Crawford Memorial Lecture, “Food for All: a Challenge for the 21st Century,” was delivered by Honorable Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate and Chairperson of the Senate Foreign Relations and Defense Committee.

Mme. Lizin served as an Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty on the United Nations’ Human Rights Commission from 1998 to 2004 and as State Secretary for European Affairs. Mme. Lizin is a keen advocate of women’s rights and is Chairperson of the largest women’s rights organization in Belgium.

The Crawford Memorial Lecture is a highlight of the CGIAR’s Annual General Meeting. It is named in honor of Sir John Crawford, who was a passionate supporter of international agricultural research for development, a founding father of the CGIAR and the first Chair of its Technical Advisory Committee. The lecture, sponsored by the Australian Government, seeks to challenge those involved in agricultural research and development to consider the broader issues and trends that influence their work.

Mme. Lizin underlined the fundamental importance of achieving food security in a world where more than one billion people live in extreme poverty. “Considering that by 2050 it will be necessary to feed a population of about 9 billion people, agricultural research is critical,” she noted.

In commenting on the contribution of research to poverty reduction worldwide, she stressed the intimate links between this challenge and other global issues, including the achievement of peace and security, improved governance, gender equity and environmental protection. Citing the plight of Africa particularly, she said, “armed conflict is among the greatest obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

An “empowered and organized civil society” is essential for addressing the global challenge of poverty reduction,” she remarked, as is a more “decentralized approach to cooperation” that “actively involves all parties” in developing countries and the world community. Sustainable development, she concluded, must be “based on solidarity between people and between the current and future generations.” In their efforts to achieve “a more just and peaceful world, the CGIAR is an indispensable partner.”

CSO Forum

The first-ever CSO-CGIAR Forum was a highlight of AGM06 and reaffirmed the CGIAR's commitment to strengthening and expanding its engagement with CSOs. The overarching goal of the Forum was to find new ways of making research and development more relevant and effective in improving rural livelihoods.

Toward this end, the CGIAR convened the Forum to facilitate sharing of information about its current and past partnerships with community-based organizations, universities, and NGOs and to reap a harvest of ideas for improving and expanding its engagement with them.

Prior to the Forum, a facilitated on-line discussion helped set the stage. The goal of this “virtual conversation” – which involved nearly 160 participants and took place in the four weeks leading up to AGM06 – was to give those planning to attend the meeting an opportunity to get to know one another and learn about their collaborative experiences in research and in the delivery of rural development outcomes. A CSO-CGIAR Forum Advisory Group, comprising about a dozen members representing CSOs, CGIAR Members, Centers and others, provided useful guidance throughout the process.

The Forum itself involved an active day of lively group discussions, resulting in a sizable collection of insight and ideas. More than 400 people took part. Simone Staiger-Rivas of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Klaus von Grebmer of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) served as masters of ceremony.

To enhance communication among participants, small group dialogues were organized to accomplish three main objectives: (1) identify common ground between the CGIAR and CSOs, (2) extract lessons learned from collaborative experiences and (3) create new avenues for working together. About 40 round tables were set up in the Exhibition Hall, each with 8 to 10 participants, who exchanged information and ideas and recorded their thoughts on paper tablecloths and cards.

During a “chat show” session, moderator Lauri Fitz-Pegado of the Livingston Group posed questions to four panelists: Jonathan Wadsworth of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID); development consultant Monica Kapiriri, who formerly co-chaired the Global Forum on International Agricultural Research (GFAR); Tom Remington of Catholic Relief Services (CRS); and Carlos Seré, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). With active audience participation, the panel discussed past experiences with CSO-CGIAR partnerships and ways to improve them.

The two afternoon sessions involved facilitators from the CGIAR and CSOs, who helped spark lively discussions. Key messages of the event were presented the day after in summary form to the CGIAR Business Meeting for follow up action.

An important point of departure for much of the group discussion consisted of partnerships presented in the Third CGIAR Innovation Marketplace. Located in the Exhibition Hall where the Forum was held, the marketplace featured nearly 50 posters explaining how CSOs collaborating with CGIAR Centers and Challenge Programs are addressing a wide range of challenges. A panel of judges and the Forum Advisory Group selected four partnerships to receive CGIAR awards, each consisting of US\$30,000 to be used for strengthening partners' collaborative capacity. A fifth partnership received the People's Choice Award, also worth \$30,000, based on votes cast by AGM06 participants. The award winners were the following:

- Kitengala Iparakuo Landowners Association and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) for *Better Policy and Management Options for Pastoral Lands*. Under this partnership, wildlife conservation organizations pay Kenyan pastoralists to “lease” and conserve their land to allow seasonal wildlife migration. Families who participate may continue to graze their livestock but agree not to fence, develop, or sell the land. Significantly, women who manage households receive most of the lease income.
- Helen Keller International, the HarvestPlus Challenge Program and International Potato Center (CIP) for *Eat Orange!* This program targets sub-Saharan Africa, where 42 percent of children under age five are Vitamin A deficient, a condition that significantly increases risk of blindness and death. An active awareness-raising, educational and marketing campaign has led to expanded production of Vitamin A-rich orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and convinced more than 115,000 families in Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Niger of their nutritional value.
- Fundacion Natura Bolivia and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) for *Water for Life*. This partnership pioneers the use of payments for environmental services to conserve threatened rainforests and protect watersheds in the Santa Cruz area of Bolivia. In a unique arrangement, upstream landowners receive an artificial beehive and training in honey production for every 10 hectares of cloud rainforest conserved for a year. Downstream users, who have suffered severe economic losses from reduced waterflows, contribute to the payment scheme to improve water management.
- Latin American Fund for Irrigated Rice and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) for *A New Public-Private Partnership to Develop Irrigated Rice*. This partnership was created to meet the needs of farmers and industry for continuous innovations to make irrigated rice production competitive, profitable and efficient. With 14 Latin American countries and CIAT as members, the partnership has already released three varieties and has another nine ready for release.
- University of Vermont and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) for *A Decade of Cooperation on Sunn Pest Management*. The Sunn Pest refers to a group of insects that inject saliva into wheat, causing an extensive breakdown of the gluten and greatly reducing the baking quality of flour made from damaged wheat. Sunn Pest is prevalent in parts of North Africa, throughout West Asia and in many states of Central Asia. This partnership developed insect-killing fungi for biological control as well as novel screening methods to identify resistance in wheat.

Before the final session of roundtable discussions, it was announced that the CGIAR is creating a pilot Competitive Grants Program, which will provide a total of \$1 million in grant funds for projects aimed at enhancing CSO-CGIAR collaboration in agricultural research for development.

The program is supported by the governments of the UK, USA and Norway. A call for concept notes was scheduled to be made on January 30, 2007; further information is now available on the [CGIAR Web site](#).

During the discussions, a number of common avenues for future collaborations were identified:

- Shared research priorities, such as food security, market access for small farmers, sustainable agriculture, better natural resource management, and adaptation to climate changes
- Relevant technology development
- Improved and expanded CSO-CGIAR communications
- Mutual capacity building and learning
- Joint fund raising in support of collaborations
- Wider use of regional fora
- Continued interactions through activities such as the Forum and virtual conversation
- Potential collaborations with CSOs working in the fields of education, health, social development, and communication technology.

An evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Forum. Of the 124 persons who filled out the evaluation form, 118 rated the Forum as useful or highly useful. In commenting on what they most liked about it, respondents emphasized the value of meeting, interacting and sharing knowledge with colleagues, the lively group dynamics and creative approach, and the high-quality exhibits. They also offered constructive criticism as well as suggestions for moving forward. Some would like to have involved a larger number of collaborating scientists from CGIAR Centers and Challenge Programs, while others felt the time for discussion was limited. Many wondered what the CGIAR would do with the abundant output from the group discussions.

This material, now available on the [CGIAR Web site](#), was carefully compiled during the evening after the CSO-CGIAR Forum, and a comprehensive summary was provided to the two CSO representatives and single CGIAR Center staff member designated by the Advisory Group to report to the CGIAR Business Meeting. Based on this report and their own experiences in the Forum, participants in the Business Meeting urged the CGIAR to build on the momentum created by the Forum, and they reached important decisions about follow-up steps.

The numerous CGIAR Members who commented on Forum outcomes stressed that it represented “a step in the right direction” and had established “a new dynamic in CSO-CGIAR partnerships” and that “things are moving in the right direction.” They offered ideas about the future role of a special advisory group and underlined the great potential of the pilot grant program. Echoing the input from Forum participants, they also insisted on the importance of capacity strengthening – for example, in the use of participatory approaches – and the need for more dynamic, two-way CSO-CGIAR communications.