

Summary of ExCo 13 Discussion and Recommendations to the CGIAR on CIP EPMR¹

R. Rabbinge congratulated CIP for improvements in the Center since the last EPMR and presented the following main points from the SC commentary:

- SC expressed concern that CIP's increased reliance on restricted funding has drifted the Center away from its core areas of research;
- SC endorse all EPMR recommendations but at the same time accepts reaction of management and Board;
- SC shares the same opinion with the Panel on CIP's leadership of the CONDESAN (Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion) and other SWEPS, and the integration of the Agriculture and Human Health (AHH) research into the work of the Center's other divisions.

N. Datta presented the CGIAR Secretariat's comments on the governance, management and finance aspects of the EPMR report. The CGIAR Secretariat:

- is pleased with the breadth and dept of coverage with which the panel has reviewed CIP governance, management, and finance;
- supports the panel's recommendation on governance, management and finance and is pleased to note that the Center has accepted all of them;
- encourages CIP to ensure financial expertise on its Board, and also to ensure timely planning of succession of Board leadership;
- congratulated CIP for its sound financial health status as noted by the review;

CIP Director General (DG) Pamela Anderson was invited to comment. She noted that the Center accepted 13 of 18 recommendations. She also noted that the creation of the AHH Division validates the cross-sector approach and has allowed the Center to attract a public health epidemiologist as the leader for the research division who will function as a bridge between agricultural researchers in the Center and international public health research systems. On the panel recommendations on SWEPS, she suggested that perhaps the change management exercise should look more closely at the programs in terms of their value as a collective action vehicle and what should be done about them at the System level.

Discussion:

- ExCo debated on recommendation 11, 12, 13 and 14 which involves CIP's leadership in the SWEPS, specifically on CONDESAN and the Center's work on AHH research. The need for an exit strategy on CONDESAN was expressed.
- Several members expressed support for CIP's response and the work that it does in the areas of concern, versus the perception that the Center is drifting away from its core areas of research.

¹ Excerpt from Thirteenth Meeting of the CGIAR Executive Council (October 16-17, 2007) Summary Record of Proceedings, November 2, 2007.

- With the reassurance of the CIP DG, R. Rabbinge agreed that the Center's work in AHH could be used as an entrance to mobilizing research talent in partner institutions.
- P. Anderson explained that the non-acceptance of the recommendation on CONDESAN is due to the positive results produced by the program and the benefits it still has to offer. It would be a mistake to disengage after 10 years without the benefit of a review.

Conclusion and ExCo Recommendation to the CGIAR:

- *ExCo congratulated CIP for a positive review and thanked the panel for its report.*
- *ExCo agreed with CIP's response on recommendations 11-14.*
- *ExCo recommends that the CGIAR endorse the 6th CIP EPMR recommendations and CIP's response to recommendations 11-14.*