

## Summary of Discussions CGIAR Private Sector Committee Teleconference

October 10, 2001

The CGIAR Private Sector Committee (PSC) held a teleconference on October 10, 2001 in preparation for the CGIAR Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for October 30-November 1, 2001. The teleconference was chaired by Sam Dryden (PSC Chair). Participants included Badrinarayan Barwale, Claudio Barriga, Wallace Beversdorf, Robert Horsch, and Selçuk Özgediz (PSC Secretary). Florence Wambugu, Seizo Sumida and Barry Thomas sent regrets.

The agenda included the following:

1. Updates and information sharing
  - a. CGIAR Reform
  - b. PSC status
  - c. CEO interactions
  - d. Rockefeller Foundation process
2. Discussion items
  - a. CGIAR AGM2001—PSC interventions
  - b. Next PSC meeting

### **1. Updates and Information Sharing**

*CGIAR Reform.* Selçuk Özgediz briefed the members about progress in implementing the four major decisions taken at the CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting held in Durban on CGIAR reform (i.e., establishing a CGIAR Executive Council, initiating Challenge Programs, transforming TAC into a Science Council, and establishing a CGIAR System Office). PSC members were supportive of the move towards Challenge Programs (CPs). They regarded CPs as specific axes around which CGIAR-PS partnerships could be constructed. Dryden noted that the CPs would need to overcome the difficulty of reducing global themes into deliverables that are meaningful and understandable. All agreed that the PS could be a valuable resource in generating CP ideas.

*PSC Status.* Dryden summarized the discussion he had with CGIAR Chair and Director on the future status of the PSC. He noted that the Committee's contributions to the System were being appreciated by the CGIAR management. The PSC would continue as a CGIAR committee as there is continuing need to have the private sector voice at the table. But the System needs to elevate private sector relations to new levels and this is a new challenge for the PSC, extending its previous contributions in the biotechnology area. Perhaps some new partnership experiments can be brokered through the PSC. Also, advice on mobilizing financial resources from the private sector could be another area the Committee could address.

On the composition of the Committee, Dryden noted that Ian Johnson asked him to continue as chair one more year (through 2002). Committee members should indicate if they wish to continue for another year. While its size should remain the same (eight members), the Committee could operate through smaller sub-committees, with additional individuals from the private sector co-opted to help with the work of a specific sub-committee.

The committee should have one short annual meeting (1-2 days), preferably following the CGIAR AGM. Tele- or video-conferences should be used in the interim. Sub-committees could meet separately depending on their agendas.

*CEO interactions.* Dryden reported on his participation at the meeting of the President's Advisory Group (PAG) of Crop Life International (which was known until recently as the Global Crop Protection Federation) on September 30, 2001. At this meeting he updated PAG on the consensus and support building activities of the World Bank (in the absence of Bob Thompson) and the work of the CGIAR. PAG was supportive of a consultation process similar to that which led to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) could be used in agricultural sciences. Dryden noted that underpinning the climate change consultations was a credible, science based process, which had broad support. This lowered the rhetoric surrounding climate change, and created a mechanism for addressing future policy level issues.

PSC members agreed that in the future the Committee could work more closely with Crop Life International. It was noted that the change from the Federation is not just in name; the mandate has been broadened to represent the entire plant science industry.

*Rockefeller Foundation process.* Rob Horsch reported on an initiative led by the Rockefeller Foundation (RF) regarding IPR and regulatory harmonization in Sub-Saharan Africa. This involves exploring prospects for companies donating certain patent rights for developing country needs, with a focus on Africa. The overall objective is to bring improved technology to the smallholder farmers. The RF proposal involves forming an entity to hold licenses to intellectual property and license others in the use of such property. The group is now taking a closer look at functions of such an entity. Given the relevance of this initiative to the work and mandate of the CGIAR, the PSC will continue to be involved with the process. The Committee should discuss ways of bridging IP related developments in the CGIAR with the RF-led initiative.

## **2. Discussion Items**

*CGIAR AGM2001—PSC interventions.* Özgediz briefed the members about the AGM agenda and the key items requiring PSC input. Members noted key points that could be raised during the interventions from PSC, including the following:

- PSC participation in regional research planning in the Latin America region;
- The need for the CGIAR to clarify the purpose of its relationship with the PS: does the CGIAR desire to have the PS “involved” as a partner in research or is it only interested in “financial support” from the PS?

- The PSC should promote a relationship that is respectful of the respective roles of the private and the public sectors, one that allows complementarities, opportunity to serve respective constituencies, and friendly competition in boundary areas.

*Next PSC meeting.* Members agreed that a face-to-face meeting should be scheduled in early 2002, preferably one that would allow for a dialogue with the CGIAR Chair and Director. Topics for discussion include: private sector role in Challenge Programs, PSC role in advising on resource mobilization from the private sector, future briefings of CEOs about the CGIAR, the RF initiative, and future role and modes of operation of the Committee.