

Terms of Reference, Composition, and Procedures of the New CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC)

At the Annual General Meeting in 2002, the CGIAR endorsed the recommendation of a review panel to maintain the GRPC as an independent advisory body to address genetic resources policy issues of relevance to the CGIAR. Some suggested adjustments in the Committee's composition and operation were also endorsed.

Terms of Reference

The GRPC will:

1. Monitor and analyze policy developments concerning genetic resources, focusing on political, legal and ethical issues, at the national level and in relevant international fora (e.g., Governing Body for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) and recommend appropriate policy positions and action to the CGIAR Centers.
2. Monitor and analyze policy, legal and ethical developments within the CGIAR relating to genetic resources and recommend action as necessary to the Group.
3. Help ensure that the overall policy advice and support provided by various CGIAR entities (Centers, SGRP, etc.) to NARS on genetic resources issues is coherent and coordinated.
4. Monitor the implementation of the agreements that placed the agreements that placed the CGIAR Centers' germplasm collections within the International Network of Ex Situ Collections, under the auspices of FAO. Where necessary, the Committee will also assist in the interpretation of the agreements and propose any necessary changes. (As provided for in the ITPGRFA, CGIAR Centers are expected to sign agreements with the Governing Body for the treaty in regard to the Centers' *ex situ* collections.)
5. Keep developments in intellectual property protection under review and advise the CGIAR on the further modification and implementation of the Centers' IPR guiding principles and related policies.

The GRPC will report to the Group through the Executive Council on policy issues and any programmatic and financial aspects of its recommendations. In carrying out its duties, the Committee will consult with appropriate CGIAR committees and stakeholder groups as needed. The Committee will represent the System in relevant international fora, but not commit the CGIAR on policy positions.

Composition and Appointment Process

The GRPC is an advisory committee of the CGIAR. It is made up of 11 individuals, providing perspectives of a diversity of interests and constituencies. Committee members serve in their own personal capacity. Chair and members are appointed by the CGIAR Chairman who will seek nominations from each of the following constituencies:

- 1 Chair
- 2 CGIAR members (nominated by the CGIAR membership)

- 1 NARS genetic resources institution leader (nominated by GFAR)
- 1 NGO member (nominated by NGO community)
- 1 farmer member (nominated by farmers organizations)
- 1 private sector member (nominated by private sector organizations)
- 1 SC member (nominated by SC)
- 1 Center Board Chair (nominated by CBC)
- 2 Center Directors (one of whom is the Director General of IPGRI who will also serve as the Secretary of the Committee; the other to be nominated by CDC)

In addition, an FAO representative will participate as an observer in the Committee.

The GRPC Chair will normally be identified from among the GRPC members and appointed by the CGIAR Chairman, following consultations with relevant constituencies.

Expertise in genetic resources science, management, and policy issues are key criteria in identifying potential Chair and members. At least one of the members should have expertise in legal matters.

The Chair and each member will serve for a term of 3 years with the possibility of renewal once.

Procedures

Meetings

The Committee is expected to meet at least once a year for approximately two days, and to conduct business electronically between meetings.

The Committee may invite to its meetings resource persons from within and outside the CGIAR, based on the business at hand.

Activities

The GRPC will:

- organize workshops and commission studies as required by its Terms of Reference, subject to availability of funds
- participate in international fora on genetic resources as and when necessary.

Program and Budget

The Committee will submit annually a work program and budget. These will be reviewed, as necessary, by ExCo.

The budget will cover operating expenditure of the Committee, including honorarium and travel expenses for the chair. Expenses incurred by Committee members for participating in the committee activities will normally be covered by their respective constituencies.

Funding

The GPRC will be funded through contributions by the World Bank and other CGIAR members.