

## **ExCo 9 Self Assessment**

### **1. What worked best during the meeting?**

- Discipline on time keeping
- Shortness of interventions
- Focus of the discussion
- The openness and order of discussions
- Written documents to support discussions
- I think that all went well
- Timing, summing up discussion decisions by task force, Co-Chairs
- Members' interaction
- Conversion of decisions and ideas
- Relatively open discussion
- Members allowed to speak if ran over allocated time
- Consensus
- Collegiality
- Small group=more focused
- Efficient decision making
- Good background documentation
- The brief presentations summarizing the agenda items before proceeding with the discussion which made the outcome focused and also saved time as the agenda was full.
- Open discussion on various agenda items
- Discussion was conducted in an open and constructive manner
- Clarity of action that is required
- Good distribution of time
- Sufficient time to discuss and develop consensus
- Excellent background documentation
- Management of the meeting

### **2. What didn't work well at this the meeting?**

- Not all ExCo members are participating (think of ways of getting them more involved).
- The agenda was very packed and some frustrations with items that were not fully discussed, i.e. SC workplan (rubber stamping?), follow up to CIMMYT EPMR (very positive, too positive?).
- Consideration of CIMMYT agenda item. The (Board) chair was here all day and we only called her just at the end of the day.
- Nothing serious
- Everything was all right

- CDC and CBC matters took up a lot of time on several agenda items whereas they could have provided their positions ahead of time.
- More/more adequate follow up on SSATask Force and previous ExCo recommendations.
- The discussion on SC priorities
- Time for discussion not enough on some key agenda items.
- The agenda was long and more time could have been allocated for each item.
- The introductions were not done properly; it assumes all members knew each other. New members felt isolated.
- The observers and their status were not clear.
- The program after the meeting (Thurs and Fri) was not clear
- Some important documents too late on the website
- For this particular meeting, none
- Nothing
- Lack of commitment by some of the ExCo members to follow through on decisions. Some members do not come prepared to make decisions. Are they at the right level?

### **3. What 3 changes could be made to improve ExCo meetings**

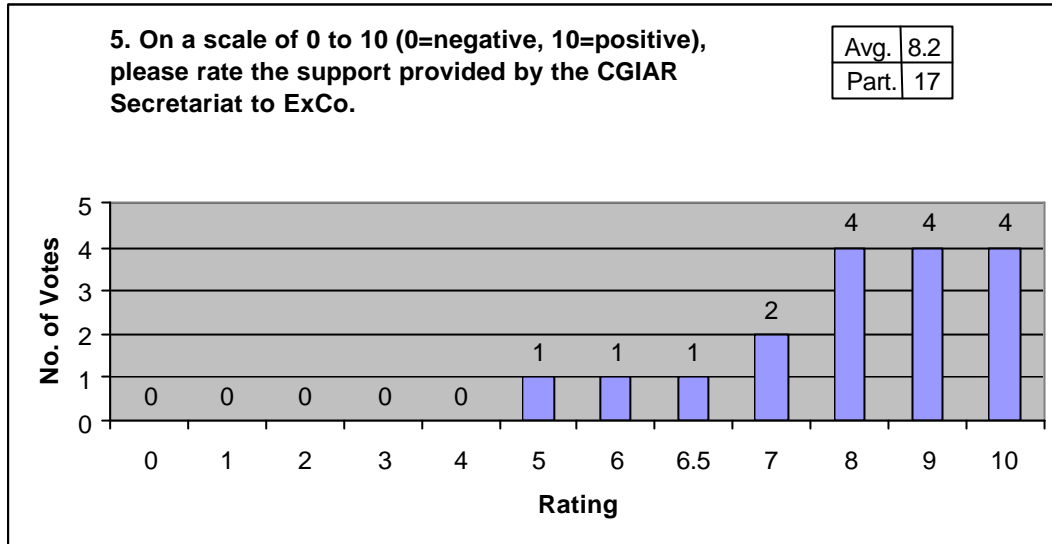
- Material (extensive reading) comes too late.
- Even if summaries are better, members should have time to review the important documents provided.
- For sharing with my constituency and getting feedback, once change: can we have the documents 4weeks in advance?
- Force contributors of agenda papers to keep them short, i.e. papers must have clear recommendations and be less than 7 pages say
- Be certain to give equivalent time to matters of same importance
- I know it is difficult but if we can get the documents even earlier, it would help
- I believe the present format is nicely working
- Follow up on items needs to be more systematic from discussions taken at previous meetings
- Documentation needs to be available much earlier (at least 3-4 weeks) and complete
- Documents should be provided earlier (approx. 6 weeks)
- Docs should be kept shorter (much shorter in length) and better focused
- Docs should be sent out 3 weeks in advance of the meeting
- Bigger meeting space
- Extra half a day
- Encourage less informed, new members to come to briefings and inform themselves
- Importance of institutional memory in background documentation so that old issues are not raised again

- Provide the hard copies of the power point presentations made during the presentations
- A brief summary of the main points of the agenda can be put on the website more than 15 days before the meeting
- Reduce number of observers
- Provide at the beginning enough reading time
- Shorter documents and made available earlier
- Provide hard copies of materials early
- Civil society members to be added to ExCo
- Civil society members to represent farmers
- More explicit decisions. Although the y are made they are often open-ended enough to encourage avoidance
- Members need to read the documentation
- Full two days
- More participation of Center management
- Shorter documentation

#### **4. What could be done to improve ExCo's overall performance?**

- Socialization of ExCo members could be organized; many are "old friends," new members should be made part of the ExCo faster.
- ExCo should discuss the agenda of AGM
- ExCo Secretariat could put up the resolution being adopted (particularly for difficult issues)
- Make sure issues like the IRRI/CIMMYT amalgamation are considered by ExCo
- Be certain who is coming and be certain they spend enough time going for the very good supporting documents
- More active participation from regional representatives
- More time allocation for issues which are important
- More intersessional contacts through the secretariat
- Overall ExCo work plan /agenda with clear timelines can still much be improved
- Tackle the major research for development issues
- These written submissions should be continued as it enables members to identify more issues
- Closer link between ExCo and Center Boards; by allowing ExCo, representing the CGIAR Members to appoint CGIAR board members or at least to exclusively nominate

**5. The CGIAR Secretariat provides support to ExCo. On a scale of 0 to 10 (0=negative, 10=positive), please rate the support provided. If you wish, please provide additional comments.**



- I believe some members are not very familiar with the reality of the trenches of the Centers. Would having a short presentation of a DG from time to time on the work of its Center be of use?
- All team works very well and each takes their own responsibility.
- Everybody works extremely hard and in a dedicated and smart way.
- The follow-up re: documentation and travel arrangements are very good.