

**The Sixth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI  
and  
Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting for Agricultural  
Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region  
12-14 November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand**



**PROCEEDINGS**



**Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok**

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## PREFACE

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have made remarkable progress in agriculture, which became possible following implementation of some bold policy decisions to strengthen their National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and to develop partnership within the region. These collaborative efforts have borne fruits, obviously in the form of enhanced agricultural production in the region and reduction in the incidence of hunger and malnutrition. However, in spite of having recorded a high agricultural growth rate, the region is still the home of largest number of malnourished people in the world, and continues to struggle with the problem of achieving household food and nutrition security. At the same time, the damage to the natural resources in the region has assumed alarming proportions, thus hindering the very sustainability of agriculture.

The last few years have witnessed a radical change in the agricultural research environment particularly in its planning, prioritization, implementation and financing. In order to effectively manage the change, it is imperative that the ARD organizations develop a clear perception of the challenges and issues facing agriculture and then reorient their research priorities. Under the circumstances, joint planning, prioritization and execution of research programmes to address common problems offers a strong possibility to find an early solution to overcome these factors restricting agricultural production.

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), as an effective regional forum, facilitated the process of ARD priority setting at the three sub-regional level and finally organized an Expert Consultation from 12-14 November, 2001 in Bangkok to synthesize the findings of the sub-regional meetings and to draw an agreed set of priorities for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD).

These proceedings deal with the deliberations of the Expert Consultation and the Sixth Executive Committee meeting of APAARI. We express our thanks to the participants for providing their inputs. We are confident that this well synthesized information will be found useful by all the members and the concerned institutions/organizations engaged in agricultural research. It is contemplated that these research priorities would be adequately reflected in the institutional and national research programmes, effectively linked with the CGIAR activities, including the Challenge Programmes, and more importantly, prove helpful in bringing back ARD on the regional as well as global agenda.

(R.S.Paroda)  
Executive Secretary

## List of Acronyms

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near-East and North Africa
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APAFRI	Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions
APARIS	Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System
APSA	The Asia and Pacific Seed Association
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
AREEO	Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization
ASTI	Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
AVRDC	Asia Vegetable Research and Development Centre
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BAR	Bureau of Agricultural Research
CAAS	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
CABI	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
CAC	Central Asia and Caucasus
CARP	Sri Lankan Council for Agricultural Research Policy
CASREN	Crop-Animal System Research Network
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CLAN	Cereals and Legumes Asia Network
COA	Council of Agriculture
CP	Challenge Programmes
CORRA	Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia
CWANA	Central and West Asia and North Africa
DOA	Department of Agriculture (Thailand)
DSG	Donor Support Group
EGFAR	Electronic Global Forum on Agricultural Research
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FORAGRO	Foro Regional de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GoFAR	Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture Research
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRD	Human Resource Development
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centre
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research

ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICBA	International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICLARM	International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semiarid Tropics
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICUC	International Centre on Underutilized Crops
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INGER	International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice
INP	Information Nodal Point
INRM	Integrated Natural Resource Management
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resource Institute
IPGRI-APO	IPGRI Office for Asia-Pacific and Oceania
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
JIRCAS	Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences
KISS	Knowledge and Information Systems networking proposal
KRS	Koronivia Research Station (Fiji)
LKS	Lesser Known Species
MAFFM	Ministry of Agriculture Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology (Western Samoa)
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
MLS	Multilateral Systems
MTM	Mid Term Meeting
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NARS-SC	NARS-Steering Committee (GFAR)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
PCCARD	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PIC	Pacific Island countries
PVP	Plant Variety Protection
R&D	Research and Development
RAIS	Regional Agricultural Information System
RCT	Resource Conservation Technologies
RDA	Rural Development Administration (South Korea)

RECSEA	Regional Cooperation in South East Asia on PGR
RWC	Rice-Wheat Consortium
SAARC	South-Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SANPGR	South Asia Network on Plant Genetic Resources
SEARCA	Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee (of the CGIAR)
TAMNET	Tropical Asian Maize Network
UTFANET	Underutilized Tropical Fruits Asia Network
WAICENT	World Agricultural Information Centre
WANA	Western Asia and North Africa





## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI AND EXPERT CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION 12-14 November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand**

### **Background**

In the Sixth General Assembly of APAARI and the Expert Consultation on Strategies for Implementing APAARI Vision 2025: Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, held at Chiang Rai, Thailand, 8-10, November, 2000, it was decided that APAARI take a re-look at the regional priorities already identified/recommended for regional co-operation/partnership in R&D, so as to crystallize current ARD priorities in the region. As a follow up of this decision, APAARI successfully organized and completed the ARD Priority Setting exercise at the sub-region level i.e. West & South-Asia (5-7 July 2001, at ICRISAT, India), East & South-East Asia (27-28 June 2001 at IRRI, Philippines) and Pacific Island Countries (29-30 October 2001 at SPC, Fiji). The present Expert Consultation was, therefore, intended to review the overall progress made in ARD priority setting and to synthesize agreed general research priorities for the Asia-Pacific region.

### **INAUGURAL SESSION**

The Sixth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI and the Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting for Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region was held from 12-14 November 2001, at Bangkok, Thailand. The programme is given as Annexure I, whereas list of participants is given as Annexure II.

Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota, Chairman, APAARI welcomed the delegates and initiated the proceedings. Mr. Pramote Raksarast, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Royal Government of Thailand inaugurated the meeting. There were about sixty participants from member NARS, associate member institutions and other organizations. There was representation from ILRI as the new member. BAR, Philippines participated following renewal of its membership; CAAS, CIP, APAFRI, ASTI (ISNAR & IFPRI), GFAR, APSA and ICBA were special invitees. Dr. Sapkota first requested Mr. Narongsak Senanarong, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, Thailand and Co-Chairman of the session to make his statement. He welcomed all the NARS leaders, Director Generals of CGIAR institutes, other dignitaries, and the participants on behalf of the DOA. He emphasized on the need of

building continuous partnerships for ARD activities to achieve food security and simultaneously the need to conserve the natural resources. Mr. Senanarong appreciated the efforts of APAARI to keep pace with its mandate and strengthening regional partnerships in ARD activities.

Dr. R.S.Paroda, Executive Secretary of APAARI, in his address extended a warm welcome to all the participants, especially to Dr. R.B.Singh, ADG-RAP and the Chief Guest Mr. Pramote Raksarast, Deputy Permanent Secretary, DOA, Thailand for their participation even at a very short notice. He briefly outlined the objectives of the expert consultation and gave brief account of APAARI mandate, its activities and achievements during the last one decade. He acknowledged the enhanced support from ACIAR, the CGIAR and GFAR to support diverse activities of APAARI. Dr. Paroda appreciated the decision of BAR, Philippines to revive their membership and the participation of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). He also pointed out that due to certain unforeseen developments in the region and factors beyond control, the venue had to be shifted from Islamabad to Bangkok. It was mentioned that PARC, Pakistan, had made considerable headway in making preparations and hence the efforts made by PARC in preparing to host this meeting, under the leadership of Dr. Umar Khan Baloch, were gratefully acknowledged.

Regarding the objectives of the meeting, it was informed that the need to undertake this exercise was flagged last year during the Expert Consultation on Implementing the APAARI Vision 2025. The members had then desired that APAARI as a regional forum should initiate the process of sub-regional priority setting and then undertake a detailed exercise at the regional level. In this effort, the APAARI facilitated three sub-regional priority-setting meetings. The first of these meetings was organized for East and South East region during 27-28 June 2001, at IRRI, Philippines; the second was convened for West and South Asia from 5-7 July 2001 at ICRISAT, India and the third at Fiji for Pacific region during 29-30 October 2001. The present Expert Consultation was planned to share the outcome of the sub-regional priority setting exercise, identify the regional priorities for agricultural research and develop a plan of action for agricultural development in the region.

Dr. Sapkota, in his Chairman's address emphasized the need for ARD prioritization work to crystallize real research challenges in the region. To address these challenges, strengthening of NARS in the region and partnerships between and among the research providers was identified as critical for agricultural development in the region. He stated that this Expert Consultation was intended to carry out the process of sub-regional ARD Priority Setting further and build on the findings to draw a comprehensive set of priorities and a plan of action that focuses on poverty reduction, food security, better environment and overall sustainability of agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Sapkota mentioned that APAARI, as a regional forum, has over the years, promoted the spirit of cooperation and facilitated multilateral research partnerships in the form of networks, consortia etc. In view of the overwhelming response from member NARS, CG centres, IARCs, scientific bodies, and other stakeholders in the region, he expressed confidence to realize the objective of this meeting.

Dr. Fernando Chaparro, Executive Secretary, GFAR gave an overall view of the Regional priority initiatives of other agricultural fora such as FORAGRO, CAC, FARA, AARINENA etc. in their respective regions. He also spelt out various challenges faced in the ARD priority setting exercises. These included lack of data for monitoring purposes, maintaining consistency at different levels of research prioritization, building consensus and sharing roles among stakeholders and translating research priorities into programmes for their implementation for which a clear demarcation between development objectives and researchable issues is a prerequisite. A first interregional comparative analysis was recently carried out by the GFAR Secretariat with three objectives in mind: dissemination of information among regions on results being achieved, identification of approaches to define priorities, and identification of emerging common priorities that cut across regions. In this last point this analysis has led to emerging Global Partnership Program proposals. For other regional fora it was mentioned that AARINENA and CAC regions had adopted a survey mechanism through questionnaires, followed up with brainstorming workshops and finally, the synthesis meeting in May 2002. The Issyk-Kul Declaration of the CAC countries was cited as an example of advocacy in regional priority setting in trying to integrate the policy-makers, and the Guacimo Declaration in the FORAGRO region shows a deep involvement by stakeholders and a learning process.

Dr. Emil Javier, Chairman, TAC, CGIAR in his address appreciated the efforts of APAARI and elaborated on the reorientation being done by the CGIAR for its vision that envisages strategy of seven planks for agricultural development to achieve poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture. He appreciated APAARI initiative to identify regional ARD priorities and mentioned about on-going conflict between “agriculture versus rest of the world”. Dr. Javier emphasized on the need to map poverty at global level and suggested ways to address the issues of poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development.

Mr. Promote Raksarast, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand and the Chief Guest of the function, at the very outset conveyed the message of good wishes of Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Government of Thailand, for the success of the Expert Consultation, and expressed regrets that he could not participate because of his other pressing engagements. In his address, the diverse representation with a bottom up approach in setting the ARD priorities were mentioned as instrumental to meet the challenges of poverty, malnutrition and food security. The role of regional fora such as APAARI, to provide the bridge for the research gaps was appreciated, and he expressed full support of Thailand to such regional initiatives and partnership.

Dr. R.B.Singh, Assistant Director General, FAO-RAP and special guest on the occasion, outlined that the ARD priority setting is essential for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our research systems. He expressed that hunger and poverty are two sides of the same coin and, therefore, have to be addressed together while devising a strategy to alleviate them in absolute terms. He expressed his serious concern at the

declining trends in agricultural research investments and desired that national political leadership must be made aware of the fact that the returns to investments in agriculture are one of the highest. He urged the delegates to take a pledge to eradicate the violence of hunger. He was hopeful that the APAARI exercise would prove to be useful for the FAO in developing its regional perspective. He appreciated the growing partnership between APAARI and other institutions/organizations, and assured continued support by FAO to the activities of APAARI, as well as to its Secretariat already housed in FAO-RAP premises in Bangkok.

On this occasion, two publications and one CD-ROM with APAARI success stories were released. Dr. Emil Q. Javier Chairman, TAC, CGIAR released an APAARI publication, Proceedings of Expert Consultation on the Development of an Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) held during 6-7 November 2000 at Chiang Rai, Thailand and Dr. Singh released the publication on “National Agricultural Research Systems in The Asia-Pacific region- A Perspective (A Supplement) Country Status Report- Australia”. Mr. Raksarast released the first CD-ROM of APAARI brought out covering all the Success Stories that have been published earlier and received wide appreciation.

Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota, Chairman, APAARI presented mementos as a token of gratitude to the Chief Guest Mr. Praksarast, Chairman, TAC Dr. Emil Javier and Special Guest Dr. R.B. Singh.

Mr. P.K.Saha, Technical Officer, FAO-RAP and Liaison Officer, APAARI proposed the vote of thanks.

## **EXPERT CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

The deliberations of the Expert Consultation were structured in four technical sessions and a plenary session. Session-I included presentations of synthesis reports of ARD priority setting meetings held for South and West Asia, East and South-East Asia and Pacific Island countries and a presentation on Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). In Session-II, an account of ARD priorities by international centres in the Asia-Pacific region was given. At the end of the session, sub-groups from among the participants were constituted for each of the sub-region i.e. West and South Asia, East and South East Asia and the Pacific region. The three groups for the sub-regions presented an account of ARD priorities for their respective regions. Session IV dealt with the issues concerning the development of information systems. Dr.R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI chaired the plenary session wherein the participants endorsed the specific recommendations.

A special tripartite meeting of FAO-CGIAR-APAARI was also held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Emil Q. Javier, Chairman, TAC. The deliberations of each Session are summarized below:

### **Session I: Synthesis Reports of ARD Priority Setting Meetings**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. Stein W. Bie</b>
<b>Co- Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. Abbas Keshavarz</b>

In this session, the results of the three sub-regional priority setting workshops were presented and discussed, on the basis of the reports from each of the sub-regional priority setting exercises:

- a) “Synthesis Report of the Meeting on Agricultural Research Prioritization for West and South Asia” (ICRISAT, Patancheru, 5-7 July, 2001).
- b) “East and Southeast Asia Regional Priorities: Perspective of the NARS”, (IRRI, Los Baños, 27-28 June, 2001).
- c) “Research Priorities in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sectors in the Pacific Region: A Synthesis” (Fiji, 29-30 October, 2001)

A wide range of stakeholders participated in these three sub-regional workshops, including representatives from NGOs and other sectors.

#### **West and South Asia: Dr. Suresh Pal**

The presentation on ARD priorities for West and South Asia sub-region covered agricultural development challenges, major agro-ecosystems, commodity priorities and priority research themes for each of the identified agro-ecosystems. Major agricultural development challenges in the region include: agricultural growth and diversification for food and nutritional security, sustainability of agricultural systems, enhancement of

income opportunities for poverty alleviation, and improving competitiveness of agriculture with focus on small-holders. Appropriate indicators for these development challenges were identified and used for prioritization of research portfolio. The first three challenges were better captured in assessing commodity and ecosystem priorities, while the last was more appropriate for identification of priority research themes.

South Asia region was divided into six agro-ecosystems viz. Semi-Arid Tropics, Irrigated Sub tropics, Humid Sub Tropics (or Eastern region), Arid, Coastal and Mountains. Of these, the first three agro-ecosystems are important, covering more than three-fourth of net sown area and total value of agricultural production (excluding forestry) in the region. The modified congruence analysis, used for prioritization of agro-ecosystem and commodity priorities, indicated that Humid Sub-Tropics, Semi-Arid Tropics and Irrigated Sub-Tropics are the priority ecosystems of the region. Focus shifted in favour of Semi-Arid Tropics and Humid-Tropics when the criteria of poverty alleviation and sustainability were superimposed on the efficiency criteria. The analysis further indicated that the Semi-Arid Tropics and Coastal ecosystems are more diversified in terms of number of commodities grown. However, cereals and livestock dominate the Irrigated and Humid Sub-Tropical Systems. In fact, livestock is a priority commodity group for the Arid and Semi-Arid Tropics. For the South Asia as a whole, commodity priority groups are cereals, livestock, horticulture, cash and plantation crops, oilseeds, pulses, root and tubers and fish in that order. The commodity priorities were checked for their sensitivity by considering growth in food and feed demand for the commodities. The results showed a minor shift in priority score from cereals to livestock and horticultural products.

The priority commodities for West Asia include livestock, cereals, fruits, and vegetables in that order, which are very similar to the arid ecosystem of South Asia. Therefore, West Asia was considered along with Arid and Semi-Arid ecosystems of South Asia for identification of priority research themes.

For arriving at the research priorities, constraints and opportunities for each of the ecosystems were considered in detail. It was pointed out that Arid, Semi-Arid and Humid ecosystems of South Asia, and West Asia are harsh and risk prone production systems with rapid degradation of land and water resources. Similarly, Irrigated Sub-Tropics ecosystem face degradation of land, depletion of groundwater, and declining profitability, threatening sustainability of the system. The mountains are constrained by inadequate infrastructure development, and migration of work force. Some of the opportunities considered were diversification towards livestock and horticultural crops, precision farming, value addition and market integration, and scope for improving water use efficiency. These constraints and opportunities along with scientific advances were considered for assessment of priority research themes. Specific criteria considered at this stage were likely impact of a research theme on improving efficiency, sustainability and competitiveness of production systems, and alleviation of food insecurity and poverty. The chance of research success was also given due weightage. The identified research themes and sub-themes are shown in the box. There are some research themes of common interest of all stakeholders and these themes cut across all the

ecosystems. The common themes are: mapping of poverty and degradation of natural resources; soil and water management; diversification of systems; commercialization and post-harvest processing; market integration and trade liberalization; sustainable seed and technology transfer systems; and risk management. These priority research themes must be addressed in a partnership mode. In particular, APAARI, CG Centres and other IARCs should focus on bringing all NARS' together and share international experience. Finally, it was indicated that adequate efforts should be made by NARS and other partners to strengthen R&D systems through higher research investments, and HRD activities for researchers, extension agents and farmers.

### **Pacific Region : R.D. Ghodake**

The objective of the priority setting exercise for the Pacific sub-region was to identify and assess research problems and/ or research issues within specified areas of research opportunities, which are then prioritized within each of the sub-sectors. Ultimately, this should contribute to the overall economic and social well being of communities in the countries and the Pacific sub-region.

The workshop synthesized the regional research issues into following six groups:

- 1) Crops, 2) Livestock, 3) Forestry, 4) Fisheries, 5) Natural Resource Management,
- 6) Cross-cutting issues, especially in the areas of information, economics, and policy.

The principle objectives for work in the crops sector are the development of higher nutritional value crops to provide more balanced diet/nutrition and the production of high quality and valued (value added) produce/ by-produce. The priority assessment indicates that value for adding and markets/marketing are the two issues warranting strongest emphasis in research. The high potential impact but moderate feasibility of plant genetic resources and pests and diseases suggest that ways of increasing research capacity in these areas should be examined. Selective emphasis should be accorded to drought and salinity tolerance, accessibility, and utilization, because of their low feasibility, arising by low likelihood of adoption. Integrated crop and livestock faired moderately and need objective consideration. Other objectives include increased yields and productivity per unit of time and resources; off-season or prolonged crop production for vegetables, fruits, biological control and management of pests and diseases, and the crop-livestock integrated systems, especially in PNG.

The principle objectives for livestock research are to improve nutrition (animal and human) and productivity using locally available feed ingredients and reduce the impact of animal wastes on the environment and integrate animal wastes into crop production systems. Feed formulation and animal waste management received the strongest emphasis. The feasibility of making progress in the control of livestock diseases and genetic improvement was assessed as being relatively high. The high potential impact of zoonoses was recognized although the feasibility was assessed as low. Human resources, husbandry practices and integrated systems faired only moderately on both impact and feasibility criteria. Other objectives include establishing the disease status in

the PICTs; identifying the role of livestock in integrated farming systems and developing management and husbandry models suitable to various PICTs.

The overall goal for research in the forestry sector is to provide benefits to PICs from improved forest management and conservation. In the forestry sector, timber utilization and management felling and cutting cycles are the issues requiring the strongest research emphasis, having high potential impact and feasibility. Forest health, agro-forestry, and integrated land use were all assessed to have high potential impact but with concerns for the feasibility of making progress. Non-timber forest products appeared with modest impact but high feasibility. Reforestation and forest product marketing fared moderately on both the accounts.

The principle objective for research in the fisheries sector is to develop local alternative feeds and feeding systems, which can fatten fish with minimal by-products. Therefore, feeds and feeding was assessed as having high potential impact and feasibility for the fisheries sector. Reef fisheries status assessment was regarded as having the highest potential impact. The feasibility of developing “turnkey” aquaculture systems is high although the potential impact on the fisheries sector is moderate. Aquatic bio-security fared only moderately on both the counts. Other objectives include developing appropriate aquaculture for the Pacific; providing information for communities and Governments on the exploitation and potential of natural reef fishery resources; certifying quality for sustainable export markets, especially in Asia; developing the capacity and policies to handle the potential threat of disease transfer and assess the impact and mitigate the effect of introduced species; integrate the separate community and government systems of traditional and national laws, and set reference points for setting targets for maximum catches in reef fisheries.

The principle objectives for the NRM sector are to establish an integration mechanism and develop sustainable integration between bio-physical, economic, socio-cultural and environmental factors. The NRM issues were assessed as either medium or low, the region being with limited research capacity in this area. Soil fertility, water management and integrated NRM were all assessed as having high potential impact. Farming systems research appeared to be moderately fairing. It is interesting to note the relatively high importance accorded to waste management among the livestock issues as opposed to other NRM issues.

The principle objective for research on the cross-cutting issues are to build capacity to assemble, access and use information and overcome the lack of information on the economics of production and marketing, and understanding of markets and supply and demand responses, Cross-cutting issues included information and packaging, access and use. Production and marketing economics were both assessed as having high potential impact and feasibility. NRM policy, supply and demand analysis were also assessed as having high potential impact. Issues such as policy research into import-export, biodiversity, risk management and treaty incompatibility emerged as having only moderate impact and low feasibility of accomplishment.



## **East and South East Asia : Dr. Patricio S. Faylon**

The presentation on East and South East Asia covered the rationale of the exercise to build a better understanding amongst the stakeholders and also to identify what each stakeholder would need and to ensure better complementarity among the stakeholders. The multi-faceted and inter-connected nature of the regional issues - food security, loss of biodiversity, widespread poverty and unsustainable extraction of natural resources, and the like, necessitates consolidation of efforts at the regional and the sub-regional levels of the agricultural systems. Another important observation based on the past experience pointed to the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness of the independent and fragmented national research systems working on challenges of agricultural productivity and sustainability. Many NARS are short of funds and resources to address its internal problems; yet, the same problems have been attended to by more advanced NARS. In the same breadth, vast opportunities exist for partnerships and collaborations amongst regional NARS. The end in view was to build on the strengths and milestones of some NARS while enhancing capability of the weaker ones. The exercise also aimed to focus resources, both human and financial, to priority and more pressing concerns of regional proportion. The initial matching of priorities and programme highlights the need to address as common development goals the reduction of poverty incidence, natural resources management and sustainable agriculture for enhancing food security. Four major priority areas on which consensus emerged were:

1. Food security related issues of increasing production, quality and competitiveness; addressing bio-safety aspects, and enhanced application of cutting edge technologies.
2. Natural Resource Management with focus on conservation of biodiversity, management of soil and water and promotion of IPM and IPNS.
3. Increasing Farmers' income /Rural Economy through improvements/development of processing, distribution and marketing infrastructure and enterprise development.
4. Support for the R&D efforts in the form of proper initiatives on HRD, enhanced use of ICT for information sharing and strengthening the policy advocacy on new issues such as IPRs, GMO, etc.

## **Chinese Academy of Agricultural sciences (CAAS) : Dr. Yi Wang**

Dr. Yi Wang, Associate Professor, CAAS, on behalf of Prof. Zhai Hu Qu, President, CAAS, made a presentation on "CAAS and It's Research Priorities". Dr. Wang presented an overview of the Chinese NARS indicating the structure, staff strength and administrative setup. It was informed that CAAS is affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and being the Apex agricultural research academy, is mandated to undertake research on programmes of national or regional importance, on fundamental or key scientific issues and also on the development of technologies that will contribute to food security and sustainable development. The main issues before CAAS for

agricultural R&D are food security, sustainability, efficient water utilization and environmental protection. The priority areas of development focus on structure optimization and agro-information development, and establishing partnerships for agricultural R&D beside the issues mentioned earlier. In order to address the mandate, the development strategy of CAAS envisages modernization of agriculture, adopt regional development approach, formulate proper agriculture and economic macro policies framework including the issues of trade, and finally the resource management. The revolutionary change that has been proposed by CAAS is to consolidate, downsize and streamline the organizational structure.

Dr. Wang concluded his presentation by indicating strong possibility of CAAS to join APAARI as a regular member and by extending an invitation on behalf of CAAS to organize future APAARI meeting in China, with an assurance to provide all assistance for the success of the meeting.

During discussions, Dr. V.K. Patil, from India mentioned that economic access to food was one the major reasons for the large number of hungry people and the issue of increasing the purchasing power of people should also be brought upfront. In response, it was mentioned by the Chairman that there were no two views about the lack of purchasing power being a reason for the widespread hunger for which a separate group on socio-economic studies would be required. Dr. E.R. Ponce, Director, BAR, expressed that the regional priorities need to be developed from the sub-regional priorities as also the strategies. Dr. R.S.Paroda, observed that in the process of reprioritization there could be some variations at the sub-regional level as well but there must be efforts to identify the issues that can be addressed through partnerships and simultaneously formulate strategy for those issues that cannot be jointly addressed. Dr. R.B. Singh, ADG, FAO-RAP, mentioned that despite the agricultural development of the region, the number of hungry and the poor have not reduced as per the expectation and the hunger and poverty issues thus need to be linked. He desired that success stories need to be brought out for such areas that have witnessed a decline in hunger. He suggested that the commonalities of the ARD issues have to be flagged. He strongly emphasized that the fact of Asia-Pacific region harbouring highest concentration of hungry people need to be effectively presented to the CGIAR, FAO and other donor and international agencies to address this concern properly.

## **Session II: ARD Priorities by International Centres in the Asia-Pacific Region**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. Emil Q. Javier</b>
<b>Co-Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. Ian Bevege</b>

In this session, ARD priorities by International Centres in the Asia-Pacific Region were presented by Dr. (Mrs) Jill Lenne - ICRISAT, Dr. William G. Padolina - IRRI, Dr. Abderrezak Belaid - ICARDA, Dr. V. Ramanatha Rao - IPGRI, Dr. Tissa Bandaragoda - IWMI, Dr. C. Devendra - ILRI, Dr. S. Ilangantileke - CIP, Dr. Stein W. Bie – ISNAR, Dr. George Kuo – AVRDC, Dr. J. Campbell, ICIMOD, and Dr. Faisal Taha – ICBA. In

general, each speaker elaborated on the work that was being undertaken by their respective institutes in the region.

**ICRISAT:** Dr. (Ms) Jill Lenne, DDG, ICRISAT mentioned that the major challenges and issues for the semi-arid tropics were to reduce poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and to address these, ICRISAT's new vision to 2010 is *"improved well-being of the poor of the semi arid tropics through agricultural research for impact"*. The other major issues are to enhance the productivity, quality and utilization of crops in the semi-arid tropics. It was informed that ICRISAT has framed its vision and strategy to address the needs of changing research environment to include a pragmatic integration and regionalization through CGIAR Challenge Programmes on a) climate change, b) water, and c) desertification. The overall emphasis aims at NRM, soil, water and agrobiodiversity. Realising the importance of quality seeds, ICRISAT has laid priority on creating sustainable seed system for productivity with principal focus on Sub Saharan Africa and strategic focus in Asia. In view of the fact that the role of livestock, including poultry, is crucial for agricultural diversification and sustainability, ICRISAT has also accorded a high priority to the development of high quality, toxin free feeds and feed grains.

Dr. Nazmul Haq, Director, ICUC, mentioned that the underutilized plants need to be identified as some of them are very rich sources of nutrients and some studies need to be initiated in the programmes designed to fight hunger and malnutrition.

**IRRI:** Dr. William G. Padolina, DDG, IRRI gave an account of the Medium Term Plan 2001-03, that comprises of four major Programmes and 12 projects. The four major programmes are on a) genetic resources conservation, evaluation, and gene discovery b) enhancing productivity and sustainability of favourable environments c) improving productivity and livelihoods for fragile environments and d) strengthening linkages between research and development. The implementation of the programmes is being done through 12 projects. Among the major priorities cited were the development of aerobic rice, improving the quality of rice, advanced screening of lines etc. The overall goal is still to improve the well-being of low-income rice producers and consumers while conserving the natural resource base by taking full advantage of advances in science to address emerging development concerns. It was informed that IRRI had already put in trust 108,000 accessions of rice germplasm as available resource for the sustainable rice production. The delegates were apprised of the fundamental change envisaged in the research approach at IRRI for the rainfed and upland rice production systems.

Dr. Padolina, in response to a suggestion from Dr. Fernando Chaparro about functional genomics, informed that IRRI was getting organized for a network approach but till now only India and China were extending help. Dr. Emil Javier desired to know about the biosafety aspects of rice research. It was mentioned that the biosafety and IPR issues could become bottlenecks as very few countries have their PVP acts in place. Dr. Padolina further expressed that institutions and policies are needed to address these crucial issues. Dr. Stein Bie, DG, ISNAR, informed that the studies on IPRs from ISNAR could prove useful for the NARS, as also of the group on biosafety. Dr. R.B.Singh, ADG, FAO-RAP, said that issues like green house effect, methane emission, trade

considerations, WTO negotiations etc. need to be sorted out as these could have a negative effect on the efforts to counter the hunger and poverty.

**ICARDA:** Dr. A. Belaid, Socio-economist, ICARDA presented a brief overview of the research themes, partners, research approach, and dwelt at length on the development of agricultural research priorities in Central Asia and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region. The process at sub-regional level includes WANA and CAC. The major objective of the initiative are to revisit with NARS, their sub-regional and regional research priorities considering developments at national, regional and global levels, develop an action plan to implement the strategy and to harmonize and integrate CGIAR activities within CWANA research priorities. In this initiative, broader participation of various stakeholders including farmer's organizations, universities, NGOs, private sector, investors, etc. in addition to the national agricultural research institutes was adopted to seek complementarity in tackling the regional research agenda based on comparative advantages of NARS and CG-Centres. An inventory study of 12 Centres activities in CWANA is underway. The cooperating centres are: CIAT, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICLRAM, ICRISAT, IFPRI, ILRI, IPGRI, ISNAR and IWMI. A draft questionnaire has been developed and sent to about 450 sub-regional organizations. The final meeting to assess the programme is expected to be held in May 2002.

**IPGRI:** Dr. V. Ramanatha Rao, Senior Scientist, IPGRI-APO informed that the R&D priority framework was based on the regional driving forces such as high population, poverty, malnutrition, high biodiversity and declining natural resources, more importantly the macro-economic and financial instability. The IPGRI priorities are implemented through several networks in the region that included: EA-PGR, RECSEA-PGR, SANPGR and Pacific PGR. The modus operandi of the networks is determined through the consultations with partners and some of the programmes on sustainable agricultural development and poverty reduction identified by APAARI and other partners have been used as the basis for setting the priorities.

**IWMI:** Dr. Tissa Bandaragoda, Regional Director, IWMI, Bangkok stressed that the institute collaborates with partners in the South to develop tools and methods to help these countries eradicate poverty and ensure food security through more effective management of their water and land resources. IWMI works on five major themes.

These are: a) [Integrated Water Resource Management for agriculture](#): The research focus is on developing approaches for assessing and improving the performance of water used in agriculture, in the context of different uses and competition for water within river basins, b) [Sustainable Small holder Land and Water Management Systems](#): Focus is to develop tools, concepts and appropriate technologies' that help poor people farm small land holdings more profitably and sustainably. IWMI works with local partners to identify, evaluate and promote the uptake of promising low-cost irrigation devices and water and land management practices; c) [Sustainable Groundwater Management](#): Through this work, researchers gain a better understanding of the range of problems and opportunities of using groundwater in Africa and Asia. The goal of this research is to help countries design policies and practices for sustainable use of groundwater resources; d) [Water Resources Institutions and Policies](#): Research

examines how communities, government and society deal with problems of water resource management. It involves the study of legal aspects, policies and institutional arrangements from the national to the regional and rural levels; e) [Water, Health and Environment](#): This research aims to improve the lives of poor people in agricultural areas by gaining a better understanding of the interactions among irrigation, human health and the environment. The health component of the programme includes: studying changes in the operation and design of irrigation systems that could reduce snail and mosquito vector populations to prevent malaria, Japanese encephalitis and schistosomiasis; documenting the health impacts of domestic use of irrigation water; and assessing the health risks of irrigation with wastewater and finding ways to minimize these risks.

Dr. Faisal Taha, Director (Technical Programmes), ICBA suggested that instead of targeting malaria and water, the approach should be on water and environment. Dr. J. Kumar, emphasized that watershed management and flood control should be the priority areas for IWMI. Dr. R.S.Paroda mentioned that water is emerging as a very high priority in the entire region and in view of the magnitude and the diversity of the water related problems, he desired to have an inter-centre/inter-NARS research partnership developed. Dr. Bandaragoda responded that IWMI was entering MOU to address a set of priorities that are demand driven.

**ILRI:** Dr. C. Devendra elaborated on the role of ILRI in the region in research, as catalyst and facilitator, identifying priorities and providing consultancy. A major constraint was non availability of quality feeds and feed resources. He informed about an ILRI initiative CASREN – Crop-Animal Systems Research Network, an ADB funded project, with China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam as the participating countries. He pointed out that TAC had identified prioritized livestock development in the rainfed areas.

**CIP:** The research priorities of CIP for the region were presented by Dr. Sarath Illangantileke, Regional Director for South and West Asia Centre. It was informed that CIP works through four regional offices for Latin American Countries, Sub-Saharan Africa, south West Asia and East and South East Asia and Asia-Pacific. The mandated crops include potato and sweet potato and also the NRM issues. All these centres have regional priorities and regional action plan. He mentioned that though the Centre is for South and West Asia but its major activities are mostly in Nepal and Bangladesh. It was mentioned that South and West Asia produces about 23 million tonnes of potato from an area of 1.5 million hectares of which the maximum (84%) comes from India. The activities of CIP in the SWA region include seed system interaction in Bangladesh. The major thrust in potato was for breeding true potato seed (TPS) parental lines, production, evaluation and utilization of hybrid TPS families in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In the NRM, the issues of soil, water and nutrient management are being addressed through collaboration with the regional NARS, CIMMYT, IRRI, IWMI, and ICRISAT. CIP also has active collaboration with NARS, NGOs and other agencies for technology dissemination. In sweet potato, breeding for high dry matter yield and adaptability to intensify production aimed to address the issues of poverty, food security and nutrition. Research efforts are being made to control the sweet potato virus to achieve higher productivity and profitability.

**ISNAR:** Dr. Stein Bie, DG, ISNAR, in his presentation mentioned that in the fast changing agricultural scenario, the needs of ARD will also change and cutting edge technologies viz. biotechnology and information technology, will form the backbone of agricultural research for which the institutions have to be strengthened. Further, role of the farmers and the private sector will become increasingly important with new farmers demanding new technology. He further apprised the participants that having realized that the bio and Info-technologies are going to be crucial in the development of agriculture, ISNAR had prepared modules to assist the NARS for capacity building to manage the change. These modules had found wide acceptance as reflected by the increasing number of downloads. Dr. Stein Bie further informed that developing training modules adapted to national, sub-regional settings was another priority area for ISNAR with active cooperation of several national institutions. The overall thrust of ISNAR lays a strong emphasis on key thematic areas, building an entrepreneurial orientation, and strong collaboration with key stakeholders.

**AVRDC :** Dr. G.C. Kuo, Programme III Director, AVRDC, presented the research priorities in the Asia-Pacific Region. He informed that the over all goal of AVRDC is to promote vegetable production and marketing opportunities for small-scale farmers in the developing countries, thereby leading to improved nutrition and poverty reduction. In efforts to address the priorities in different regions, strategic alliances with CGIAR and regional organizations are proposed to be developed. For South East Asia, the priority area is crop diversification and intensive production of safe vegetables. In South Asia, where the concentration of poor is maximum, the major thrust of AVRDC is to integrate vegetable legumes and fruit vegetables into the region's predominantly cereal based farming systems. It was mentioned that AVRDC in Sub Saharan Africa, initially would concentrate on HRD programmes and compliment these with varietal evaluation of vegetables, including indigenous vegetables, for local adaptation, seed production, and commercialization. AVRDC will facilitate partnerships with international and national institutes, and the private sector, for the exchange and evaluation of germplasm and information, in the Central American region.

**ICIMOD:** Dr. J. Campbell, Director General, ICIMOD made a presentation on research activities and priorities of the Centre. In terms of regional focus, the Hindu-Kush mountains are the priority region. It was indicated that the Centre is currently revisiting its research priorities and developing a prioritized portfolio for the year 2003. The main issue in this process is making right choices—whether research priorities arrived based on consensus are the right choice, or more weightage should be given to innovative thinking. The Centre also accords priority to equity-related issues, institutions and developing network at grass-root level. In terms of research strategy, integrated approach is followed for study of upstream as well as downstream areas, with more emphasis on water, environment and flood related issues. It was also mentioned that the Centre is also planning to hold conference on uplands and gender-related issues. During the discussion, it was pointed out that ICIMOD should play a leading role in refinement and implementation of research priorities identified for mountains in South Asia. Also, it should develop a programme for post-trauma Afghanistan.

**ICBA:** Dr. Faisal Taha, Director, Technical Programmes, informed that the centre is about 5 years old and was established at the initiative of Asian Development Bank and

United Arab Emirates. It primarily deals with problem of salinity in irrigated agriculture in west Asia. The basic object of the Centre is to increase value of saline resources by developing salt-tolerant plant system and by minimizing environmental degradation. The Centre has four broad research programmes, viz. plant genetic resources (salt-tolerance plants); production and management system for saline water; information management and networking; and capacity building. Given the increasing problem of salinity, the Centre assumes significance in the Islamic world of west Asia and other developing countries.

During discussions, Dr. Emil Javier, Chairman informed that the CGIAR had identified the following ten Challenge programmes:

- [Agriculture and Combating Desertification](#)
- [Animal Diseases, Market Access, Food Safety and Poverty Reduction](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Development of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus \(CAC\)](#)
- [Global Genetic Resources: Conservation, Management and Improvement for Food and Nutritional Security, Agrobiodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods](#)
- [Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food Security](#)
- [Global Mountain Programme](#)
- [Harnessing Agricultural Technology to Improve the Health of the Poor: Biofortified Crops to Combat Micronutrient Deficiency](#)
- [The African Challenge Programme](#)
- [Water and Agriculture](#)

He further urged the members to identify the ARD priorities so that these could be linked effectively to the Challenge Programmes of CGIAR and be scientifically sound and formulated with a bottom up approach, so that these can merit donor support.

After these presentations, three working groups were established to discuss in a smaller working group environment four questions that the APAARI Secretariat had posed: (a) What are the next steps that are required for finalizing the sub-regional reports on research priorities? (b) Identify research themes/topics that are of importance to all three sub-regions (region-wide research priorities shared by all sub-regions). (c) What observations can be derived from these regional priorities in terms of the ten Challenge Programme proposals that are presently being discussed in the CGIAR? (d) What are the implications of these regional priorities for the current regional research networks and regional collaborative programmes? In the case of topics/themes for possible new areas of cooperation, how can these regional priorities

be converted into concrete action proposals with a clear indication of who will do what and how will they be funded?

Each working group discussed in detailed above four questions and presented a synthesized report in the Plenary Session reflecting region-wide concerns. The details of the presentation made by the three working groups are given in Session III.

### **Session III: Presentation of Group reports**

**Chairman : Dr. Fernando Chaparro**

The three Groups from among the participants were constituted for each of the sub-regions. These included:

*Sub-group – I* : West and South Asia  
*Facilitator* : Dr.(Mrs) Jill M. Lenne

**Group Members:** Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, ICRISAT, ILRI, ISNAR, IRRI, APAFRI, IWMI, ICARDA, ICBA

*Sub-group –II* : East & South East Asia  
*Facilitator* : Dr. P.S.Faylon & Dr. William G. Padolina

**Group Members:** Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Thailand, APAFRI, IRRI, ICRISAT, ISNAR, AVRDC, APSA, UTFANET (ICUC), CIP

*Sub-group-III* : Pacific Countries  
*Facilitator* : Dr. Ian Bevege & R.D.Ghodake

**Group Members:** Australia, PNG, Fiji, Western Samoa, CABI, IPGRI, GFAR, ISNAR, APAFRI

The working groups were given the following set of points/issues for their consideration.

1. What are the next steps in terms of finalizing the sub-regional priority setting reports?
2. In each sub-region, what conclusions can be derived from the work done so far in terms of:
  - a. NARS- NARS collaboration and sub-regional programmes or networks.
  - b. CGIAR strategy in each sub-region and NARS-IARCs collaboration
  - c. Role of other stakeholders ( i.e. NGOs, private sector, etc).
3. Can we identify topics/issues that emerged from the three sub-regional reports, that can be identified as "common concerns" or "shared priorities" that cut across all 3 sub-regions that may lead to region-wide priorities"?



4. How can these priorities, either sub-regional or regional, be translated into concrete proposals for collaboration/partnerships? Who will fund them and who will do what? For example, do they have implication(s) for:

- a) Ongoing collaborative efforts?
- (b) Can they relate to emerging challenge programmes?
- (c) Are they totally new proposals that have to be funded?

The groups deliberated on each of the issues and finally arrived at the ARD priorities that were specific to their respective region and are mentioned in Table.1

**Table 1. Sub-Regional ARD priorities**

<b>West and South Asia</b>	<b>East and South East Asia</b>	<b>Pacific Region</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Regional</b>
Natural resource management	Food security	<b>Crops:</b>
Commercialization, Trade, Marketing	Improving quality/ competitiveness a) Biosafety b) marketing (Processing, marketing) c) Policies (GMOs Etc.)	-Value addition, -markets and marketing - PGR
<b>Cross Cutting</b>	Fishery/ Marine	<b>Livestock:</b>
Mapping Poverty, food insecurity	Biodiversity	-Feed formulation & development - Animal waste management -Livestock improvement (introduction & selection) - Zoonoses
Capacity building to meet priority challenge	Research support	<b>Forestry :</b>
Risk management	Policy	- Timber utilization - Felling cycles
ICT	Capacity building	<b>Natural resource Management</b>
		- Land and soil fertility - Watershed - Integrated NRM
		<b>Cross cutting</b>
		ICT, Produce marketing, Supply-demand, NRM

The presentations brought forth commonalities of ARD needs in the sub-regions. The issues of NRM, processing and marketing of produce, ICT and capacity building were considered of high priority. The presentations were followed by discussions on the future course of action especially with regard to developing a framework for collaboration.

It was observed that despite the commonality of issues, there appears to be some inequity as for instance while recognizing the need for diversification; fisheries did not emerge as a priority even though the region has maximum production and consumption of fish. Likewise the same was felt in case of agro-forestry. A more proactive role for

APAARI and NARS was found to be desirable to further refine these priorities and the effort should focus to put agriculture back on the global agenda.

#### **Session IV: Information System – APARIS**

**Chairman** : **Dr. Dennis Blight**  
**Co-Chairman** : **Dr. Ian Bevege**

This was a special session to review the progress of ICT initiatives that have been launched by jointly APAARI and GFAR, and also to learn about the new initiative of Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) by ISNAR and IFPRI. The presentations were made by Dr. Fernando Chaparro, GFAR, Ms. J. Achara, APAARI, and Ms. Nienke M. Beintema, ASTI, respectively.

**APAARI ICT:** Ms. J. Achara, IT Manager, APAARI presented the status of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research information System (APARIS) highlighting the progress made so far and the initiatives that are being undertaken. It was informed that in the establishment of APARIS, Information Nodal Points (INPs) have been identified at national level in consultation with member NARS and an Expert Consultation had been successfully conducted to formulate an appropriate strategy. The presentation dealt at length on the 'Gateway function of the APARIS'. The APARIS gateway is also unique being the first gateway to the agricultural research and development in the region. The stage-I of the Gateway function includes providing links to APAARI members, national organizations, regional and other international organizations. Further, the links have been provided to databases and agricultural research networks. The availability of APAARI publications on website have received appreciation from all as also the putting of APAARI success stories on the CD-ROM. The stage-II of APARIS envisages advanced gateway and database functions to include APARIS publications, interface software development of criteria for evaluating information quality; thematic networks of knowledge by creating e-discussion fora; preparation of CD-ROM based documentation, and finally to organize trainings and meetings for enhanced use of ICT for ARD activities. Stage-II will also include advanced features, such as sophisticated meta design, meta data harvesting from other gateways, and superior user interfaces.

During discussions, all the members appreciated the progress of APARIS and the plan of action met their approval. Regarding further development of APARIS with regard to gateway function, it was felt that it would call for long term funding with donor support and for which a Donor Support Group (DSG) need to be set up. CIRAD, France was identified as a potential donor for the activity, beside ACIAR. A definite need was felt to link EGFAR with the regional fora and some donor support could be arranged through GFAR. Further, it was proposed that the Chair of the DSG for APARIS could be from ACIAR since it has been providing presently substantial support to the APARIS initiatives. As agreed in the ICT Expert Consultation at Chiang Rai, it was reiterated that an ICT Expert Group from member NARS and other participating organization could form a Steering Committee and that it should possibly have its first meeting in

early next year, 2002, when ICT Expert Consultation is organized either in Australia or Bangkok.

**EGFAR:** Dr. Fernando Chaparro, Executive Secretary, GFAR, presented an update on the EGFAR. He informed that the main objective of EGFAR, which is the present website, is to establish a communication platform in Internet that facilitates the exchange of information and knowledge among the stakeholders of ARD, seeking to integrate NARS, ARIs, IARCs, NGOs, policy makers and producers into this process. The main actors in Agricultural Research for Development Information are working together to facilitate information flows among stakeholders and access to knowledge by end-users. Enhanced cooperation in this area could contribute to the development of a global agricultural knowledge system. Information and knowledge management capacity is one of the main factors that influences the effectiveness of agricultural research. EGFAR is a system of interrelated web pages, through which the information resources of the various stakeholders can be accessed by interested parties. It is established and managed by the stakeholders themselves. The EGFAR system is being developed in close collaboration with WAICENT and SDR in FAO.

Dr. Fernando also elaborated on the Establishment and Strengthening of Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS): RAIS are constituted by a set of interrelated information facilities and databases in a given region, that share a Regional Information Strategy, whose objective is to improve access to information, communication and flow of information among stakeholders of ARD. The first step in promoting the development of RAIS was the preparation of a conceptual document on the nature and objectives of RAIS, that was developed on the basis of actual experiences being carried out by ARD stakeholders in both developing and developed countries. Within this framework, the establishment and/or strengthening of four RAIS are being supported, namely:

- Sub-Saharan Africa (FARA-RAIS)
- West Asia and North Africa (AARINENA-RAIS)
- Asia/Pacific (APAARI-RAIS)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (FORAGRO-RAIS)

**ASTI:** Ms. Nienke Beintema from Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) Initiative of ISNAR and IFPRI, briefed on the aims and activities. She pointed out that ASTI initiative has been launched with the objective “*to provide internationally comparable information on the investment and institutional environment surrounding agricultural R&D, thereby informing and improving research policy decisions around the world*”. The collaborators and users include NARS, CG centres, regional organizations and other international organizations. She presented an overview on status of agricultural R&D worldwide relating to developing and developed countries and the investments from private and public sector in the ARD. It was evident that Sub Saharan Africa region had a negative growth rate, whereas other developing countries had a growth rate of over 3.5% and China had the maximum growth of over 5% during 1991-96. By contrast, in the developing countries agricultural R&D relied heavily on the public

funding (94.5%), whereas in the developed countries, the share of public and private spending on agricultural R&D were 48.5 and 51.5 percent, respectively in 1995. The ASTI plans for Asia-Pacific region include exploring partnerships for the survey implementation in Asia through NARS, APAARI, CIFOR, ICLARM and others.

All the participants appreciated the ASTI initiative. Two important issues emerged for the endorsement of the APAARI Executive Committee. These were: a) ASTI and APAARI need to conclude an MOU to supplement the ISNAR/IFPRI proposal to extend their activities in the Asia-Pacific region, and b) besides working with CABI to develop a gateway function, APAARI would seek external inputs for further development and implementation of APARIS and for its long term sustainability.

## **Plenary Session**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. R.S.Paroda</b>
<b>Co-Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Dr. J.Kumar</b>

The Facilitators of each working group presented their group report in the Plenary Session that was dedicated to a synthesis effort at the regional level. The major decisions taken in this session are summarized here.

### **1. Final Version of Sub-regional Reports**

The first decision was with respect to the structure of the Final Report of this Expert Consultation. It was decided that the report should basically have four chapters: three chapters will present the final versions of the three sub-regional reports in order to highlight the importance of the sub-regional priorities; the fourth chapter will analyse the regional priorities and the region-wide activities that will be pursued in future, as well as the input that the APAARI region can provide in the global context (i.e. comments on Challenge Programme proposals to CGIAR, collaboration with other regions and possible ideas for Global Partnership Programmes to GFAR, etc.).

With respect to the finalisation of sub-regional reports, the following timetable was adopted. The sub-regional coordinators will prepare a revised version of each report by 26 November integrating the comments and observations made in this meeting, and will circulate it to all the NARS and interested stakeholders in each sub-region. The feedback from all stakeholders within each sub-region will be obtained by 15 January 2002, so that the sub-regional coordinators can prepare the final version of the sub-regional reports by the end of January. The final version of the sub-regional reports should be sent to the APAARI Secretariat by 30 January 2002. These three sub-regional reports will constitute three chapters of the Final Regional Report, as stated earlier.

One of the problems faced in the comparative analysis carried out during this Expert Meeting was that the three sub-regional reports were not formulated at the same level of aggregation/disaggregation. Since this is desirable in order to enable the

synthesis paper to maximise its value, in preparing the final report, the sub-regional coordinators should seek to identify concrete research issues within the priority research areas of each sub-region, as illustrated in the report of the Pacific Region.

The fourth chapter of the Final Report of this Expert Consultation will concentrate on the conclusions related to the Regional Priorities and to regional activities to be carried out in the future. The conclusions can be organized around three basic issues (related to the questions that were posed to the three working groups): (a) region-wide priorities shared by the three sub-regions; (b) inputs to the current process of selecting Challenge Programmes; and (c) next steps in going from regional priorities to concrete action proposals.

## **2. Regional Priorities**

The comparative analysis that was done among sub-regions led to the identification of seven common areas for research opportunities, that were considered to be the regional priorities. Five of them are related to broad research areas, while the last two are cross-cutting support activities that are important for agricultural research in general. These regional priority areas are:

1. Natural resource management
2. Genetic resources
3. Commodity chain development
4. Meeting the protein demand of a growing population
5. Tree and forest management
6. Cross-cutting issue: Information and communication management
7. Cross-cutting issue: Capacity development

These seven regional priority research areas were further broken down into more specific priority research themes within each research area, that were derived from the comparative analysis of the three sub-regional reports. This information is presented in Table 2.

## **3. Input into the Selection of Challenge Programmes**

The second issue that was analysed relating to the inputs that APAARI can provide to the current process of selecting Challenge Programmes (CPs), being carried out by the CGIAR. The regional input into this process is being envisaged in two steps. The first one is to make a contribution to the selection of two or three topics/themes from the list of 10 that were recently discussed at AGM-2001 in Washington, in order to have the Asia-Pacific regional priorities reflected in those two or three initial cases that will be selected in the short term by the CGIAR. The second step is to generate new or additional ideas that may be derived from the Asia-Pacific regional priority setting process, and present them to the consideration of the CGIAR as "*new proposals*" for Challenge Programmes (CPs), through the Science Council. This is in response to the

“call for ideas” that the CGIAR Executive Committee made in its first meeting. In this way, the regional priority setting process will make an input in setting the global research agenda.

After discussing the possibility of selecting the “top three candidates” from the list of ten topics currently being considered for CPs, as seen from the perspective of the Asia/Pacific regional priorities (Table 2). It was felt better to correlate how the ten CP proposals relate to the seven regional priorities that were identified. In doing this analysis, it was observed that seven of the ten CP proposals are closely related to the seven APAARI regional priorities; in some cases, a CP proposal is related to more than one regional priority, as can be seen in the summary information presented in Table 3.

APAARI on behalf of the region will transmit this congruence of regional concerns as reflected in the areas of research opportunity, with the Challenge Programme proposals to the CGIAR, and express a strong desire of the region’s needs to be considered in choosing specific Challenge Programmes for project preparation, and in the regional context to be actively involved in both the design and implementation of the respective CPs.

**Table 2: Regional Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Region**

1. Natural Resource Management
  - 1.1. Integrated NRM and Integrated Crop Management (ICM)/IPM
  - 1.2. Policy development and institutional issues related to NRM
  - 1.3. Watershed management
  - 1.4. Land management and soil fertility
  - 1.5. Rehabilitation of degraded and marginal lands
2. Genetic Resources Enhancement and Agrobiodiversity Conservation
  - 2.1. PGR conservation and improvement
  - 2.2. Livestock selection and improvement (includes fisheries)
  - 2.3. Microbial functional agrobiodiversity
  - 2.4. Bio-safety issues/policy/GMOs/IPRs
3. Commodity Chain Development (Linking Farmers to Markets)
  - 3.1. Commercialisation, marketing and trade
  - 3.2. Policy – International agreements
  - 3.3. Input/supply and demand analysis (industry and macro level)
  - 3.4. Production and marketing economic analysis (firm/farm and micro level)
  - 3.5. Value adding
  - 3.6. Competitiveness
  - 3.7. Product/quality improvement and standards
  - 3.8. Quarantine and bio-security
4. Meeting the Protein Demand of a Growing Population (Through Animals)
  - 4.1. Feed resources: fish, poultry, ruminants and non-ruminants (forage, pasture, fodder, grain, constituted feedstocks and crop residues)
  - 4.2. Disease management (poultry, ruminants, non-ruminants, aquaculture)
  - 4.3. Production systems (crop/livestock, aquaculture, mariculture)
  - 4.4. Waste management and by-product utilization
5. Meeting the Protein Demand of a Growing Population (Through Plants)
  - 5.1. Grain legume productivity improvement
  - 5.2. Legumes in farming systems
  - 5.3. Quality and nutrition improvement (human)
  - 5.4. Food safety: aflatoxins and anti-nutrition factors
6. Tree and Forest Management for Landholders
  - 6.1. Natural forest management:
    - Harvesting regime and regeneration
    - Cutting cycle analysis
  - 6.2. Forest plantation, productivity and health
  - 6.3. Agro-forestry in production systems
7. Cross-cutting Issue: Information Management for Agricultural Development
  - 7.1. Packaging, access and use: Research, methodologies and modalities
8. Cross-cutting Issue: Capacity Building
  - 8.1. Human resources development
  - 8.2. Institutional development
    - Research management, stakeholder management
    - Technology transfer facilitation
  - 8.3. Research policy development:
    - Food insecurity and poverty mapping

#### 4. Next Steps

The third main issue that was analysed in the synthesis session was that of the identification of the next steps to be carried out in order to convert the regional priorities mentioned above into concrete action proposals. It was felt that the working group of six persons (two from each sub-region) that distilled the seven regional priority areas from the sub-regional priorities, should continue to work as a technical advisory group with the support of the APAARI Secretariat in facilitating the next steps. Five main steps were identified:

- **Gap Analysis:** Analyse current portfolio of regional research networks and regional cooperation programmes to identify congruence or differences with regional priorities. From this analysis, it should be feasible to identify which regional and sub-regional priorities (see Table 2 and sub-regional chapters) are being addressed by existing regional networks and cooperative programmes, and which priorities are not being worked out (gaps between present collaborative efforts and regional needs/priorities).
- b) **Implications for existing regional networks and regional collaborative programmes:** The second step is to make a critical assessment of the existing regional networks and other modes of regional cooperation in agricultural research and development activities, in order to determine the extent to which they have capacity to address the gaps by adjusting and/or strengthening their activities better to meet the priority needs of the region.
- c) **Development of new proposals for regional and/or global collaboration:** The gap analysis mentioned above will also identify those topics/themes that are not being covered by existing regional networks or projects, and that should lead to new proposals for collaboration at the regional and/or global level. In order to operationalize these ideas and to convert regional priorities into concrete action proposals, a core group of institutions/stakeholders interested in the respective topic should be identified along with a lead-organization, who will be responsible for taking further action and develop a viable and feasible project or action proposal. This process should involve collaborative partnerships among NARS, IARCs, NGOs, farmers' organizations, regional organizations and other stakeholders (Table 4). At the global level, these ideas could lead either to new proposals for Challenge Programmes, or for Global Partnership Programmes along the lines that GFAR is facilitating.



**Table 3: APAARI Regional Priorities and CP Proposals**

<b>Regional Priorities:</b>	<b>CP Proposals:</b>
1. NRM	Water and Agriculture
	Desertification
	Climate Change
	Mountain Agriculture
2. Genetic Resources	Climate Change
	Biofortification
	Global Genetic Resources and Genomics
	Mountain Agriculture
3. Commodity Chain Development	Biofortification
4. Meeting the Protein Demand	Animal Health and Production
	Mountain Agriculture
5. Tree and Forest Management	Water and Agriculture
	Desertification
	Climate Change
	Mountain Agriculture
6. Information Management	A common issue to all CPs
7. Capacity Development	A common issue to all CPs

**d) Funding Strategy for each new proposal:** Any new proposal should be based on a viable and sustainable funding strategy. Given the constraints in ODA (donor) funds available, these new proposals should be strongly based on cost-sharing among partners/stakeholders, who are sufficiently interested in the proposed initiative that they “buy into it” by contributing to its funding. At the same time, the requirements for the additional funding support that is required from donors should be clearly established, along with the identification of the potential regional and global donors. It is important that the collaborative programme are assured to a greater extent through self-funding

by the stakeholders since it will be easier to put such programmes on ground then to wait till we are able to mobilise the additional funding from donors.

- e) **Preparation of Guidelines for the development of proposals:** It was pointed out that in order to facilitate the above process, it was important for any stakeholder interested in presenting a proposal for a “new initiative”, either at the regional or the global level, to take into consideration the guidelines that potential donors have. This information is available from various funding organisations, and could be put on web-site by APAARI and GFAR.

**Table 4 : Proposals proposed to the CGIAR for Challenge Programmes (CPs)**

<b>Proposed CP:</b>	<b>Proponent Institution (s):</b>
Climate Change	ICRAF
Agriculture and Combating Desertification	ICRISAT, ICARDA
Global Genetic Resources: Conservation, Management and Improvement for Food and National Security, Agrobiodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods (includes Genomics)	IPGRI, CIMMYT, IRRI
Water and Agriculture	IWMI
Biofortified Crops to Combat Micronutrient Malnutrition	CIAT, IFPRI
Animal Health, Market Access, Food Safety and Poverty Reduction	ILRI, IFPRI, OIE, FAO, WB, ICLARM
Global Mountain Programme	CIP, ICRAF, ICIMOD, CONDESAN
Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food Security	ISNAR, IFPRI, WARDA, FAO
Challenge Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa	FARA
Development of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC)	ICARDA and CAC Regional Forum

## **FAO-CGIAR-APAARI Meeting**

**Chairman : Dr. Emil Q. Javier**

A special meeting of the FAO-CGIAR-APAARI was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Emile Q. Javier, Chairman, TAC, CGIAR on November 13, 2001. The officials of FAO-RAP, CGIAR institutes and APAARI secretariat participated in the meeting. After brief background information was given by the Chairman. It was mentioned that the region has fairly well developed national agricultural research system and research efforts are further made by CG and other international institutes and to some extent by the private sector. It was mentioned that with the emergence of APAARI as a strong regional forum, the research efforts have been further strengthened through the inter-NARS and NARS-CG partnerships. He appreciated the support of FAO-RAP in the agricultural development in the region and thereafter invited Dr. R.B. Singh, ADG, FAO-RAP to apprise the members regarding the ongoing activities of the FAO-RAP.

Dr. R.B. Singh, ADG, FAO-RAP presented the socio-economic and demographic account of the Asia-Pacific region. He highlighted the extent and intensity of hunger and poverty in the region and emphasized that these two need to be viewed together. Elaborating further on the activities of the FAO-RAP, it was informed that presently there are about 200 projects in 28 countries of this region including the Special Programmes For Food Security (SPFS) in sixteen countries. The overall aim of SPFS is at improving water management, crop management, and diversification and constraint analysis. Dr. Singh identified several opportunities for the cooperation between FAO and CGIAR specially in strategic planning with IRRI, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IWMI, ICRAF, ICLARM, CIP, within the region and beyond with ICARDA, IFPRI, ILRI and IPGRI specially in the areas of IPR, biosafety and biosecurity. The four thrust areas for FAO-RAP are: a) rice based livelihood system, b) biotechnology, biosafety and biodiversity c) marketing trade and WTO and d) disaster preparedness, disaster relief and global climate changes as nearly 80 % of the natural disasters occur in the region. Dr. Singh expressed that four challenge programmes of CGIAR i.e. water in agriculture, genomics, animal health and disease and global climate change are very relevant for this region. Cooperation with FAO-RAP was invited for improving rice-based livelihood system, natural resources and support systems, development of rainfed maize and to strengthen the livestock sector.

Referring to the new initiatives, mention was also made about the forthcoming APAARI-FAO Expert Consultations on Biotechnology and Agriculture in the region, wherein ISNAR, IRRI, ICRISAT, CIMMYT and GFAR participation was considered important. The other forthcoming APAARI-FAO Expert Consultation was on Agricultural Extension and cooperation by regional CG centres, and of ISNAR and IFPRI was specially sought. An assessment of FAO-CG cooperation was deemed necessary mainly to learn about the gaps of the past efforts and what additional mechanism is needed for publicizing and adoption of validated technologies from CGIAR institutions.

Dr. Stein Bie, DG, ISNAR, informed that an inventory of FAO and CGIAR cooperation is being prepared. He further said that there are several commonalities between the FAO activities and the challenge programmes of the CGIAR. There is a need to integrate the research activities of CGIAR and the development role of FAO.

Dr. Jill M. Lenne, DDG, ICRISAT, informed that ICRISAT and FAO have had a very productive functional relationship and suggested that the perspective planning process must be a joint effort. She suggested that issue of markets and marketing be also considered while undertaking the APAARI-FAO expert consultation.

Dr. Padolina, DDG, IRRI, indicated that IPM technologies for rice cultivation could form a potential area of cooperation with FAO.

Dr. Bandaragoda desired that IWMI would look forward to collaborate with FAO in the area of policy, land and water management with its recently established regional centre in Bangkok.

In response to the various observations and suggestions, Dr. R.B. Singh, ADG, FAO-RAP, assured that FAO would always be eager to cooperate with the CGIAR institutes and APAARI in the important areas that were flagged during the discussions. He expressed hope that FAO activities in CAC would get stronger with the joining of Dr. Paroda as Head, CGIAR, Programme for CAC Region. He stated that PGR is a high priority activity of FAO and desired IPGRI to develop ground level programmes. With regard to joint programmes with CIP and AVRDC, Dr. Singh desired to have collaboration for programmes in DPR Korea where the incidence of food insecurity is maximum. Finally, Dr. R.B. Singh assured the members of continued support to APAARI and invited the CG institutions for any suitable collaboration aimed at development of agriculture in the region.

Dr. R.S Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI, expressed gratitude to Dr. R.B. Singh for extending continuous support to APAARI activities in general and development of APARIS in particular through the services of an ICT specialist and also for providing facilities at APAARI Secretariat. Regarding the issue of hunger and poverty, it was mentioned that presently people in South Asia are afflicted more than any other region. In order to highlight the dimension of the problem, poverty mapping exercise is being undertaken by CG institutes and it was suggested that FAO-RAP could assist in the mapping of poverty. It was emphasized that the basic idea is to bring back agriculture on the global agenda and to attract donor support for the region. In this effort, it was proposed that APAARI could join FAO-RAP in a policy advocacy role. Similarly, GFAR and CG Centres, specially ISNAR could be involved. Also, biodiversity and related issues need to be flagged where in the CG and regional fora could be involved. It was also suggested that FAO could in future prepare TCPs, with technical backstopping from CGIAR institutes. It was also stated that a strong emphasis was need presently on strengthening of technology dissemination mechanisms in the region to check the transmission losses. It was informed that APAARI has been regularly publishing the success stories for wider sharing of proven agricultural technologies, and would like to

work with FAO to strengthen technology dissemination activities for needed agricultural development in the region.

The Chairman Dr. Javier expressed his satisfaction over the strengths and activities of major players in the region and felt that it is time to have the synergies. He also desired that FAO needs to document their on-going programmes in the form of a booklet and desired that the minutes of the meeting be brought out and circulated among all concerned.

Dr. R.B. Singh, ADG-FAO RAP finally thanked all the participants and assured of a follow up on various issues discussed in the meeting.

## THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee meeting chaired by Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota was held on November 14, 2001. Beside all the members of the Executive Committee, the representatives of member NARS, associate members and invitee organizations also participated.

### **Agenda Item No.1: Welcome Address by Executive Secretary**

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed the members to the Sixth Executive Committee meeting and expressed satisfaction over the diverse participation. It was informed that Dr. Ian Bevege, Principal Advisor, ACIAR and past Chairman of APAARI, would be retiring from ACIAR and therefore, this would be his last meeting in the official capacity. The valuable services and support provided by Dr. Bevege to strengthen APAARI activities, in general, and ICT initiative, APARIS, in particular, were duly acknowledged. As a token of long and fruitful association of Dr. Bevege, Dr. Sapkota and Dr. Paroda, on behalf of APAARI, presented a memento to him.

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Chairman's Address**

Dr. Sapkota extended warm welcome to the members and invited participants to the Sixth Executive Committee meeting. In his brief address, Dr. Sapkota urged members to work for strengthening APAARI which has emerged as an important regional forum for fostering cooperation in agricultural research. He expressed confidence in the leadership being provided to APAARI by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary. Dr. Sapkota then proposed for adoption of the agenda, which was unanimously adopted.

### **Agenda Item No.3: Action Taken Report**

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the last general assembly and the APAARI Executive Committee Mid Term Meeting, held on 22 June 2001 at New Delhi.

#### **◆ Publications**

- *Newsletter* - It was informed that the APAARI Newsletter was being regularly published. The June 2001 issue has been distributed and the December 2001 newsletter is being compiled and will be printed in time.

- *Success Story* - Rice-wheat Consortium success story is likely to be published by the year-end.

- *New Success Stories:*

The members suggested the following topics for publication of success stories during the meeting:

- Maize production - Iran
- Biological control of corn borer - Taiwan
- Diagnosis and establishment of disease free citrus seedlings -Taiwan
- Trout production –Nepal

- *Other publications:* An APAARI publication 'Status of Plant Genetic Resources and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Regional Synthesis Report' is proposed to be updated in the light of the changes that have taken place in recent years in the field of PGR. The GFAR secretariat would be approached for partial funding for publication of the status report.

#### ◆APAARI ICT Developments

The success stories published by APAARI have been posted on its website and have been put on the CD-ROM. The first CD on success Stories was released by Mr. Promote Raksarast, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Govt. Of Thailand, and the Chief Guest during the inaugural session of the Sixth Executive Meeting and the Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting on 12 November, 2001.

The recently published Country Status Report of Australia has also been posted on the website.

The nodal persons for APAARI ICT activities have been identified and steering committee on ICT is to be constituted during the next ICT meeting. It is proposed to convene a meeting of the steering committee, sometimes in the early part of 2002. Dr. Ian Bevege was requested to explore the possibility of arranging the meeting in Australia, in view of suggestions of ICT nodal points.

It was decided that APAARI ICT activities be linked with EGFAR and WAICENT.

*Resolutions on ICT from Expert Consultation:* As a follow up of the decisions taken in the ICT Session of Expert Consultation on 13 November 2001, the following resolutions were proposed by Dr. Ian Bevege :

1) APAARI endorses the ASTI project of IFPRI/ISNAR and its proposal to extend its activities into Asia-Pacific during 2002. APAARI encourages the NARS of the Region to participate in the project and collaborate with IFPRI/ISNAR data collection and processing, with information generation to be shared for the mutual benefit of all. APAARI and ASTI will develop an MOU to undertake such a joint program.

2) APAARI notes the progress of CABl in the developments of a proposal for a

Gateway Function for APARIS. APAARI endorses in principle the incorporation of a gateway function as a cornerstone of APARIS. Development and implementation should be at a pace that is within the ability of APAARI to fund. APAARI should seek external input for further development and implementation of APARIS while working with GFAR or others to ensure its long-term sustainability and complementarity to other information systems.

The above resolutions were adopted unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4: APAARI Expert Consultation**

The APAARI Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting For Agricultural Research and Development in the Asia-Pacific Region had successfully concluded on 13 November 2001. It was informed that participation in the Expert Consultation had been more than in any of the previous APAARI Expert Consultations. The positive response from CAAS, ASTI, ICBA and APAFRI was appreciated. A special mention was made about the FAO-CGIAR-APAARI meeting held on 13 November 2001 after the completion of Expert Consultation. Since all the members in the Executive Committee meeting had participated in the Expert Consultation, further details were not considered necessary.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5: Additional APAARI Activities**

##### ***APAARI Collaborative activities:***

- *FAO:* APAARI-FAO collaboration is in progress for preparation of a directory of the Asia-Pacific NARS.
- *FAO-RAP:* APAARI has signed two letters of agreement with FAO-RAP to conduct studies on Extension activities and Status of Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region. It was also decided that Mr. Malcolm Hazelman, Sr. Extension, Education and Communication Officer, Sustainable Development Department Group (RAPS), FAO-RAP would be the nodal person to undertake activities identified under the LOA on Extension.
- *CABI:* CABI is extending support in establishment of APARIS gateway function and substantial headway has been made.
- *INIBAP:* Dr. Patricio S. Faylon represented APAARI in the INIBAP meeting during September 2001, at Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was suggested that the members should also represent APAARI in the meetings of other organizations in the region.
- *IPGRI:* APAARI-IPGRI MOU was signed and the action plan is under way, which need to be expedited so that there are concrete activities on ground.



- *APAARI networks*: APAARI has continued its support for the CLAN. The functioning of TAMNET needs to be revisited in view of the fact that the CIMMYT has closed its office in Bangkok. Dr. Bevege was requested to take up the issue of TAMNET with CIMMYT, and efforts were needed to urge ADG-FAO RAP to release the locked funds to activate the functioning of TAMNET in consultation with CIMMYT.

### **Agenda Item No. 6: APAARI Secretariat**

- *ICT Manager*: In view of APAARI initiatives in ICT, particularly the development of APARIS, it was deemed necessary to extend the service contract of present ICT manager, Ms. J. Achara for the next two years. The proposal was moved by Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, seconded by Dr. Zamzam and unanimously approved by all the members.

- *Unification of APAARI Secretariat*: In order to have a better coordination and improved functioning, it was proposed to unify the APAARI secretariat by merging the office at New Delhi, India with the APAARI secretariat at FAO-RAP, Bangkok. The unification is proposed to be completed by the end 2002.

- *Executive Secretary on a regular basis*: The issue of having a regular Executive Secretary for APAARI was discussed at length. Different possibilities were deliberated upon. These were:

a) Prepare suitable terms of reference for the post of ES and by adopting a proper procedure to recruit an ES. He/she could also be a retired official from the regional NARS. However, to implement this proposal it was felt necessary to have an assured donor support failing which it may not be possible to sustain the services of a regular Executive Secretary.

b) Recruit a junior level person to serve as an Assistant Executive Secretary to work under the supervision of the Executive Secretary, selected/elected on rotational basis from the member NARS, as is being done in case of Chairman, APAARI.

c) Select a person with good IT background who could also discharge the functions of an Executive Secretary, and displace the need of IT manager to save on resources in future.

d) Request the member NARS to second a senior official from their system to serve as the Executive Secretary on tenurial basis, with supplemental support from APAARI.

In view of above suggestions, it was decided that a separate meeting of Executive Committee may be required or the issue can be deliberated again in detail in the next Expert Consultation. Responding to a suggestion as to whether GFAR could support an

ES for APAARI, Dr. Chaparro, Executive Secretary, GFAR clarified that GFAR support would be forthcoming to undertake different activities rather than the secretariat. It was felt that in the event of opting for a regular ES, it would be equally important to have first a sound funding strategy in place, rather than to deplete the resources. Till then, present arrangement which has done so well, could continue provided Dr. Paroda is persuaded to help, as in the past.

### **Agenda Item No. 7: Membership**

The issue of increasing APAARI membership was deliberated at length. It was informed that New Zealand is likely to join as a regular member. The NARS have undergone restructuring recently and it remains to be decided as to which of their institutions would enroll for APAARI membership.

The members appreciated the decision of BAR, Philippines to renew its APAARI membership.

Efforts have also been made for enrollment of AARD and CGPRT, Indonesia and ICBA, Dubai, UAE, for the associate membership.

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has already expressed the desire to join APAARI as a regular member in the near future.

Dr. Ian Bevege informed that New Caledonia was also willing to join APAARI. It was suggested that some more funds might be required to attract the participation of NARS willing to join APAARI such as Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar etc. There was a general agreement to support such NARS/NARIs in the region who are willing to participate in the APAARI activities but are unable to bear the annual membership fee. For such institutions, it was suggested that these could be initially invited as observers in the meetings with APAARI support. A point of consideration was to reduce the membership fee to US\$ 1000/ per annum for such members to join in future. The issue would be further discussed in the APAARI Executive Committee or the General Assembly meeting to be held in 2002.

In the Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting, ASTI, a joint program of ISNAR & IFPRI, was represented. Hence, efforts be made through ASTI to enroll IFPRI as an associate member of APAARI.

*Reciprocal Membership:* The issue of APAARI and other regional fora/bodies recognizing each other as associate members of respective fora/associations etc. on reciprocal basis was discussed. It was agreed that other regional fora/ organizations such as APAFRI, NACA, APSA, FARA, FORAGRO, AREENENA etc. be approached to become the associate members with the understanding that the annual membership fee will be mutually waived. This would enhance participation /interaction between and among the fora.

### **Agenda Item No. 8: Action Plan for 2002-2003**

Publication Enhancement: Newsletter; Success Stories; Scientific/Technical Reports etc.

- Developing APARIS: as an Agricultural Information Network in the Region
- Organization of Expert Consultations on Agricultural Biotechnology and Agricultural Extension with partnership of FAO-RAP
- Facilitating various on-going Regional Networks
- Organizing Seventh General Assembly and Expert Consultation

### **Agenda Item No 9: Financial Status and Programme Budget For The Year 2002-03**

The financial status of APAARI was received with appreciation. It was informed that the fixed deposit in bank was likely to be around US\$ 700,000. The membership contribution has been regular so far. BAR, Philippines has renewed its membership after three years. The requests have been conveyed through the respective representatives to Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and PCAARD for payment of membership dues and to PARC and MARDI to enhance their membership.

It was brought to the notice of the members that while pursuing the routine and targeted activities of APAARI, the expenditure remained within the sanctioned budget. Membership status and audited statement of accounts were reviewed and endorsed.

### **Agenda Item No. 10: Seventh General Assembly and Expert Consultation**

The theme of next Expert consultation would be – Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia. The venue would be decided by the APAARI Executive Committee in its meeting early next year. Members were requested to send their offer to host the next meeting to the Secretariat as early as possible.

In order to prepare better for the event, Dr. Fernando Chaparro suggested that for the Asia-Pacific region, an analysis of the ongoing research partnerships vis-à-vis research priorities needs to be done. The priorities also need to be assessed in relation to the Challenge Programme of the CG. This could be achieved by instituting a detailed review subsequently.

### **Agenda Item No. 11: Any other item**

### **Clarification on Taiwan membership**

With the permission of the Chair, the issue of reservation expressed by CAAS, China about COA, to be mentioned as PR China was discussed. The members at the outset made it clear that APAARI is primarily a non-political forum and the members are either NARS or ARIs and not the countries. It was also informed that in the Expert Consultation preceding the Executive Committee Meeting, all the members were identified only by the organization they represented and not by the country. The members desired that the CAAS authorities be requested to join APAARI and efforts be made by all to maintain the present apolitical structure of APAARI.

### **Partnership with other regional fora**

**APAFRI:** The members were welcomed in the Executive Committee meeting. Dr. S. Appanah, FAO-RAP at the very outset conveyed the message of good wishes from Chairman APAFRI and his regrets for not being able to attend the Expert Consultation. Dr. S. Appanah, appreciated the steady growth of APAARI and expressed desire to restructure the APAFRI functioning by learning from its experiences. It was agreed that APAARI and APAFRI would henceforth ensure participation in each other's activities. It was mutually agreed that success stories on agro-forestry could be published by APAFRI or jointly with APAARI on cost sharing basis.

**APSA:** The participation of Dr.J.S. Sindhu, Executive Director was welcomed. It was expected that through APSA, private institutions could be associated actively in APAARI activities in future and could be invited to join as regular members in order to diversify the stakeholders.

### **Network Reports**

The report of the Fifth meeting of CORRA was held from 10-11 November 2001 at Bangkok. Dr. William G. Padolina, DDG, IRRI presented the report, details of which are provided in Appendix-I.

The representatives from NACA and ICLARM could not participate but had sent their brief reports on their activities. The same are given in Appendix-II and III, respectively.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to all the members for their participation by Dr. J. Kumar, Vice Chairman, APAARI.



**THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI  
&  
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING FOR  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ASIA- PACIFIC REGION**

**12-14 November 2001  
Venue: Rama Gardens Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**PROGRAMME**

**November 12, 2001**

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>	
09:00 – 10:20	<b>Inaugural Session</b> <i>Chairman : Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota</i> <i>Co-Chairman: Dr. Narongsak Senanarong</i>	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Address	<i>Dr. Narongsak Senanarong</i> <i>Director General, DOA, Thailand</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Objectives of the Expert Consultation	<i>Dr. R.S. Paroda,</i> <i>Executive Secretary, APAARI</i>
09:20 – 09:35	Chairman's Address	<i>Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota</i> <i>Chairman, APAARI</i>
09:30 – 09:40	Importance of Research Priority Setting-a global initiative	<i>Dr. Fernando Chaparro,</i> <i>Executive Secretary, GFAR</i>
09:40 – 09:50	Release of Publications and TAC initiatives on research prioritization	<i>Dr. Emil Q. Javier,</i> <i>Chairman, TAC</i>
09:50 – 10:00	Address by the Chief Guest	<i>Mr. Pramote Raksarast,</i> <i>Deputy Permanent Secretary,</i> <i>Ministry of Agriculture, Thailand</i>
10:00 – 10:10	Address by the Special Guest	<i>Dr. R. B. Singh,</i> <i>Assist. Director General, FAO-RAP</i>
10:10 – 10:15	Vote of Thanks	<i>Mr.P.K.Saha,</i> <i>FAO-RAP, APAARI</i>

10:15 – 10:20      Group Photograph

10:20 – 10:45      Tea

***Session I. Synthesis Reports of ARD Priority Setting Meetings***

***Chairman: Dr. Stein W. Bie***

***Co-Chairman: Dr. Abbas Keshavarz***

10:45 – 11:10	South and West Asia	<i>Dr. Suresh Pal</i>
11:10 – 11:35	Pacific Region	<i>Dr. R.D. Ghodake</i>
11:35 – 12:00	East and South East Asia	<i>Dr. P. S. Faylon</i>
12:00 – 12:20	China	<i>Dr. Y. Wang</i>
12:20 – 13:00	Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	

***Session II. ARD Priorities by International Centres in the Asia-Pacific Region***

***Chairman: Dr. Emil Q. Javier***

***Co-Chairman: Dr. Ian Bevege***

14:00 – 14:15	ICRISAT	<i>Dr. Jill Lenne</i>
14:15 – 14:30	IRRI	<i>Dr. William G. Padolina</i>
14:30 – 14:45	ICARDA	<i>Dr. Abderrezak Belaid</i>
14:45 – 15:00	IPGRI	<i>Dr. V. Ramanatha Rao</i>
15:00 – 15:15	IWMI	<i>Dr. Tissa Bandaragoda</i>
15:15 – 15:30	ILRI	<i>Dr. C. Devendra</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Tea	
16:00 – 16:15	CIP	<i>Dr. S. Ilangantileke</i>
16:15 – 16:30	ISNAR	<i>Dr. Stein W. Bie</i>
16:30 – 16:45	AVRDC	<i>Dr. Goerge Kuo</i>
16:45 – 17:00	ICIMOD	<i>Dr. J. Campbell</i>
17:00 – 17:15	ICBA	<i>Dr. Faisal Taha</i>
17:15 – 18:00	Discussion and formation of subgroups	
	Group I: South & West Asia	<i>Facilitators</i> <i>Dr. Jill M. Lenne</i>
	Group II: East & South East Asia	<i>Dr. P. S. Faylon</i>
	Group III: Pacific Region	<i>Dr. Ian Bevege</i>

19:30

**Dinner Hosted by APAARI**

**November 13, 2001**

***Group Meetings***

08:30 – 10:30 Meeting of the three Sub-Groups  
10:30 – 11:00 Tea

***Session III. Presentation of Group Reports***

***Chairman:*** Dr. Fernando Chaparro, GFAR

11:00 – 11:30 South & West Asia  
11:30 – 12:00 East & South East Asia  
12:00 – 12:30 Pacific Region  
12:30 – 13:30 General Discussion  
13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

***Session IV. Information System – APARIS***

***Chairman:*** Dr. Dennis Blight, CABI

***Co-Chairman:*** Dr. Ian Bevege, ACIAR

15:00 – 15:20 An up-date on APARIS  
15:20 – 15:40 An up-date on EGFAR  
15:40 – 16:00 Information regarding ASTI  
16:00 – 16:30 Discussion  
16:30 – 17:00 Tea

*Ms. Jantarsaengaram Achara, APAARI*

*Dr. Fernando Chaparro, GFAR*

*Dr. Nienke M. Beintema, IFPRI*

***Plenary Session***

***Chairman*** : Dr. R.S.Paroda

***Co-Chairman*** : Dr. J. Kumar

17:00 – 18:00 Major Recommendations and Action Plan

**November 14, 2001**

09:00 – 13:00 ***The Sixth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI***

*Chairman:* Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota

*Co-Chairman:* Dr. J.Kumar

***Executive Secretary:*** Dr. R.S. Paroda



- Welcome by the Chairman
- Introduction to Agenda
- Discussion on Agenda Items
- Partnership with other Regional Fora

Speakers: *Dr. Alias Abdul Jalil, APAFRI*  
*Dr. J. S. Sindhu, APSA*

- A report on CORRA *Dr. William G. Padolina, IRRI*
- Any other item
- Vote of Thanks

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 17:00

Field visit (To be organized by DOA)

## ANNEXURE-II

**The Sixth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI  
 And Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting  
 FAORAP, Bangkok, Thailand,  
 12-14 November 2001**



### List of Participants

#### MEMBERS

##### AUSTRALIA

Dr. Ian Bevege  
 Principal Advisor  
 Australian Centre for International  
 Agricultural Research (ACIAR)  
 PO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2617  
 Australia

Tel : ++61-2-62170500  
 Fax : ++61-2-62170501  
 e-mail : [bevege@aciar.gov.au](mailto:bevege@aciar.gov.au)  
 bevege@apaari.org

##### BANGLADESH

Dr. Nurul Hoque Choudhury  
 Executive Chairman  
 BARC - Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council  
 Farm Gate, New Airport Road  
 - Dhaka,  
 Bangladesh

Tel : ++880-2-814032  
 Fax : ++880-2-813032  
 e-mail : [barc@bdmail.net](mailto:barc@bdmail.net)

##### FIJI

Dr. J. Kumar  
 Director of Research  
 Ministry of Primary Industries,  
 Forestry and Cooperatives  
 Koronivia Research Station  
 P.O. Box 77, Nausori,  
 Fiji

Tel : ++679-477044/478045  
 Fax : ++679-400262 / 385234  
 e-mail : [jkumar@is.com.fj](mailto:jkumar@is.com.fj)

## **INDIA**

Dr. V.K. Patil  
Vice Chancellor  
Indira Gandhi Agricultural University  
Raipur 492 012, Chattisgarh  
India

Tel : ++91-0771-425219  
Fax : ++91-0771-424532  
e-mail : vk\_patil @ yahoo.com

Dr. Suresh Pal  
Senior Scientist  
NCAP, Library Avenue, Pusa Campus,  
New Delhi 110 012  
India

Tel : 91-11-5713628/5819731  
Fax : 91-5822684  
e-mail :Suresh\_ncap@iasri.delhi.nic.in

## **IRAN**

Dr. Abbas Keshavarz  
Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture Jihad,  
AREEO - Agricultural Research Education  
and Extension Organization  
P.O. Box 111, 19835 Tehran  
Iran

Tel : ++982-1-3130737  
Fax : ++982-1-2400568  
e-mail : AREEO@asid.moa.or.ir

## **JAPAN**

Dr. Tetsushi Hidaka  
International Research Coordinator,  
Research Information Division  
JIRCAS - Japan International Research Centre  
for Agricultural Sciences  
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries  
1-1, Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8686  
Japan

Tel : ++81-298-38-6346  
Fax : ++81-298-38-6342  
e-mail : thidaca@affrc.go.jp

## **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Dr. Hae Chune Choi  
Deputy Director  
Rural Development Administration –  
International Technical Cooperation Centre  
250 Seodundong Suweon  
441 707 Kyeonggido  
Republic of Korea

Tel : ++031-290-6635  
Fax : ++031-295-5410  
e-mail : hcchoi@rda.go.kr

## **MALAYSIA**

Dr. Ahmad Zamzam B. Mohammed  
MARDI - Malaysian Agricultural and  
Research Development Institute  
Box 12301, 50774 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia

Tel : ++03-89486817  
Fax : ++89483664  
e-mail : zamzam@mardi.my

## **NEPAL**

Dr. Raghu Nath Sapkota  
Executive Director

Tel : 977-1-256837  
Fax : 977-1-262500

NARC - Nepal Agricultural Research Council  
Singha Durbar Plaza, Ramshah Path,  
PO Box: 1440,  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

e-mail : ednarc@ntc.net.np

## PAKISTAN

Dr. Inayatullah Khan  
Rice Commissioner  
Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock  
Pakistan

Tel : ++051-9201270  
Fax : ++051-9221246  
e-mail : iuk@Agri.isb.sdnpk.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dr. R. D. Ghodake  
Deputy Director General  
NARI - National Agricultural Research Institute  
2nd Floor, Vele Rumana, Box 4415, Lne  
Lae 411, Morobe Province  
Papua New Guinea

Tel : 00675-4721751  
Fax : 00675-4722242  
e-mail : nariddg@online.net.pg

## PHILIPPINES

Dr. P.S. Faylon  
Executive Director  
PCCARD - Philippine Council for Agriculture,  
Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development  
Los Banos, Laguna 3932  
Manila,  
Philippines

Tel : ++94-5360014 to 20  
Fax : ++94-5360132  
e-mail [pcarrd@ultra.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph](mailto:pcarrd@ultra.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph)

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce  
Director  
Bureau of Agricultural Research  
Department of Agriculture, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor ATI Building  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City  
Philippines

Tel : 920 0239 / 928 88 14  
Fax : 0063 2 972 56 91  
e-mail : ponce@pacific.net.ph

Mr. Victoriao Guiam  
Chief, International Relations Division,  
Bureau of Agricultural Research,  
Department of Agriculture, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ATI Building,  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City,  
Philippines

Tel : 920 0239 / 928 88 14  
Fax : 0063 2 972 56 91  
e-mail : vguiam@bar.gov.ph

## TAIWAN

Dr. Su-San Chang  
Senior Specialist and Division Chief  
Council of Agriculture,

Tel : ++886 2 2312-4004  
Fax : ++886-2-2312-3827  
e-mail : susan@mail.coa.gov.tw

37 Nanhai Road,  
Taipei 100, Taiwan

## **THAILAND**

Mr. Narongsak Senanarong  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Agriculture  
Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak  
Bangkok 10900  
Thailand

Tel : ++662-5790586 / 5799838  
Fax : ++662-9405528 / 2815955  
e-mail : narongsak@doa.go.th

Mr. Pramote Raksarast  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Ratchadamneon Nok. AVN.  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel : 66-2-282 4190  
Fax : 66-2-281 8433

## **VIETNAM**

Dr. Nguyen Huu Nghia  
Director General  
Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute  
Van Dien, Hanoi,  
Vietnam

Tel : ++844-8615556  
Fax : ++844-8613937  
e-mail : vasi@hn.vnn.vn

## **WESTERN SAMOA**

Mr. Albert Peters  
Assistant Director, Crops  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology  
P.O. Box 1874, Apia  
Western Samoa

Tel : ++685-20605 / 23416  
Fax : ++685-23996  
e-mail : [apeters@lesamoa.net](mailto:apeters@lesamoa.net)

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

### **ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT)**

Dr. Gajendra Singh  
Professor and Dean  
AIT Extension, P.O.Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Tel : ++662-524-5450  
Fax : ++662-524-6200  
e-mail : [singhg@ait.ac.th](mailto:singhg@ait.ac.th)

### **ASIA-PACIFIC SEED ASSOCIATION (APSA)**

Dr. J.S. Sindhu  
Executive Director  
APSA - Asia-Pacific Seed Association,  
Kasetsart P.O. Box 1030

Tel : 66-2-940 5064  
Fax : 66 2-940 5467  
e-mail : [director@apsaseed.com](mailto:director@apsaseed.com)

Bangkok 10903 ,  
Thailand

**ASIAN VEGETABLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (AVRDC)**

Dr. G.C. Kuo  
Program III Director  
AVRDC - Asian Vegetable Research  
and Development Centre  
P.O. Box 42, Shanhua  
Tainan 74199  
Taiwan

Tel : ++886-6-583 7801  
Fax : ++886-6-583 0009  
e-mail : gkuo@netra.avrdc.org.tw

**CAB INTERNATIONAL (CABI)**

Dr. Dennis Blight  
Director General  
CAB International  
Wallingford, Oxon  
OC10 8DE,  
United Kingdom

Tel : ++440-1491-832-111  
Fax : ++440-1491-829-465  
e-mail : corporate@cabi.org

Felmer Emmanuel A. Cagampang  
Information Officer  
CAB International South East Asia Region Centre  
Glasshouse No. 2 (Black G) MARDI, Serdang  
Selangor Malaysia  
Postal: PO Box 210 UPM Serdang Selango,  
Malaysia

Tel : 603-8943 2921  
Fax: : 603- 8943 6400  
e-mail : dondi@cabi.org

**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT (ICIMOD)**

Dr. J. Campbell  
Director General  
ICIMOD - International Centre for Integrated  
Mountain Development  
4/80 Jawalakhel, P.O. Box 3226  
Kathmandu,  
Nepal

Tel : ++977-1-525-313  
Fax : ++977-1 524-509/524317  
e-mail : icimod@icimod.org.np

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ISNAR)**

Dr. Stein W. Bie  
Director General  
ISNAR  
P.O.Box 93375  
2509 AJ The Hague  
The Netherlands

Tel : ++31-70-3496206  
Fax : ++31-70-3819677  
e-mail : s.bie@cgiar.org

Dr. M.M. Rahman  
ISNAR Representative in Asia,

Tel : ++63-2-5362707  
Fax : ++63-2-845-0606

C/o. IRRI,  
DAPO Box 7777,  
Metro Manila,  
Philippines

e-mail : m.mrahman@cgiar.org

Ms. Yan Liang Tel  
ISNAR Representative in Asia,  
C/o. IRRI,  
DAPO Box 7777,  
Metro Manila,  
Philippines

Tel : ++63-2-5362707  
Fax : ++63-2-845-0606

#### **INTERNATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (IWMI)**

Dr. Tissa Bandaragoda  
Regional Director, South East Asia  
IWMI - International Water Management Institute  
P.O. Box 1025, Kasetsart University  
Bangkok,  
Thailand

Tel : 66-2-5614433  
Fax : 66-2-5611230  
e-mail : dj.bandaragoda@cgiar.org

#### **INTERNATIONAL CROP RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT)**

Dr. Jullian M Lenne  
Deputy Director General  
ICRISAT - International Crops Research Institute  
for the Semi-Arid Tropics  
Patancheru, 502 324  
Andhra Pradesh  
India

Tel : 91-40-3296161  
Fax : 91-40-3241239  
e-mail : j.lenne@cgiar.org

#### **INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ILRI)**

Dr. C. Devendra  
Regional Director,  
ILRI - International Livestock Research Institute  
South East Asia Team  
C/o 130-A Jalan Awam Jawa  
58200 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Tel : ++603-7983-7935  
Fax : ++603-7983-9307  
e-mail : cdev@pc.jaring.my

#### **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)**

Dr. Abderrezak Belaid  
Socio-Economist  
ICARDA - International Centre for Agricultural  
Research in the Dry Areas  
P.O. Box 5466  
Aleppo  
Syrian Arab Republic

Tel : ++963-21-2213433/2225012  
Fax : ++963-21-2213490  
e-mail : ICARDA@cgnnet.com

#### **INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI)**

Dr. William G. Padolina

Tel : ++63-2-845-0563

Deputy Director General for Partnerships  
IRRI - International Rice Research Institute  
Box 933, 1099 Manila  
Philippines

Fax : ++63-2-8450606  
e-mail : w.padolina@cgiar

#### **INTERNATIONAL PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE (IPGRI)**

Dr. V. Ramanatha Rao  
Senior Scientist  
Regional Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania (APO)  
IPGRI - International Plant Genetic Resources Institute  
P.O. Box 236, UPM Post Office  
43400 Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Malaysia

Tel : ++603-89423891-4  
Fax : ++603-89487655  
e-mail : v.rao@cgiar.org

### **OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS (ASTI) INITIATIVE**

Coordinator Ms. Nienke M. Beintema Fax: 202-467-4439  
IFPRI/ISNAR – ASTI Initiative  
2033 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1002  
U.S.A.

#### **APAFRI - ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Dr. Alias Abdul Jalil  
Executive Director  
APAFRI Secretariat  
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
Kepong, 52109, Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Tel : 603-6272 2516  
Fax : 603-6277 3249  
e-mail : [alias@apafri.upm.edu.my](mailto:alias@apafri.upm.edu.my)

Dr. Daniel K. Baskaran  
Executive Secretary  
APAFRI, c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia  
Kepong, 52109, Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Tel : 603-6302101  
Fax : 603-6367753  
e-mail : [baskaran@frim.gov.my](mailto:baskaran@frim.gov.my)

#### **CIP - CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE LA PAPA**

Dr. Sarath Ilangantileke  
Regional Director for South and West Asia of the  
International Potato Centre  
IARI Pus Campus  
New Delhi, 110 012  
India

Tel : +91-5850201  
Fax : +91 5731481  
e-mail : [cip-delhi@cgiar.org](mailto:cip-delhi@cgiar.org)

## **ICBA - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE**

Prof. Faisal Taha  
Director (Technical Programs)  
International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA),  
P.O. Box 14660, Dubai,  
United Arab Emirates

Tel : +971 (-4) –3361100  
Fax : +971 (-4) –3361155  
e-mail : f.taha@biosaline.org.ae:

## **TAC – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CGIAR**

Dr. Emil Q. Javier  
TAC Chairman,  
University of Philippines, Institute of Plant Breeding,  
Los Banos, Laguna 4031,  
Philippine

Tel : ++6349-5365285  
Fax : ++6349-5365286  
e-mail : em.l.Javier@cgiar.ogr

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

Dr. R.B. Singh  
Assistant Director General /  
FAO Resident Representative  
FAO-RAP, 39, Phra Atit Road  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974000  
Fax : ++662-6974445  
e-mail : rb.singh@fao.org

Dr. Dong Qingsong  
Deputy Regional Representative  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
39 Phra Atit Road,  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974000  
Fax : ++662-6974445  
e-mail : FAO-RAPA@fao.org

Dr. Malcom Hazelman  
Senior Extension, Education  
and Communication Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
39 Phra Atit Road,  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974000  
Fax : ++662-6974445  
e-mail : Malcolm.Hazelman@fao.org

Dr. Simmathiri Appanah  
CTA (FORSPA),  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
39 Phra Atit Road,  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974000  
Fax : ++662-6974445  
e-mail : Simmathiri.Appanah@fao.org

## **GLOBAL FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (GFAR)**

Dr. Fernando Chaparro  
Executive Secretary  
SDRR (GFAR Secretariat)  
FAO HQs (SDRR), Rome,  
Italy

Tel : ++3906-57053352  
Fax : ++3906-57053898  
e-mail : Fernando.Chaparro@fao.org

## **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR UNDERUTILIZED CROPS (ICUC)**

Dr. Nazmul Haq

Tel : ++441-703-594229



Director  
International Centre for Underutilized Crops  
Institute of Irrigation and Development Studies  
University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ  
United Kingdom

Fax : ++441-703-677519  
e-mail : Haq@soton.ac.uk

### **CAAS - CHINESE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Yi Wang  
Associate Professor  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences,  
No. 30 Baishi Qial Lu, HaiDian District,  
Beijing 100081,  
China

Tel : (86) 10-62185181  
Fax : (86) 10-62174060  
e-mail : [icd@sun.ihep.ac.cn](mailto:icd@sun.ihep.ac.cn)

### **SEARCHA**

Dr. Alexander G. Flor  
Program Officer, Knowledge Mgt. Program  
Head, Consulting,  
Los Banos, Laguna  
Philippines

Tel : 6349-536 2817  
Fax: 6349-536 2914  
e-mail : [agf@agri.searcha.org](mailto:agf@agri.searcha.org)

### **APAARI SECRETARIAT**

Dr. R.S. Paroda  
**Executive Secretary (APAARI),**  
ICARDA-CAC, P.O. Box 4564,  
Tashkent 700 000,  
Uzbekistan

Tel : +998-71-1372169/1372130  
Fax : +998-71-1207125  
e-mail : [cac-tashkent@icarda.org.uz](mailto:cac-tashkent@icarda.org.uz)

Mr. P.K. Saha  
Technical Officer (Plant Protection, FAO)  
and Liaison Officer (APAARI)  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
39, Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200,  
Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974000  
Fax : ++662-6974445  
e-mail : [pjushkanti.saha@fao.org](mailto:pjushkanti.saha@fao.org)

Ms. Achara Jantarasaengaram  
IT Manager  
APAARI - Asia Pacific Association of  
Agricultural Research Institutions  
FAORAP, Bangkok,  
Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974372  
Fax : ++662-6974408  
e-mail : [achara@apaari.org](mailto:achara@apaari.org)

Ms. Urairat Rujirek  
APAARI Secretary  
APAARI - Asia Pacific Association of  
Agricultural Research Institutions  
C/o FAORAP, Bangkok 10200,  
Thailand

Tel : ++622-6974371  
Fax : ++662-6974408  
e-mail : [urairat@apaari.org](mailto:urairat@apaari.org)

Dr. A.K. Bawa  
Scientific Officer (APAARI),

Tel : 91-4628877/4693060  
Fax : 91-4620115

c/o FAO, 55 Lodi Estate  
New Delhi 110 003  
India

e-mail : [FAO-IND@field.fao.org](mailto:FAO-IND@field.fao.org)  
[bawa@apaari.org](mailto:bawa@apaari.org)

### OBSERVERS

Dr. Turnjit Satayavirut  
Entomologist  
Department of Agriculture  
Entomology and Zoology Division  
Bangkhen, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Tel : 66-2-579 5583  
e-mail : [turnjits@doa.go.th](mailto:turnjits@doa.go.th)

Dr. Natavudh Bhasavavan  
Director, Planning and Technical Division  
Department of Agriculture  
Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Tel : 66-2-9405480, 9405479  
Fax : 66-2-5795246  
e-mail : [Natavudh@doa.go.th](mailto:Natavudh@doa.go.th)

Dr. Songpol Somsri  
Horticulture Research Institute  
Department of Agriculture, Chatuchak 10900  
Thailand

Tel : 66-2-5790583 Ext. 121  
Fax : 66-2-5799545

Dr. Samaporn Sheehan  
Acting Chief, Foreign Project Sub-Division  
Department of Agriculture  
Planning and Technical Division  
Bangkok, 10900 Thailand

Tel : 66-2-561 4669  
Fax : 66-2-561 5024  
e-mail : [samaporn@doa.go.th](mailto:samaporn@doa.go.th)

Dr. Sanayh Kraokaw  
Senior Agronomist  
Field Crops Research Institute  
Department of Agriculture  
Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900  
Thailand

Tel : 66-2-5793930-3  
e-mail : [sanayh\\_k@hotmail.com](mailto:sanayh_k@hotmail.com)

Mr. Anan Ponvatana  
Rice Research Institute  
Department of Agriculture  
Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak  
Thailand

Tel : 66-2-9406548  
Fax : 66-2-5611732  
e-mail : [ananpl@hotmail.com](mailto:ananpl@hotmail.com)

Dr.(Ms.) Margaret C. Yoovatana  
Plan and Policy Analyst  
Department of Agriculture  
Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak  
Thailand

Tel : 662 5799636  
Fax : 662 9405528  
e-mail : [magaret@doa.go.th](mailto:magaret@doa.go.th)

**ANNEXURE-III**



**THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI  
AND  
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING  
FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ASIA- PACIFIC REGION**

**Rama Gardens Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand  
12-14, November 2001**

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**Agenda for the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting**

1. Welcome address by the Executive Secretary and Introduction to the Agenda
2. Address by the Chairman, APAARI
3. Action Taken Report
  - APAARI Publications
  - APAARI ICT Developments
  - Mid -Term Executive Committee Meeting
4. APAARI Expert Consultation
5. Additional APAARI Activities
6. APAARI Secretariat
7. Membership
8. Action Plan for 2002-2003
9. Financial Status and Programme Budget for the Biennium 2002-2003
10. Seventh General Assembly
  - Any other item



**THE SIXTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI  
AND  
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL PRIORITY SETTING  
FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ASIA- PACIFIC REGION**

**Rama Gardens Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand  
12-14 November 2001**

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**Agenda Notes**

**Agenda Item No.1 : Welcome Address**

**Agenda Item No.2 : Chairman's Address**

**Agenda Item No.3 : Action Taken Report**

**- APAARI Publications**

**- *Newsletter***

The December 2000 and June 2001 issues of APAARI Newsletter were published and widely distributed among members, interested organizations, scientists, policy makers etc. A good response was received from members who contributed news items relating to agricultural research and development. The issues were well received. It also affirmed that for the free flow of information, this initiative of APAARI should continue. The next issue of December 2001 is being processed.

**- *Success Stories***

- Farming of Carrageenophytes in the Philippines - A Success Story Of Red Seaweeds Cultivation by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III was published by APAARI and widely disseminated.

- The Rice-wheat consortium (RWC), commissioned by NARS of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh is a NARS driven eco-regional initiative. The RWC has successfully developed Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) for the Indo-

Gangetic Plains, that has been widely adopted. In recognition of the useful technologies developed jointly, RWC has been awarded “CGIAR Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Scientific Partnership”. The success story of RWC is being processed for publication.

- Further requests have been sent again to IRRI to suggest suitable topics and resource persons for writing success story on Rice Cultivation in Mekong Delta and to ICLARM for processing the success story “Successful Research and Development of Integrated Agriculture-Crop-Livestock Farming System in Vietnam. Further Dr. S.K Vasal, Regional Asian Maize Programme is preparing a manual on Hybrid Maize Technology for benefit of the regional, NARS in the region.
- For publication of more diversified success stories, fresh requests have been sent to International Centre for Research in Agro-forestry (ICRAF) to contribute materials on success of multi-purpose tree species; to International Water Management Institute (IWMI) for the research on water management; JIRCAS/NARC, Nepal for their achievements in development of cold water fisheries and to ACIAR for the breakthrough in control of New Castle disease of poultry.

#### **- *Proceedings***

- Expert Consultation on Development of an Asia Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) from . 6-7 November 2000 and
- Expert Consultation on Implementing APAARI Vision 2025 Agricultural Research For Development In the Asia - Pacific Region and;
- The Sixth General Assembly, held from 8-10 November 2000, at Chiang Rai, Thailand, were published and widely disseminated.

The country reports presented at the ICT meeting are being edited for printing.

#### **- *Other Publications***

##### **APAARI - A Decade of Progress**

APAARI since its inception in 1990 has completed ten fruitful years of its existence. The activities of the Association, as per its mission and objectives are complimentary to NARS needs and priorities, vis-à-vis overall regional collaboration for agricultural research and development of the Asia-Pacific. APAARI has been successful in promoting regional collaboration/coordination, human resource development, policy advocacy and resource generation, publication enhancement and increasing awareness through information dissemination. The growth, activities and achievements of APAARI were published during the year in form of a booklet entitled ” APAARI - A Decade of Progress”.

## Revision of Regional Synthesis Report on PGR

In view of several national/sub-regional/regional and international meetings, workshops in the region held during the last three years and other related developments, it is felt that updating of data in PGR status of national programmes is necessary. In this context, it is proposed to revise the FAO-APAARI publication "Status Of Plant Genetic Resources and Conservation And Utilization In The Asia-Pacific Region - Regional Synthesis Report " that was earlier undertaken in 1997-98 and published by APAARI with support of FAO.

## **APAARI ICT Developments**

The ICT activities of APAARI have considerably increased over last one year. Some of these include:

### ***- Collaboration with FAO and CABI in Information Networking***

A concept paper on the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Regional Agricultural Information System (APARIS) has been prepared jointly with FAO-RAP and CABI. Such a system should make research information and knowledge interactively available to member NARS and other partners. Components of an APARIS would be a gateway to different resources available in the region and e-mail conferencing facilities available to all stakeholders in ARD.

### ***- APAARI Update***

A bi-monthly APAARI Update has become regular feature. A wide coverage is given to the activities of APAARI and also those undertaken by the APAARI member NARS and associate members.

### ***- APAARI publications on Website***

The APAARI publications a) APAARI: A Decade of Progress b) APAARI Newsletter - June 2001, and c) APAARI Success Stories have been transformed into electronic documents and posted on the website.

### ***- Success Stories CD-ROM***

The Success Stories published by APAARI have also been made available on CD-ROM

### ***- On-line Database***

An On-line Database was developed using database programming in order to create database for keeping contact details of R&D associations and networks in the Asia-Pacific region.

Some of the future activities include a regular update of APAARI website, to serve as a focal point in information dissemination and knowledge exchange, coordinate with concerned organizations in providing support for the development of APARIS and organization of ICT Steering Committee meeting and a workshop early next year involving all national ICT nodal officers.

### **MTM of APAARI Executive Committee**

A Mid Term Meeting of the APAARI Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Dhruva Joshy was held on June 22, 2001 at ICRISAT Office, New Delhi. It was attended by other members, Dr. Ian Bevege, Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, and Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI and invitees, Mr. P.K.Saha and Dr. R.K. Arora. The overall progress was reviewed and the minutes of the meeting were circulated to the members.

### **Agenda Item No 4 : APAARI Expert Consultation**

It was proposed that APAARI hold the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting and Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting from 12-14 November 2001 at Islamabad, Pakistan. Due to certain unforeseen developments, the venue of the meeting had to be shifted to Bangkok from Islamabad. Dr. Umar Khan Baloch, Chairman, PARC had extended his full support and cooperation to organize the meeting. APAARI gratefully acknowledges the efforts made by PARC to conduct this meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Additional APAARI Activities**

#### **APAARI Collaboration (ARD, Networks, Meetings etc.)**

##### **- *FAO***

APAARI is collaborating with Research and Technology Development Service (SDRR) of FAO to update Asia-Pacific NARS directory. The results of the exercise will be a shared propriety of APAARI and FAO. APAARI is facilitating in collection of information. Once ready, the directory will be made available on web site of APAARI. A questionnaire has been circulated to collect information from the regional NARS.

##### **- *IPGRI***

Under the Memorandum of understanding between the APAARI and IPGRI, work plan has been developed to undertake and encourage PGR activities in the region including collection and exchange of information and documentation, also involving PGR networks.

**- CLAN**

APAARI provided funding support for the ICRISAT based CLAN for the activities scheduled during 2000-2001.

**- FAO-RAP**

APAARI has signed the following Letters of Agreement with FAO-RAP.

*I) Agricultural Extension*

APAARI has signed a letter of agreement (LOA) with FAORAP wherein the FAO will provide a financial assistance of US\$ 30,000 (Thirty Thousand) in support of studies and a regional consultation on agricultural extension; research-extension-farmer interface and technology transfer in collaboration with APAARI.

The activities would include preparation of studies by consultant writers on the agricultural extension and technology transfer systems existing in select countries in the Asia-Pacific with special reference to R-E-F interfaces. These would be followed by organization and implementation of a regional technical consultation for wider sharing of studies.

*II) Biotechnology*

APAARI has signed a letter of agreement (LOA) with FAO-RAP wherein the FAO will provide a financial assistance of US\$ 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) in support of studies and a regional consultation relating to biotechnology with selected countries in Asia in close collaboration with APAARI (including a financial contribution of US\$ 12,000).

Under the agreement, studies would be undertaken to assess the needs and capacity of countries in Asia pertaining to biotechnology covering assessment of the positive effects including the areas of potential concern, policy advice, training and HRD, identification of institutions and individuals involved in biotechnology, including their strengths and specialties. An expert consultation would be organized.

The action has been initiated on both above-mentioned initiatives.

**- CABI**

Jointly with FAO, CABI is assisting APAARI in the development of APARIS; APAARI is a co-sponsor of CABI organized ICT meeting at Beijing in November 2001.

**- GFAR**



- Dr. Dhruva Joshy, Chairman APAARI participated in the GFAR NARS-SC meeting during May 2001 at Durban, South Africa and made a presentation on ARD Priorities in the Asia-Pacific: APAARI's Initiatives. The presentation highlighted APAARI's strengths, strategies and action plan, ARD priority setting by NARS and laid emphasis on salient features of APAARI Vision 2025 addressing new strategies for ARD.
- Dr. R.S.Paroda, Executive Secretary, presented an updated account of APAARI activities in the GFAR meeting held from October 26-28, 2001 at Washington, USA.
- GFAR provided support to APAARI in organizing the ICT/APARIS meeting at Chiang Rai, and its expertise in the Expert Consultation, and in the Sub-Regional ARD Priority Setting meeting.

#### **- INIBAP**

A meeting of INIBAP was convened at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 11-14 September 2001, to review the *modus operandi* of the network and its objectives, with the basic idea of relaunching the network as truly NARS based initiative. Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, Executive Director, PCARRD, Philippines, represented APAARI in this meeting .

#### **- GoFAR**

APAARI provided funding support for the second meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group of Fisheries and Aquatic Research (GoFAR) and Expert Consultation on Research Priority Setting at ICLARM, Penang, Malaysia from 26-29 March 2001.

One of the main objectives of this meeting was to identify regional research priorities based on resource systems and interact with aquatic resources research planners. The participants affirmed the need for concerted efforts to find solutions to the problems in the region and expressed interests and continued cooperation with activities related with APAARI/GoFAR. They also suggested that GoFAR, in future should organize and facilitate discussions on the current regional fisheries and aquaculture issues and prepare technical position papers and voice issues in fora such as APAARI. A considerable importance was accorded to the future role of APAARI in the GoFAR programme.

#### **- ARD Sub - Regional Priority Setting Meetings**

Three meetings for ARD Priority Setting in the Asia-Pacific Region were facilitated by APAARI. The meeting for West & South-Asia was hosted by ICRISAT, Patancheru from 5-7 July 2001; for East & South-East Asia the meeting was organized by PCAARD and IRRI and hosted by IRRI, Manila, from 25-27 June 2001 and the third for the Pacific region, coordinated by NARI-PNG, ACIAR and SPC, was held at Fiji during 29-30 October 2001.

APAARI co-coordinated these meetings and brought together the NARS leadership, CGIAR institutes, NGOs, Private sector, Farmers' representatives and other stakeholders, in the region, on a common platform to decide the ARD priorities for the respective sub-regions, adopting a participatory and a bottom up approach with diverse partnership.

The GFAR provided partial financial support for these three sub-regional meetings on ARD Priority Setting, facilitated by APAARI. Also, APAARI received from ISNAR, valuable background material on regional planning and priority setting and the same was made available to member NARS.

The Expert Consultation at Bangkok (earlier proposed at Islamabad) in November 2001, is planned to jointly discuss and collate the results of these meetings, streamline the regional research priorities and to draw an action plan that focuses on poverty reduction, food security, better environment and overall sustainability of agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **Agenda Item No.6 : APAARI Secretariat**

APAARI is highly appreciative of the ACIAR financial support to strengthen the APAARI Secretariat that enabled in sustaining several important activities of the association in general and the APAARI - ICT activities, in particular, since the services of ICT Manager are partially supported from the ACIAR contributions.

Mr. Reinier van Hoffen, APO, APAARI has taken up a new assignment with a Dutch NGO called ZOA, refugee care station, based at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. APAARI appreciates the valuable contributions of Mr.Hoffen and wishes him well in future.

Mr. Peter Rosenegger, FAOR for India and Bhutan superannuated from service in July 2001. Mr. Rosenegger remained in this position for nearly seven years and not only provided an excellent support to the APAARI Secretariat in Delhi but also helped to strengthen the APAARI activities. The cooperation and generous support received during the tenure of Mr. Peter Rosenegger is gratefully acknowledged and APAARI wishes him a long and healthy life.

#### **- Recruitment of Scientific Officer, APAARI- New Delhi**

In view of the APO post falling vacant and gradual increase in the APAARI activities, recruitment of a suitable replacement was felt necessary. The Executive Committee of APAARI in its meeting of 22 June 2001, at New Delhi, decided to avail the services of Dr. A.K. Bawa, Principal Scientist, ICAR on deputation with effect from July 2001 till December, 2002. He has since joined in the APAARI Secretariat, New Delhi.

#### **- Human resource development: Participation in seminar/conference**

- Mr. Renier Van Hoffen, participated in the Dialogue on Water for Food and Environmental Security, organized by International Water Management Institute, held from 13-16 December 2000, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- APAARI co-sponsored International Conference on “The Development of Agricultural information Management, Technology and Markets in the 21st century’ from 3-6 November 2001 held at Beijing. Ms. J. Achara. ICT Manager, APAARI participated and presented a paper on ‘Strategy Development for Asia-pacific Agricultural Research information System (APARIS).
- APAARI has also extended partial support to Dr. S.D. Sharma, ICAR, India and Dr. Richard M. Juanillo, PCARRD, Philippines, for their participation in the Beijing Conference.

### **Executive Secretary, APAARI**

The Executive Committee in its meeting held on 22 June 2001 at New Delhi, favoured the suggestion for recruitment of a regular Executive Secretary for APAARI Headquarters. It was also suggested that the Terms of Reference and the service conditions would have to be discussed by all the members during the next Executive Committee meeting at Bangkok before any further action is taken in this matter. Hence, Executive Committee may deliberate on this issue.

### **Agenda Item No. 7: Membership**

#### ***- Membership***

- i) APAARI, as on 30 September 2001, has 18 member NARS and 13 Associate members. The list of the respective category of members and the status of their contribution is attached as Annexure V.
- ii) Three prestigious institutions ICIMOD, CIRAD and ILRI have become new associate members of APAARI. The APAARI-EC welcomes the new members and appreciates their keen interest and efforts in the continued agricultural development of the region.
- lii) Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines has renewed its membership and has paid its membership for the last three years. Accordingly, support extended by Dr. E. Ponce is very much appreciated.

Requests have been sent to the following institutions to join APAARI as associate members:

- Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (AARD), Jakarta, Indonesia

- Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia & Pacific, (CGPRT) Bogor, Indonesia
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington
- International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai, UAE
- International Network on Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), Beijing, China

#### **Agenda Item No. 8 : Action Plan for 2002-2003**

Publication Enhancement: Newsletter; Success stories; Scientific and Technical report etc.

- Developing APARIS: Agricultural Information Network
- Implementation of programme under Biotechnology and Agricultural Extension with FAO-RAP
- Facilitating regional networks
- Organizing Seventh General Assembly/Expert Consultation

#### **Agenda Item No. 9 : Financial Status and Programme Budget For The Biennium 2002-03**

Information to be provided during the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10 : Seventh General Assembly of APAARI**

The venue for the Seventh General Assembly is to be decided in the Sixth Executive Committee meeting of APAARI at Bangkok.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11 : Any other item**

**The Fifth Annual Meeting Of Council For Partnership On Rice Research In Asia  
(CORRA)**

**10-11 November 2001  
Rama Gardens Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand**

The Fifth Annual Meeting Of Council For Partnership On Rice Research In Asia (CORRA) was held during 10-11 November 2001, at Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. William G. Padolina, DDG, IRRI presented the report of the CORRA, during the Executive Committee meeting of APAARI.

There were representatives from 15 member countries viz. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI was invited as an observer. Each member presented the update on rice industry and rice research for its respective country. The report on the status of rice research in each of the CORRA-member countries highlighted the common areas of interest. These include whole farm integrated management to increase profit and protect the environment, quality and post harvest, drought and water use efficiency, hybrid rice and research capacity building.

A special mention was made about the activities of International Network For The Genetic Evaluation Of Rice (INGER) . It was informed that during 27 years of its existence, INGER had developed 21,000 breeding lines, and 500 varieties were released in about 90 countries. The INGER was committed to continue free, safe exchange of rice germplasm and information for the overall development of this important crop. In its efforts to share the useful materials for genetic improvement of rice, INGER has approved its code of conduct as also its material transfer agreement (MTA). Among the new initiatives, it was mentioned that INGER had initiated studies on IPRs specially in view of the new PVP laws with the basic idea of harmonizing the D-U-S criteria for rice. Dr. Padolina invited other APAARI members to participate in the PVP studies as these were not specific to rice and have wider application.

The updates on the proposed activities of INGER and actions taken were discussed. The discussion on the issues of intellectual property rights (IPR) and plant variety protection (PVP) in rice highlighted the increasing concerns of the National Agricultural Research And Extension Systems (NARES) on how to protect their germplasm considering that not all CORRA-member countries have PVP laws in place. Research issues on aerobic rice, functional genomics and geographic information system (GIS) were also tackled during the meeting. The other important field of rice research, in conformity with the Challenge Programme of the CGIAR, at IRRI is the Functional Genomics. IRRI had established an international network consisting of ARIs, IRRI, NARS (China and India).

During the discussions, the CORRA members suggested the following topics for next year's meeting: GIS network, participation of private sector, how INGER will meet the needs of NARES, status of transgenic rice research at IRRI, integrated nutrient management, post harvest losses in rice, international rice trade and marketing, and updates on IPR-PVP, water management, hybrid rice and functional genomics.

The New CORRA Chair for the 2002-2004 term is China. The next meeting of CORRA would also be held at Beijing from 14-15 September 2002, just before the international Rice Congress.

**NACA Statement Presented at APAARI Consultation, Bangkok  
12-14 November 2001**

**Research Priorities for Aquaculture and Aquatic Resource Management**

NACA's R&D priorities, as reflected in the new Third NACA Five- Year Work plan (2001-2005) have been set through two recent mechanisms:

1. The Conference on Aquaculture in the Third Millennium (February 2000), discussed at last year's meeting; and
2. A meeting of the NACA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), held in May 2001.

The new workplan includes an important broadening of NACA's traditional focus on aquaculture, providing a wider focus on aquatic resource management. The central focus of the work plan is on aquaculture for sustainable rural development. The following programmes support this:

1. Education and training
2. Research and development cooperation
3. Policy development and institutional support
4. Information technology and communications
5. Aquatic animal health management and disease control

These programs, along with NACA's research and development priorities for aquaculture and aquatic resource management, are described in detail in the work plan document.

**Associate membership/partnership with regional fora**

NACA has placed a strong emphasis on working in partnership with other organizations involved in rural development. A range of organizations, most recently a regional aquaculture network formed by the Pacific Community (SPC), have expressed interest in formalizing partnership arrangements by becoming associate members of NACA. The issue of associate membership of NACA was discussed at the 12th NACA Governing Council meeting held in November 2000. The proposed amendments will be put up to the next Governing Council meeting for consideration in January 2002. Whether provisions for formalising associate membership are adopted or not, NACA will continue to actively cooperate and pursue collaborative partnerships with other organizations.

**Information and Communications Initiatives – eNACA**

NACA has launched a new webpage [www.enaca.org](http://www.enaca.org) and established an 'eNACA' strategy as part of the Information and Communications Programme. The purpose of eNACA is to exploit the internet and email to facilitate fast, effective and low-cost

networking and distribution of information. This is intended to supplement, not replace, NACA's existing information and networking mechanisms.

The strategy has two main themes:

**1. Establishing internet-based communications and networking infrastructure through the NACA web site.** This will include:

a) The establishment of a library service (in particular an electronic library) to facilitate access to information (in progress). Publications produced by the NACA secretariat and donated by network centres will be converted to PDF (portable document format) files that will be available for free download via a searchable database on the website. The library catalogue (which will include our non- electronic holdings) will be published in hard copy in the magazine *Aquaculture Asia* for people who do not have access to the internet. The Secretariat will provide a photocopy/postal service and also produce copies of electronic documents on CD-ROM, on request. NACA plans to convert key hard-copy publications at its Headquarters library to PDF via an auto-feeding scanner utilizing Adobe Acrobat Capture Technology (subject to copyright constraints).

b) **Establishment of a searchable contacts database** through the NACA website (in progress). The aim of this project is to provide a networking tool that will help farmers, researchers and others to locate and contact colleagues in other countries or regions that are working in similar fields. The goal is to increase interaction of the aquaculture community to facilitate collaborative research and sharing of experience. People will be able to register their details online. This information will also be published in *Aquaculture Asia*.

c) **Expansion of NACA's e-mail news service** (in progress). NACA distributes regular research/industry news bulletins on grouper aquaculture to subscribers via email. This service will be expanded to cover aquaculture in general. At present it maintains an e-mail list. However, automating maintenance of the mailing list by moving to a list server that will allow subscribers to control their own subscription via the website is being developed (subscribers will subscribe or unsubscribe via the website).

d) **Expansion of NACA's online discussion groups** (in progress). NACA provides several on-line chat forums related to marine finfish. This service will be expanded to allow discussion on a wider range of topics.

**2. Building internet capacity in participating NACA centres.** Many NACA centres have limited access to the internet (or no access at all). NACA centres will be assisted to improve their access and presence on the net and to participate in eNACA. This will include the provision of technical training on internet use/website maintenance as appropriate and where possible, assisting centres to obtain necessary computer hardware. A pilot activity will be conducted in Nepal, commencing in December, as part of an initiative to establish a cooperative network on coldwater fisheries and livelihoods across the Himalayan region. Development of a website will be an important for coordination of the network.



### **ICLARM : Challenge Programmes - Aquatic Resources Perspective**

Tackling global challenges will place greater emphasis on collaboration amongst all partners in the research and development process. ICLARM is contributing to the discussions going on in the formulation of Global Challenge Programmes both immediately and in the longer term future. We support the current efforts to establish Challenge Programmes and have contributed to the development in different ways and fora. Some important ideas for discussion and follow-up are given below. Primarily based on ICLARM knowledge of the aquatic resources sector and the need to reflect the sector in collaborative global evaluations. Some of these are generic and are raised to promote further discussion and the establishment of complementary and synergistic approaches.

The concepts are also based on discussions with our partners at various times. For example one of the NARS representative has indicated that for "fisheries research and development in developing countries, perhaps linking ICLARM (fish), ISNAR (institutional development, planning and management) and IFPRI (economic policy) in regional project would be excellent for challenge programme. Also, such a consortium could address governance, financing, stocking and alternative livelihoods ( e.g. aquaculture) with in the overall policy. Further, linking countries with different NARS strengths would be mutually advantageous. ICLARM will welcome feedback on these ideas.

1. *Sustaining Aquatic Productivity: Enhancing Food Production from the World's Freshwaters* [ICLARM supports and is contributing to the development of the Challenge Programme on Water. The portfolio of research covering the living aquatic resources sector in relation to water use is large, particularly to address on a global scale for developing countries. Some of these additional elements are highlighted.]

2. *A Water Basin Initiative based on the Mekong River* : Related to concept I, and building on ICLARM's collaborative research experiences in the Lower Mekong Basin with the Mekong River Commission, IWMI and other partners, an example of a comprehensive water basin initiative.

3. *Climate Change -Aquatic Component*: ICLARM has contributed with other CGIAR partners on activities being considered by the Inter-centre Working Group on Climate Change, linking two known indicators of climatic change in the coastal and marine sector to evaluate risks and opportunities for the appropriate use of aquatic resources in island states.

4. *Aquatic Animal Diseases, Food Safety and Trade*: Focusing on the effects of disease and for improved methods for risk analysis, disease control and diagnosis in the aquatic

resources sector of developing countries. It is provided as an input into the development of a wider Challenge Programme on livestock diseases, food safety and trade.

5. *Reversing Habitat Degradation and Increasing Productivity in the Coastal Zone* [The coastal zone is subject to the environmental stresses of population growth and environmental degradation. It draws attention to the means by which CGIAR centres and other international bodies can bring together available knowledge to maximize the resilience of the fragile coastal environments and to enhance their productivity].

6. *Assessing the Agro ecosystems, Forests, Coasts, Freshwaters, Grasslands and Mountains of the Developing World: The Contributions of the Future Harvest Centres to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* [Possibility for the CGIAR centres to link with the activities of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment].

7. *Challenges and Options of Globalization for Small-Scale Fishermen/Farmers/Foresters*: Globalization will impact the CGIAR beneficiaries in many ways that have not been adequately researched. The persistence of some poor and marginal groups may be threatened by these trends and it will be important to have a thorough grasp of these potential developments].

8. *Fish as Indicators of Global Change*: The connectivity of aquatic systems and relative sensitivity of living aquatic resources make fish potentially key indicators of processes ranging from pollution to habitat loss to poor governance.

9. *Vulnerability under Increasing Variability*: Aquatic resource-dependent livelihoods as a framework for prioritizing development and research assistance to the poor [Vulnerability mapping has been suggested as a key element of the required climate change research. The relationship between poor populations dependent on different aquatic resources systems and other types of change in these systems is also highlighted].

10. *Fish for Food Security - The Contribution of Fish and Aquatic Products to Food Security and Nutrition*: The goal of food security for the poor is central to the CGIAR mission. Research must be undertaken specifically on fish -which is almost a neglected resource, as a component of a continuing multi-centre approach to this global issue.

11. *Bridging the Gap Between Research and Policy*: Knowledge systems as a key CG output ICLARM's experience in the production of databases in key areas of the aquatic resources sector are examined in the light of collaborative possibilities for the CGIAR centres in knowledge management.