

**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)**

**TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (GAM)
20 OCTOBER 2008
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CENTER
TSUKUBA, JAPAN**

PROCEEDINGS



DECEMBER 2008

**Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand**

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
Tenth General Assembly Meeting (GAM)
20 October 2008
(International Congress Center, Tsukuba, Japan)

PROCEEDINGS

1. Introduction

The Tenth General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of APAARI was held on 20 October 2008, at the International Congress Center, Tsukuba, Japan. The meeting was hosted by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). The Agenda, as approved in the meeting, is given at Annexure I. In all, 42 members attended the GAM (Annexure II).

2. Welcome Remarks

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI welcomed the participants on behalf of APAARI. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Kenji Iiyama, President, JIRCAS and Government of Japan for hosting the 10th GAM of APAARI in Tsukuba. Dr. Ghodake pointed out that APAARI is now recognized as one of the vibrant organizations engaged in promoting agricultural research for development (ARD), and provides a neutral platform to all its key stakeholders. During the last few years, APAARI has expanded its Executive Committee by having due representation of CGIAR, GFAR and CSO (NGOs and the Farmers Organizations).

Dr. Ghodake specifically pointed out that developing countries of the Asia-pacific region have benefited greatly through their association with APAARI which has been undertaking new role and responsibility in meeting the new challenges in the field of agriculture. The Chairman also mentioned many valuable contributions of CGIAR and GFAR towards ARD. In his concluding remark, Dr. Ghodake highlighted that APAARI has now become a well recognized and self-sustainable regional organization, mainly due to regular participation and support of its members. He also presented the Agenda for its adoption, which was unanimously adopted (Annexure I).

The Chairman released the following new publications of APAARI/APCoAB:

- (i) A Success Story on Cotton-Wheat Production System in South Asia
- (ii) Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries
- (iii) Production and Cultivation of Virus-free Citrus Saplings for Citrus Rehabilitation in Taiwan
- (iv) Proceedings of Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development in Cooperation with ANGOC
- (v) Revised APAARI Flyer
- (vi) APAARI on CD 2008

The full text of the Chairman's address is given in Annexure III

3. Progress Report

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary also welcomed the participants and extended his appreciation for their support in carrying out the work program during the biennium 2007–2008. Dr. Paroda highlighted the progress made by APAARI relating to: (i) the establishment of NGO Consortium for Asia-Pacific called NGO Association for Agricultural Research in Asia-Pacific (NAARAP), (ii) efforts on de-centralized management of ARD information system and development of APAARI web site, (iii) review of the progress on agricultural biotechnology related activities undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), (iv) amendment to APAARI Constitution concerning expansion of Executive Committee, (v) continued emphasis on APAARI publications, etc. (Full text of Progress Report is given at Annexure IV).

4. Membership Status

The Executive Secretary informed that APAARI has been striving to enhance its membership and to this effect has approached several NARS, IARCs, CG Centres, Regional Fora, etc. to join as new members. The participants were pleased to learn that during the biennium 2007-2008, four organizations namely, ICRAF, IFAP, NTU and SAARC have become new members of APAARI. CIAT also confirmed its decision to join APAARI as associate member effective 2009. Also the Malaysian Agricultural Research Development Institute (MARDI) has decided to upgrade its membership from

category II to category I, whereas NARI of PNG has conveyed its decision to move from category III to category II effective January, 2009.

Dr. Paroda informed further that APAARI Secretariat has been making constant efforts to approach new and potential NARS such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, and some Pacific countries to become members of APAARI. Also the South Pacific Commission (SPC), CAC Association of Agricultural Research Institution (CACAARI) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) have been approached to become reciprocal members of APAARI. A few agricultural universities in the region have expressed their desire to join APAARI but find it difficult to pay the prescribed membership fee. Earlier, the members had suggested to have a nominal annual fee for such institutions so as to enable them to participate in future APAARI activities. Accordingly, GAM deliberated on the subject and decided to have an additional category (Category VI) as “APAARI Affiliates” with non-voting rights, with an annual membership fee of US\$ 1,500. Efforts for the revival of membership of CAAS (China) and New Zealand have also been made but so far with no success.

It is quite satisfying that most of the membership fees are paid regularly. Funding support for implementing the planned activities of APCoAB and APARIS programs, has been received from ACIAR, GFAR, COA(Chinese Taipei), MAHYCO, FAO, and others which is duly acknowledged.

5. Presentation of Audited Accounts for 2007–2008

The APAARI accounts for the periods January–December, 2007 and January–September, 2008 were audited by the GAAP Professional Audit Co. Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand. The audited statements (Annexure V) were provided to all the members of APAARI, with a view to apprise them of the current status of accounts and expenditures as against the approved budget by APAARI in the 9th GAM held on 7th November, 2006 in New Delhi. Dr. Paroda apprised the members that most of the expenditure was within the approved limit under each budget item for 2007–2008.

Dr. Paroda also informed the members about the current status of the Fixed Deposit Account, which has reached US\$ 950,000. It is expected to touch the long awaited target of US Dollar one million during the biennium 2009–2010. He further emphasized that it was not easy to raise such a level of corpus fund, which will provide sustainability to APAARI.

As the service contract of the current Audit Company will expire on 31st December 2009, the members approved the proposed extension of one more year that is up to 31st December, 2010 so as to coincide with the next biennium 2009-2010. In the next General Assembly, the appointment of a new Auditor can be done, as per established policy of APAARI. In view of the increased work load as well as cost escalation, GAM also approved the proposal for increasing the annual fee from Baht 20,000 to 25,000 to the present Auditor w.e.f. 1st January, 2009.

6. APAARI Work Plan and Budget for 2009 – 2010

APAARI Work Plan for the year 2009 (Annexure VI), prepared in consultation with the Executive Committee, was presented by Dr. Paroda for consideration and approval of the GAM. In order to implement the approved work plan as well as other regular activities, a budget for the biennium 2009–2010 (Annexure VII) was presented for consideration. Dr. Paroda explained in details the reasons for increasing the budget during 2009–2010. Both the work plan and budget for the next biennium 2009–2010 was considered and approved by GAM.

7. Proposal for Constitutional Amendment

APAARI has always given importance to the involvement of all stakeholders with equal rights in decision making. Accordingly, APAARI Executive Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand, agreed to create one additional seat for the representation of NGOs. As per APAARI Constitution, the proposed amendment (Annexure VIII) was circulated on 16 June 2008 to all the members of APAARI, requesting for their consent. Most of the members gave their consent in favour of proposed amendment and no objection was received. Hence, the proposal for amendment was put to GAM, who unanimously approved it.

8. Executive Committee for the Next Biennium (2009-2010)

As per previous practice for the formation of Executive Committee of APAARI, a balance is being maintained by having two members from each of the three sub-regions (South-West Asia, South-East Asia, and the Pacific), ensuring the rotation for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman coming from different sub-regions.

Accordingly, the 10th GAM of APAARI unanimously agreed to form the following Executive Committee for the biennium 2009–2010:

Executive Committee for 2009–2010

Chairman	: Dr. Abdul Shukor Abd Rahman, MARDI, Malaysia
Vice-Chairman	: Dr. Mangala Rai, ICAR, India
Members	: Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, NARI, Papua New Guinea Dr. Richard Beyer, MoA and PI, Fiji Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul, DOA, Thailand Mr. Md. Harun-Ur-Rashid, BARC, Bangladesh Mr. Raul Montemayor, IFAP, Philippines Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, IRRI, Philippines Fr. Francisco Lucas, NAARAP/ANGOC, Philippines Dr. Mark Holderness, GFAR, Italy
Executive Secretary	: Dr. Raj Paroda

Regarding CSO seats, it was agreed to have both IFAP and NAARAP/ANGOC represent on the Executive Committee on a two-year term basis.

9. Venue of the next 11th General Assembly Meeting

All members were requested to suggest possible venue for the next (11th GAM) to be held during October/November, 2010. In this context, Dr. Moon from RDA, Republic of Korea, offered his informal invitation to host the 11th GAM in Republic of Korea. Dr. Moon also informed that a formal invitation would be sent in due course, if his proposed was accepted by the members. All participants were very pleased to accept the invitation for next GAM in Republic of Korea. APAARI would also plan to organize an Expert

Consultation on one of the thematic areas, to be finalized in consultation with members in due course. The members thanked Dr. Moon for his generous support for hosting the next General Assembly and for agreeing to extend funding support for the participation of NARS members.

The Assembly was also pleased to accept the offer from the Council of Agriculture (COA), Chinese Taipei to host the next annual meeting of the Executive Committee of APAARI during October-November, 2009.

Some of the topics suggested for Expert Consultations were: (i) High Level Policy Dialogue on Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity (2009), (ii) Role of Biofertilizers and Biopesticides (2010).

10. Other Business:

The following important issues were discussed under this item:

(a) APARIS

To further strengthen the APARIS activities, the GAM endorsed the proposal to appoint a full-time APARIS Coordinator to be located in Bangkok. Dr. Paroda suggested that Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman of APARIS could serve as Chairman of the Selection Committee and the post be advertised in November, 2008. It was agreed that the interview could be held sometime early next year, preferably in Bangkok.

(b) NGO Association for Agricultural Research in the Asia-Pacific (NAARAP)

With a view to ensure effective involvement of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly the NGOs, to mobilize action at the grass root level, with major focus on socio-economic development of small farmers and the marginalized farming communities, APAARI jointly with Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) organized an Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) in April 2008 in Bangkok. It was supported by GFAR. This forum recommended the establishment of an Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium, name as: NGO Association for Agricultural Research in the Asia-Pacific (NAARAP). It was

recommended that the Secretariat of NAARAP shall be small, and be rotated in the sub-regions every two years. It was decided that the First Consortium Secretariat will be located with ANGO in the Philippines for the period 2008-2010. Mr. Don E. Marquez, Executive Director of ANGO presented a brief report on proposed activities of NAARAP (Annexure IX), which was appreciated by the members.

It was suggested that NAARAP could have its representation (through its Chairman) on the APAARI Executive Committee for the biennium 2009-2010.

(c) Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)

YPARD had launched its liaison with Asia in November, 2006 at the Triennial Conference of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) held in New Delhi, India. Since then, it has been in regular contact with APAARI to explore possibilities towards implementation of its program of work. Dr. Balasubramaniam Ramani, the Coordinator of YPARD made a brief presentation on the current status of YPARD and desired to have continued linkages with APAARI in future. His presentation is given in Annexure X.

(d) Brief on CGIAR Change Management Process

Dr. Mark Holderness, Executive Secretary, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), presented a brief statement on "Change Management through Transformation of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)" which was noted with considerable interest by the members (see Annexure XI). Members deliberated the subject in considerable details and agreed to communicate following suggestions to the Director of CGIAR for consideration.

1. APAARI fully supports the on-going CGIAR reform process and would like to have the important recommendations of the Review Panel speedily implemented. In this context, role of Change Steering Team (CST) is seen to be more important at this juncture. However, we will appreciate if the NARS leaders from the South are also inducted in the Team for a balanced representation.

2. As a Regional Forum, it is our expectation that in future all research prioritization and the impact assessment related activities will be carried out (by the Science Council/CGIAR) in close collaboration/partnership with concerned Regional Fora and the GFAR.
3. It is also expected that the change process will not lead to yet another bureaucratic layer, but will be seen to facilitate an enabling environment for the efficient and smooth functioning of the Centers.
4. Beside Challenge Programs, APAARI strongly recommends that the System-wide or the Eco-regional programs, being an inter-institutional collaborative approach, be given high priority in addressing location specific problems, especially in South Asia where maximum poverty still resides. In this context, some Centers henceforth could perform the role of Eco-Regional Centers through reorientation of their new mandate and goals.
5. APAARI members, especially from the developing NARS, were of the view that the role/contribution of their research scientists need to be fully recognized and due credit given, being equal research partners, by the Future Alliance Centers. Also the capacity building process of NARS be given, once more, high priority to ensure quick adoption of technologies for their immediate impact.
6. APAARI also endorses the important role of GFAR towards involvement and partnership of various stakeholders and to organize in future the biennial Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (CARD). We believe that this would ensure true ownership as well as engagement of key ARD players. Nonetheless, GFAR would require both institutional and funding support to perform this new role through its own revitalization.
7. APAARI places on record its appreciation for the important contributions made by the CGIAR towards food security, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, beside developing both the institutions and human resource capacity. APAARI shall look forward to continue working as a trusted partner, especially towards meeting the new challenges concerning agricultural research for development.

(e) AARINENA – APAARI Partnership

In line with its mission, APAARI has been giving importance to the strengthening of its inter-regional partnership. In this context, “APAARI and AARINENA established an Inter-regional Cotton Network in Asia and North Africa (INCANA)”. To facilitate inter-regional partnership, AARINENA joined APAARI as its reciprocal member. Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan, Executive Secretary, AARINENA, was pleased to present a brief statement on AARINENA–APAARI Partnership (see Annexure XII). Members were pleased to know of increased collaboration with AARINENA and thanked Dr. Hamdan for his participation.

(f) Term of Executive Secretary

The Chairman briefed the GAM regarding continuation of Dr. Raj Paroda as Executive Secretary, APAARI, who has currently been assisting APAARI on an honorarium basis since October 2007, as per earlier decision of the Executive Committee taken on 17th March 2007. Earlier, Dr. Paroda rendered his services to APAARI for the last 15 years on an honorary basis. This decision was endorsed unanimously by the General Assembly, which also approved his continuation for the next biennium (from 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2010) and urged Dr. Paroda to continue providing his able leadership as Executive Secretary, APAARI.

11. Concluding Remarks

In their closing remarks, the Chair and Vice-Chair congratulated all the members of the newly formed Executive Committee. They also expressed their satisfaction on the achievements of APAARI during the last biennium, mainly through the dynamic leadership and support of Dr. Raj Paroda as Executive Secretary. They also appreciated the sincere cooperation of the technical and support personnel of APAARI. In view of APAARI’s expanding structure and the program of work, the Chairman desired that in future GAM should be organized for one full day. Dr. Ghodake stated that it was an honor for him to be the chair APAARI. In addition to the organizing team of JIRCAS, they also appreciated efforts of APAARI Secretariat towards successful organization of this General Assembly.

12. Vote of Thanks

On behalf of APAARI and his own behalf, Dr. Raj Paroda proposed a vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Kenji Iiyama, President of Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Government of Japan, for hosting the 10th General Assembly Meeting of APAARI. Dr. Ghodake also thanked all the delegates for their active participation as well as continued support to the activities of APAARI. In the end, jointly Chairman and Executive Secretary presented the plaque of honor for the following out-going/retiring members of APAARI who had supported various progresses and activities during their association in the past.

- (a) Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, Executive Committee
- (b) Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee
- (c) Dr. William Dar, Member, Executive Committee
- (d) Dr. Mangala Rai, Member, Executive Committee
- (e) Dr. M.E. Tusneem, Ex-Chairman, PARC
- (f) Dr. Abdur Razzak, Ex-Executive Chairman, BARC
- (g) Dr. N.P. Shrestha, Ex-Executive Director, NARC
- (h) Dr. Kenji Iiyama, President, JIRCAS for hosting the GAM in Tsukuba, Japan

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Co-Chairman.

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10th APAARI General Assembly Meeting

**Venue: International Congress Center, Tsukuba, Japan
20th October, 2008**

AGENDA

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| 14:00-18:30 | <p><i>Chairperson</i> : <i>Dr. Raghunath D. Ghodake, NARI, PNG</i>
 <i>Co-chairperson</i> : <i>Dr. Abd Shukor bin Rahman, MARDI, Malaysia</i></p> | | |
| 14:00-15:30 | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks • Progress Report • Membership Status • Presentation of Audited Accounts for 2007 & 2008 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Liaison Officer </td> </tr> </table> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks • Progress Report • Membership Status • Presentation of Audited Accounts for 2007 & 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Liaison Officer |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks • Progress Report • Membership Status • Presentation of Audited Accounts for 2007 & 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Liaison Officer | | |
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee Break and Group Photograph | | |
| 16:00-18:30 | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plan and Approval of Budget for 2009-2010 • Proposal for Constitutional Amendment • Executive Committee Formation for 2009-2010 • Venue of the Next General Assembly and Expert Consultation • Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AARINENA-APAARI Partnership – YPARD Presentation – A Brief on CGIAR Change Management Process – NAARAP Presentation • Concluding Remarks • Vote of Thanks </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan • Dr. Balasubramanian Ramani • Dr. Mark Holderness • Fr. Francis Lucas • Co-chairman and Chairman • Executive Secretary </td> </tr> </table> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plan and Approval of Budget for 2009-2010 • Proposal for Constitutional Amendment • Executive Committee Formation for 2009-2010 • Venue of the Next General Assembly and Expert Consultation • Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AARINENA-APAARI Partnership – YPARD Presentation – A Brief on CGIAR Change Management Process – NAARAP Presentation • Concluding Remarks • Vote of Thanks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan • Dr. Balasubramanian Ramani • Dr. Mark Holderness • Fr. Francis Lucas • Co-chairman and Chairman • Executive Secretary |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plan and Approval of Budget for 2009-2010 • Proposal for Constitutional Amendment • Executive Committee Formation for 2009-2010 • Venue of the Next General Assembly and Expert Consultation • Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AARINENA-APAARI Partnership – YPARD Presentation – A Brief on CGIAR Change Management Process – NAARAP Presentation • Concluding Remarks • Vote of Thanks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Executive Secretary • Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan • Dr. Balasubramanian Ramani • Dr. Mark Holderness • Fr. Francis Lucas • Co-chairman and Chairman • Executive Secretary | | |
| 19:00 | Reception Dinner Hosted by APAARI at Camellia Restaurant | | |

10th APAARI General Assembly Meeting
Venue: International Congress Center, Tsukuba, Japan
20th October, 2008

List of Participants

1. Dr. Simon Hearn
Senior Adviser, ACIAR
GPO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
E-mail: hearn@aciar.gov.au
Tel: 61-2-62170547
Fax: 61-2-62170501
2. Mr. Md. Harun-ur-Rashid
Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)
New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka1215
Bangladesh
E-mail: barc@bdmail.net
Tel: 880-2-9135587
Fax: 880-2-9261415
3. Dr. Kamlesh C Puran
Research Programme Coordinator
Ministry of Primary Industries, Research Division
Koronivia Research Station, P. O. Box 77, Nausori,
Fiji Islands
E-mail: purankc@connect.com.fj
Tel: 679-3477044
Fax: 679-3400262
4. Dr. Anil K. Bawa
Principal Scientist
Office of Secretary, DARE &DG, ICAR
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
India
E-mail: akbawa.icar@nic.in
Tel: 91-11-23389406
Fax: 91-11-23384773
5. Dr. M.A. Kamali
Deputy Director General
Agricultural Research and Education Organization (AREO)
P.O.Box 111, Tehran 19835
Iran
E-mail: ma.kamali@areo.ir
6. Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor Abd. Rahman
Director General
Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development
Institute (MARDI)
PO Box 12301, 50774, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
E-mail: arshukor@mardi.gov.my
Tel: 603-89437001
Fax: 603-89483664
7. Mr. Parsuram Lal Karna
Executive Director
Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
Khumaltapur, Lalitpur P.O.Box 5459
Nepal
E-mail: ednarc@ntc.net.np
Tel: 977-1-4256837
Fax: 977-1-4262500

8. Dr. D.P. Sherchan
Director
Nepal Agricultural Research Council
Khumaltapur, Lalitpur P.O.Box 5459
Nepal
E-mail: sherchan.dil@gmail.com
chdnarc@ntc.net.np
Tel: 977-1-4262440
Fax: 977-1-4262500
9. Mr. Thierry Mennesson
Director General
Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien,
Centre de Cooperation, Internationale en Recherche
Agronomique Pour le developpement,
B.P. 35 Paita Nouvelle- Caledonie
New Caledonia
E-mail: tmenesson@iac.nc
Tel: 687-437415
Fax: 687-437416
10. Dr. M.E. Tusneem
Member (Food and Agriculture)
Planning Commission
Pakistan
E-mail: mtusneem@yahoo.com
11. Dr. Raghunath Ghodake
Director General
National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
2nd Floor Vele Rumana, Box 4415 Lae Morobe, Province 411
Papua New Guinea
E-mail: raghunath.ghodake@nari.org.pg
Tel: 675-4751442
Fax: 675-4751449
12. Dr. Patricio S Faylon
Executive Director
Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural
Resources Research and Development (PCARRD)
Los Banos, Laguna 4030, Manila
Philippines
E-mail: p.faylon@pcarrd.dost.gov.ph
Tel: 63-49-5364990
Fax: 63-49-5360006
13. Mr. Joell H. Lales
Planning Officer
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Research, Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines
E-mail: jlales@bar.gov.ph
Tel: 63-2-9262538
Fax: 63-2-9275691
14. Dr. Woon-Goo Ha
Deputy Director, Head of Multilateral Cooperation Team
International Technical Cooperation Center
Rural Development Administration (RDA)
Suin ro 150, Gwonseon-gu, Suwon 441-707
Republic of Korea
E-mail: hawgyaes@rda.go.kr
Tel: 82-31-2992281
Fax: 82-31-2939359
15. Dr. Philip Tuivavalagi
Pr. Crops Development Officer
Crops Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
3rd Floor ACB Building P.O. Box 1874, Apia
Samoa
E-mail: philipt@samoa.ws
Tel: 685-23416
Fax: 685-20607

16. Prof. Rohan Rajapakse
Executive Director
Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP)
114/9, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07
Sri Lanka
E-mail: carp@slcarp.lk;
rhsrajapakse@yahoo.com
Tel: 94-1-264391
Fax: 94-1-682591
17. Dr. Praphan Prasertsak
Senior Agricultural Researcher
Field Crops Research Institute, Department of Agriculture
Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
Thailand
E-mail: praphan_p@hotmail.com
Tel: 66-2-5793930
Fax: 66-2-5790604
18. Dr. W. Padolina
Deputy Director General
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
Box 933, 1099 Manila
Philippines
E-mail: w.padolina@cgiar.org
19. Dr. Dyno Keatinge
Director General
Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre
(AVRDC), P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74151
Chinese Taipei
E-mail: Dyno.keatinge@worldveg.org
Tel: 886-6-5837801
Fax: 886-6-5830009
20. Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan
Executive Secretary
AARINENA, P.O.Box 950764, Amman 11195
Jordan
E-mail: i.hamdan@cgiar.org
Tel: 962-6-5525750
Fax: 962-6-5818270
21. Dr. Sim Heok-Choh
APAFRI Secretariat,
c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
E-mail: sim@apafri.org;
simhc@frim.gov.my
Tel: 603-62722516
Fax: 603-62773249
22. Dr. M. van Ginkel
P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo
Aleppo-Damascus Highway, Tel Hadya, Aleppo
Syrian Arab Republic
E-mail: M.vanginkel@cgiar.org
23. Dr. Rodomiro Ortiz
Director
Resource Mobilization, Centro Internacional de
Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT)
El Batan, Texcoco Edo, Mexico, CP 56130
Mexico
E-mail: r.ortiz@cgiar.org
Tel: 52-55-5804 7532
24. Dr. C.L.L. Gowda
Global Theme Leader - Crop Improvement
ICRISAT, Patancheru 502 324, Andhra Pradesh
India
E-mail: c.gowda@cgiar.org
Tel: 91-40-3071 3354
Fax: 91-40-3071 3074

25. Dr. Mark Holderness
Executive Secretary
Global Forum on Agricultural Research,
c/o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: mark.holderness@fao.org
Tel: 39-06-57055047
Fax: 39-06-57053898
26. Dr. Kenji Iiyama
President
Japan International Research Center for Agricultural
Sciences (JIRCAS), 1-1, Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8686
Japan
E-mail: uakenji@affrc.go.jp
27. Dr. Osamu Koyama
Japan International Research Center for Agricultural
Sciences (JIRCAS), 1-1, Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8686
Japan
E-mail: koyama@affrc.go.jp
28. Mr. Raul Montemayor
Vice-President
IFAP, 41 Highland Drive,
Blue Ridge, Quezon City 1109
Philippines
E-mail: raulm@freefarm.org
Tel: 63-2-6471451
Fax: 63-2-6471451
29. Dr. Hsu-Sheng Lur
Director, Institute of Biotechnology
National Taiwan University
Taipei 106-17, Chinese Taipei
E-mail: lurhs@ntu.edu.tw
Tel: 886-2-33664773
Fax: 886-2-23620879
30. Dr. Leang-Shin Wu
Head, Department of Animal Science
National Taiwan University
Taipei 106-17, Chinese Taipei
E-mail: leshwu@ntu.edu.tw
Tel: 886-2-33664158
Fax: 886-2-27324070
31. Dr. Nathaniel Don Marquez
Executive Director,
Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and
Rural Development (ANGOC), 6A Malumanay Street
U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
E-mail: ndmangoc@philonline.com
32. Dr. R. Wassmann
International Rice Research Institute
DAPO Box 7777, Metro Manila
Philippines
E-mail: r.wassmann@cgiar.org
33. Dr. Andrew Noble
IWMI Regional Office for Southeast Asia,
C/o World Fish Center, Jalan Batu Maung,
Batu Maung, 11960, Bayan Lepas, Penang, Malaysia.
Mailing Address: C/o. World Fish Center
PO Box 500 GPO 10670, Penang,
Malaysia
E-mail: a.noble@cgiar.org

34. Dr. Balasubramanian Ramani E-mail: balasubramanian.ramani@ypard.org
Coordinator Tel: 49-511-7624045
Young Professional's Platform for Agricultural Fax: 49-511-7621962
Research for Development (YPARD), Institute for Botany
Leibniz University, Hannover, Herrenhaueserstr. 2, 30419
Hannover, Germany
35. Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian E-mail: l.sebastian@cgiar.org
Regional Director of Bioersivity for Asia, the Tel: 603-89423891
Pacific and the Oceania, Bioersivity International Fax: 603-89487655
Regional Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania
POBox 236, UPM Post Office 43400 Serdang Selangor
Malaysia
36. Dr. Pham Quang Ha E-mail: pqha-nisf@hn.vnn.vn
Assoc. Professor and Vice Director Tel: 84-4-37893270
Institute for Agricultural Environment, Fax: 84-4-37893277
Phu Do-Tu Liem, Hanoi, Vietnam
37. Dr. R.S. Paroda E-mail: raj.paroda@yahoo.com
Executive Secretary raj.paroda@apaari.org
APAARI, C/o ICRISAT, NASC Complex Tel: 91-11-65437870
DPS Marg, New Delhi 110 012, India Fax: 91-11-25843243
38. Mr. P.K. Saha E-mail: pk_saha@apaari.org
Liaison Officer Tel: 66-2-6974373
Asia - Pacific Association of Agricultural Fax: 66-2-6974408
Research Institutions (APAARI) Maliwan Mansion
39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok, 10200
Thailand
39. Ms. Poonam Saini E-mail: poonam.saini@apaari.org
Executive Assistant - ICT, APAARI Tel: 91-11-65437870
C/o ICRISAT, NASC Complex, DPS Marg Fax: 91-11-25843243
New Delhi 110 012, India
40. Ms. Urairat Rujirek E-mail: urairat@apaari.org
Administrative Associate Tel: 66-2-6974371
Asia - Pacific Association of Agricultural Fax: 66-2-6974408
Research Institutions, Maliwan Mansion,
39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok, 10200, Thailand

**TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF APAARI
20 October 2008, Tsukuba, Japan**

WELCOME REMARKS

by

**Dr. Raghunath Ghodake
Chairman, APAARI**

Dr. Kenji Iiyama, President, JIRCAS

Datuk Dr. Abd. Shukor bin Abd. Rahman, Vice-Chairman, APAARI

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

Distinguished Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen :

My greetings to you all.

1. It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you as Chairman, APAARI and also on my own behalf to this important biennial 10th General Assembly Meeting (GAM). Let me first of all thank Dr. Kenji Iiyama, President, JIRCAS and his colleagues as well as the Government of Japan for hosting this meeting in Tsukuba. The very presence of large number of APAARI members today is indeed highly encouraging. It reflects your unstinted support to this Regional Forum. I, therefore, wish to place on record your full support to all our activities.

2. Representing NARS of PNG and having served as Chairman, APAARI for the last two years, I must acknowledge that APAARI is serving a great cause of fostering partnership both at the regional and global level. The expert consultations held on thematic issues of regional importance have helped us address various emerging ARD related challenges. Today, APAARI is recognized not only by its members but also by other international institutions and organizations globally. It is no doubt one of the most vibrant regional fora, which provides neutral platform to

all key stakeholders engaged in the field of agricultural research for development (ARD). We do believe in strengthening our partnership and thus constantly endeavour in moving from NARI into NARS. The progress made by APAARI, over the last 16 years, is indeed praiseworthy. In true sense, it has acted as a think tank for ARD related issues and established new partnerships among the stakeholders. We are pleased to inform you that APAARI recently facilitated the establishment of a new NGO Consortium for the Asia-Pacific called NAARAP. We have also organized expert consultations on new challenges such as biofuels and climate change.

3. Ladies and Gentlemen, you would perhaps agree with me that no single organization or individual can address various emerging issues related to ARD. We in APAARI do believe that collaborative effort by all is critical in transnational research for taking the new technologies/ innovations to the field through a continuum of research generation, assessment, refinement and adoption, through farmers' participatory approach. In this context, based on my personal experience, I can say with confidence that developing countries of Asia-Pacific have greatly benefited through their association with APAARI and through it with other major ARD related institutions. In several least developing countries, however, the efforts still fall far short of the desired level. We need to help them through new and innovative partnerships.

4. You are well aware that APAARI has been operating two major programs: (i) Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information Systems (APARIS) since 2001, and (ii) Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) since 2004,

beside a number of research networks. Both these programs have served very useful purpose and are being appreciated by all.

5. I do not wish to pre-empt Dr. Raj Paroda's report as Executive Secretary, as he will soon brief us on major highlights of APAARI achievements during the last biennium. Before I conclude, let me mention that APAARI has been achieving its goal in spite of obvious constraints and rather limited resources. Thanks to the able management of our Secretariat functions, APAARI is today a well recognized as well as a self-sustainable organization, mainly on account of your regular membership contributions. In this context, let me place on record our appreciation for the support received by ACIAR, GFAR, CoA, FAO, JIRCAS etc.

6. In conclusion, I would like to extend once again a very cordial welcome to all of you. I have no doubt that, with your active participation, this 10th General Assembly will be highly productive and useful in taking this organization to yet newer heights.

Thank you and have a good day!

A BRIEF REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES (2007-2008)

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) is an apolitical neutral forum of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the Asia-Pacific region. It endeavors to strengthen the research capabilities of NARS and promotes information sharing among them in order to increase agricultural productivity and to have rational resource use. Since its establishment in 1991, APAARI has grown to be a self-sustaining regional forum comprising 40 members which include NARS, CG Centers and other regional and international organizations.

The APAARI programs are aimed to enhance exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information in agricultural research for development; assist in strengthening research capability of member institutions; and promote cross-linkages among national, regional and international research organizations. APAARI, in consultation with its stakeholders, is pursuing a long-term strategy to address most challenging researchable issues through regional collaboration, networking, capacity building, policy advocacy, information dissemination and self sustainability.

APAARI Mission

“To promote the development of national agricultural research systems in Asia-Pacific region through facilitation of inter-regional, inter-institutional and international cooperation”

Functions

- To convene biennial General Assembly meetings to develop policies, priorities and work programs; including expert consultation on regional thematic issues.
- To collate and disseminate relevant research information among member institutions in order to share knowledge and successful experiences.
- To promote collaborative research among member institutions through partnership among CGIAR/IARCs, ARIs, GFAR, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Private Sector.

Main Programs and Networks

APARIS and APCoAB are the two main programs of APAARI, which promote knowledge sharing through ICM4ARD and the promotion of agricultural biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region, respectively. Both programs have enhanced participation of NARS, International Centers and other stakeholders. In addition, research partnership is being strengthened through various research networks (crops, livestock, fisheries, etc.)

Achievements during 2007-2008

The activities reported here are along the line of major themes consistent with APAARI's strategic thrusts and approved work plan for 2008. APAARI has done its best to bring together all stakeholders to collectively work through existing research networks as well as some new initiatives in the field of biotechnology and ICT/ICM. The major accomplishments during 2007-2008 are as follows.

1. Expert Consultations and Workshops

1.1 Brainstorming Session on “Models of Public-Private Partnership”

Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) program of APAARI in collaboration with Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), India, organized a brainstorming session on “Models of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Agricultural Biotechnology” on 7 April 2007, at the National Agricultural Science Center Complex, Pusa, New Delhi, India. The meeting was attended by 46 participants. The objective was to revisit the various inter-sectoral partnerships in agricultural biotechnology that have been in operation since the last few years and identify appropriate models of PPP so that the benefits of agricultural biotechnology reach the resource poor farmers, consumers and other stakeholders in the region.

The topics discussed during the session included: status of PPPs in agricultural biotechnology; factors contributing to their success or otherwise; and regulatory, IPR and other issues impacting inter-sectoral

partnerships. Unanimous opinion was expressed about the need for fostering PPPs to ensure expeditious transfer of promising technologies available in research laboratories to the farmers' fields. Recommendations were made on the essential elements of partnership models in agricultural biotechnology, required policy initiatives and capacity building needs.

1.2 Workshop on “Low-cost gene-based technologies for MAS application”

APCoAB in collaboration with IRRI, Generation Challenge Program, CIMMYT and Barwale Foundation organized the Workshop at Barwale Knowledge and Study Center, Jalna, India, from 25–27 April 2007. High cost of molecular technologies for crop improvement has been a concern particularly for developing countries, restricting the application of these powerful tools by only a few of the NARS. Hence the Workshop, focused on the use of low-cost molecular marker techniques that was quite appropriate and tailored to meet the needs of developing NARS.

Eighteen participants from six countries, besides the faculty and local invitees, attended the workshop. The three-day program comprised lectures and laboratory exercises on techniques like, PCR-ELISA, Dot Blot, FRET and Microarray-based Genotyping. Special lectures were delivered by experts on: Marker Assisted Plant Breeding – From Publication to Practice; Single Seed-based MAS; Abiotic Stress; Bacterial Blight; and Allele Mining. The participants made presentations on their ongoing programs and how they would utilize the experience gained during the Workshop in their crop breeding projects. The participants suggested that similar Workshops of longer duration be held at regular intervals.

1.3 Sensitization Workshop on “ICT/ICM for the Senior Managers”

APAARI in collaboration with GFAR organized a Workshop on 30 August 2007 at the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). Twenty-one NARS Leaders and Managers, representing 10 countries and 3 sub-regions of Asia-Pacific participated in the workshop. The workshop theme was agreed in several ICT/ICM consultations and inter-regional meetings organized by APAARI and GFAR in recent years.

It emerged that NARS of the developing countries in the region need to develop and advocate appropriate policies to enable and promote effective use of new information and communication technologies to improve communication among various stakeholders, especially researchers and farmers. It is also observed that many NARS have initiated comprehensive ICT/ICM projects and programs in their organizations using state-of-the-art information technology. The workshop provided a good opportunity to discuss progress of various national ICT/ICM projects and share development experiences of national agricultural information systems (NAIS). The major recommendations of the workshop included:

- APARIS should continue to focus its activities on advocacy, capacity building and regional knowledge sharing through greater involvement of various NAIS of the region.
- To further strengthen linkages between APARIS and NAIS, NARS need to officially designate their ICT/ICM related units or departments as National Information Nodal Points (NINPs).
- New web technologies and tools should be adopted for cost effective updating of agricultural research information systems and regional information exchange.
- Information resources available through APARIS and NAIS need to be popularized/promoted among various stakeholders.
- APARIS Steering Committee should play a greater role in developing its work plan and monitoring its activities as well as in resource mobilization through developed NARS and international donors.
- There should be an objective feedback mechanism to evaluate the national and regional agricultural research information systems for their continuous development.

A major revision of APAARI website (www.apaari.org), using newly available web technologies, for a better content management system and linkages to other ARD websites is being undertaken through decentralized input sources with the help of NINPs.

1.4 Expert Consultation on Biofuels

APAARI in collaboration with IRRI, CIMMYT and ICRISAT organized an Expert Consultation Meeting from 27 – 29 August 2007, at IRRI, Philippines. In all, 44 participants attended the Expert Consultation. The objective of the Consultation was to: (i) discuss how bioenergy production may have an impact on global and regional food security and the sustainability of key agricultural systems in Asia, (ii) summarize

current understanding of bioenergy options for key crops and cropping systems in Asia, (iii) identify key options and research priorities for designing and evaluating integrated food-bioenergy production systems for Asia, and (iv) develop a framework for research on biofuels in key agricultural systems of Asia and agree on follow-up activities, including meetings with public and private sector partners.

There was consensus that biofuels will play a major role in the global economy of the future. Many countries are exploring different strategies and policies on alternative energy sources, and the Asia-Pacific region, in particular, is expected to play a significant role in development and promotion of biofuels. Besides general recommendations, specific recommendations were made on three different bioenergy technologies: (i) bioenergy from thermal conversion of biomass, (ii) ethanol from sugar, starch or cellulose biomass, (iii) biodiesel from oil crops.

The major recommendations were:

- The Bioenergy Revolution is fast approaching. Biofuels will play a major role in the global economy of the future. Many countries are exploring different strategies and policies on alternative energy sources; and the Asia-Pacific region, in particular, is expected to play a significant role in development and promotion of biofuels.
- Poverty is still widespread in Asia. It is not clear to what extent poor farmers will benefit from the Bioenergy Revolution. What is clear is that the introduction and/or expansion of biofuel crops will cause major land use changes, and that many feedstocks (although originally targeted at marginal lands) will compete with food crops in productive eco-regions. The challenge is to ensure a balance between food and biofuel production.
- Policy makers need to protect the poor from rising commodity prices likely to be triggered by diversion of crop produce or area expansion of biofuel crops. Therefore, there is an urgent need to strengthen policy research in order to avoid decisions that may lead to competition between food and bioenergy; and identify a complementary approach that benefits both sectors.
- International organizations and the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) must accelerate their biofuel-related research in order to generate much needed International Public Goods (IPGs) that will benefit resource-poor farmers. They also need to enhance regional coordination of R&D efforts on bioenergy in the Asia-Pacific region; encourage regional information sharing; and facilitate research networking and capacity building of NARS.
- Public sector research needs to ensure that technology advances made in the private sector ultimately benefit the poor in the developing world. This is particularly important for many second generation biofuel technologies, which for want of proper policies and IPR regime, may not be accessible to poor farmers in Asia. Public-private partnerships, being the key factor, will have to be established and promoted.
- It is critical that scientists examine and share unbiased information on the life cycle performance and economics of bioenergy technologies, and their impact on food security and poverty. The social and environmental impacts of these technologies will also have to be assessed. This requires a standardized typology of food-feed-fiber-energy producing agricultural systems as well as standardized methodologies for their integrated assessment.
- Asian countries should consider utilization of crop residues, especially rice and wheat straw, which are largely being burnt in most countries. This is a priority area for R&D, particularly with regard to thermal conversion technologies for different scales and the level of residue retention which may be needed for sustainable land use under different cropping systems.
- Potential biofuel producing countries in Asia should conduct their own national assessments critically and devise appropriate strategies to meet long-term bioenergy goals. APAARI and other regional/global organizations should devise strategies for the Bioenergy Revolution, and sensitize policy makers so that countries in the Asia-Pacific can reap the expected benefits.
- The donor community should fund new R&D efforts on bioenergy, since the long-run benefits will lead to both poverty alleviation and protection of environment – thus meeting the two of the major Millennium Development Goals.

1.5 Expert Consultation to Review Progress of Agricultural Research Networks and Consortia in Asia-Pacific

An “Expert Consultation to Review Progress of Agricultural Research Networks and Consortia in Asia-Pacific” was organized by APAARI with ICAR and ICRISAT from 8-9 October 2007 in Hyderabad. Over 70 participants representing APAARI members from NARS, CG centers, ACIAR, GFAR, other international organizations, Private Sector and CSOs attended the meeting. The consultation reviewed the progress of activities/programs of various regional networks and consortia currently operating in the Asia-Pacific and their future projections vis-à-vis role of APAARI as facilitator to promote coordination/networking for agricultural research and development.

The Session-I on “Progress of Regional Programs” dealt with achievements of the two network-programs initiated by APAARI; Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) for strengthening of ICT/ICM activities, and the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) for promoting activities in agricultural biotechnology. Also, activities of an inter-regional network on cotton (INCANA) co-sponsored/ supported by APAARI, GFAR, ICARDA/CAC, AARINENA, AERO; were presented. Session II on “Partnership through ARD Networks” dealt with different kinds of networks: those on crop improvement like CLAN (cereals and legumes), CORRA (rice), BAPNET (banana), AVRDC (vegetables); other broader networks such as on PGR (biodiversity), RWC (rice-wheat system); ICUC (underutilized crops), GoFAR (fisheries, aquaculture) and Livestock R&D information network. Session III on “Status of Some New Initiatives” deliberated on some specific upcoming activities such as ‘National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) of ICAR through strengthening partnership; achievements of Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA) in promoting the seed sector and the activities in South Asia initiated by YPARD, the young professionals platform for ARD strengthening. Session IV on “Global Partnership: Challenge Programs-Their relevance for Asia-Pacific”, highlighted the progress achieved in CPs on ‘Water and food’; ‘Generation’: cultivating plant diversity for the resource poor; ‘Harvest Plus’: producing crops for better nutrition; and GPPs on ICM4ARD, and on PROLINONA. These technical sessions were followed by a Panel Discussion on ‘Strengthening Research Networks in Asia-Pacific: Stakeholders’ Perceptions’, wherein concerns were expressed by panelists representing NARS (Pakistan), CGIAR (ICRISAT), ARIs (AVRDC), private sector and CSOs (IFAP).

It became evident that several of the activities common to all networking programs as they stress on priorities for knowledge/information sharing, genetic resources utilization/conservation, technology transfer and dissemination, capacity building, policy issues. Overall, the following recommendations emerged out of intense deliberations on the subject. There was general consensus that clear benefits are being gained from networking and collaboration among R&D institutions in the region. These benefits acquire greater significance in the light of limited funds for agricultural R&D, the relatively low importance accorded by donor institutions to networking activities, and the shrinking intellectual base for research work. At the same time, climate change and emerging market and consumer demands impose new challenges to the R&D sector to develop crop varieties, fishery, and livestock species that are more biotic and abiotic stress resistant, higher yielding, and lead to lower costs and higher incomes to producers. Also networks on natural resource management such as water, salinity and systems management (soil-plant-livestock) such as agro-forestry are needed to be strengthened. There is, therefore, a continuing justification for institutions like APAARI to facilitate strengthening of R&D networks and consortia in the region.

An integrated system-wide approach to agricultural R&D needs to be adopted to ensure that research outputs respond to the whole array of needs and limitations of small-farmer beneficiaries. Greater attention needs to be given to multi-disciplinary research to develop effective network programs in rice-fish, crop-livestock, underutilized crops, and income diversification farming systems. Other emerging areas include biofuels, biosafety and biosecurity, climate change and sustainable agricultural production, and biotechnology and role of public private partnership. In this respect, the role of APAARI as an orchestrator of diverse and independent research efforts leading towards a “total” product for farmers and other stakeholders is crucial.

Some networks may operate better as sub-regional groups to address specific and common issues and priorities of these sub-regions within Asia-Pacific. This approach would lead to more effective participation of member countries and yield greater benefits for most of the institutions. In this context, need to strengthen networks on root crops, banana and fishery in the Pacific were also highlighted.

Small and medium scale seed producers need research network support as they cannot afford capital investment on R&D. NARS and other ARD partners should extend such support. APAARI and APSA could work more closely to address the issues related to seed research and production networking.

The private sector will continue to play an increasing role in technology development and dissemination. More efforts are needed to establish synergistic relationships/partnerships/ modalities with private sector R&D institutions even as steps are taken to ensure that stakeholders and small farmers continue to enjoy choices on what technologies and related services to avail of.

In the context of sustainability and impact of the networks, a need was expressed to widen the participation of stakeholders. In addition to public sector NARS and IARCs, network partners should include private institutions and grass-root stakeholders such as farmers and CBOs (Community Based Organizations). Alongwith policymakers, they should be involved in planning as well as implementation of the network activities. Engagement of universities would expand the partnership base of networks while creating awareness among young researchers about these initiatives. Similarly, young professionals could effectively be involved in research and vocational training in the network programs.

IPR concerns may increasingly influence collaborative work among network participants and steps need to be taken to ensure that they do not unduly hinder exchanges of information, genetic material and research outputs.

The network coordinating institutions need to invest time and resources, provide secretariat support, and exert leadership in activities. Network members in turn must cooperate actively and contribute their share to the effort. This implies that networks and consortia must evolve out of real needs and must be based on commonly shared objectives.

Evaluation of networks and prioritization of the network programs is very essential. Presently, there are several networks some of which are either not functioning or their activity levels are very low. It was therefore recommended that a review of all existing networks be done in terms of programs carried out and their impact. Impact assessment exercises to evaluate the tangible and intangible gains is important to induce efficiency and effectiveness in the networks and to highlight the successes of donor support. APAARI could take a lead in developing a uniform and commonly accepted impact assessment methodology similar to CG model of performance evaluation system for R&D networks/consortia.

Currently, APARIS targets researchers and students for dissemination of web-based information on agricultural technologies. While there is a need to extend its reach to farmers, multiplicity of languages is a major hurdle. APARIS needs to work with other institutions (including IARCs) to facilitate down streaming the dissemination of knowledge. ICRISAT is willing to partner with APARIS under the VASAT program to ensure that scientific knowledge and technologies are disseminated fast to the farming communities.

APARIS should play a major role in sensitizing the NARS for sharing knowledge and joining the networks of their specific interest. Facilitators (IARCs and NARS) of networks and consortia have to have greater commitment to fund and support its activities, so as to make them more effective and sustainable in long run. Also donor partners need to appreciate vital importance of research networks and continue funding these innovative and rather very beneficial initiatives.

The proceedings have been published and circulated. These are also available on APAARI website.

1.6 Establishment of NGO Consortium for Asia-Pacific

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), largely the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), has become increasingly important in providing the benefits of agricultural research to farmers, through their grassroots level approach. However, much concerted and coordinated efforts of diverse stakeholders are needed in a collaborative and partnership mode to achieve agricultural sustainability with focus on poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection, etc. with the required thrust on agricultural research for development (ARD). In order to deliberate on this concern, APAARI, jointly with ANGOC and with support from GFAR, organized a regional workshop at Bangkok from 17-18 April 2008, to discuss possible ways of strengthening regional cooperation among the NGO community actively associated with ARD activities and to explore possibilities for the establishment of a regional NGO consortium which can provide a neutral platform for regular interactions and legitimacy for representation on the national, regional and global organizations engaged in ARD.

The technical deliberations were conducted in four sessions. Session I dealt with Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific region: Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities, wherein five presentations were made, covering all aspects of the subject at the global, regional, national and local levels. Session II on Sharing NGO Experience in ARD, had five presentations that dealt with experiences in ARD in South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific sub-regions. Session III on Thematic Group Discussions, focused on three topics, namely; regional NGO priorities in ARD; knowledge sharing and establishment

of e-forum and modalities for partnership. The group deliberations highlighted the need to redirect agricultural research with active participation of NGOs, particularly in the national agricultural research system (NARS), to meet the needs of small farm holders and other marginalized groups with focus on participatory research. Session IV dealt with the need to have an Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium. Dr. Sidi Sanyang of FARA made a presentation on NGO Consortium for Africa on ARD. This was followed by the comments made by the four panelists and the discussion leading to several interventions. Dr Raj Paroda, in his Chairman's remarks, appreciated such similar initiatives of other regions. Subsequently, all NGO participants met separately to look into the modalities for establishing and operationalizing an NGO Consortium for Asia-Pacific.

In the Plenary Session, the participants unanimously decided to form a "NGO Association for Agricultural Research in Asia-Pacific (NAARAP)". The major goal of the Consortium will be to develop strategic partnership with APAARI and GFAR in the conduct of ARD agenda. Further, operational/organizational modalities for its establishment were discussed. All NGO participants agreed to be the members of NAARAP with its Secretariat for the first two years at ANGOC in the Philippines. Both APAARI and GFAR agreed to support and work closely with NAARAP in future.

A proceeding of the workshop has been published. It is widely distributed and also posted on APAARI website.

1.7 APARIS Technical Workshop on Development and De-centralized Management of ARD Information Resources

Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS), in collaboration with GFAR and ACIAR, organized a two-day technical workshop on Development and De-Centralized Management of ARD Information Resources at Hotel Rama Gardens, Bangkok on 19-20 April, 2008. Among the 20 participants at the workshop, 10 were National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand who participated in the workshop to strengthen APARIS and its linkages with the National Agricultural Information Systems (NAIS) of the Asia-Pacific region using the de-centralized approach of the Global ARD Web Ring. The workshop was facilitated by resource persons from GFAR, FAO and AIT.

GFAR and FAO emphasized the crucial role of NAIS in this web ring as most of the agricultural knowledge is created at research institute level. ACIAR advocated that greater adoption of agricultural technologies by farmers is possible if improved communication at various levels leads to cooperation among the development stakeholders. GFAR observed that there is growing evidence that information science is influencing farmers more than the agricultural science in some cases.

After country briefs by NINPs, the workshop deliberated on various priority issues at NAIS level, including standardization, coordination and sustainability. Through a group exercise, the participants came up with several recommendations for further development of the Global ARD Web Ring in which APARIS and its NAIS can participate using newly available tools/applications/frameworks such as RSS feeds, AgriFeeds, and CIARD. APARIS, through its own applications, demonstrated how these can be incorporated and implemented in NAIS.

1.8 Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology for Promoting Food Security in Developing Countries

APAARI in collaboration with Malaysian Agricultural Research Institute (MARDI) recently organized an Expert Consultation entitled "Agricultural Biotechnology for Promoting Food Security in Developing Countries" at Mines Beach Resort, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia on 20-22 August 2008. The objective of the Consultation was to review the status of research and application of agricultural biotechnology in developing countries, identify issues impacting application of biotechnology and suggest policy and strategic actions required to facilitate safe adoption of biotechnology to promote food security in developing countries. APAARI received partial funding support from the GFAR for organizing the meeting.

Seventy participants, including 18 invited by APAARI, comprising experts on agricultural policy and planning, biotechnology and other academia; civil society and farmer organizations; private sector; and other stakeholder groups attended the Consultation. The participants represented, besides international

organizations, several developing countries of South and Southeast Asia, Near East, Africa and the Pacific. Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Malaysia opened the Expert Consultation, which was followed by six Technical Sessions.

Nineteen lectures were delivered during sessions I–IV. Recommendations on the role and application of biotechnology in the context of FAOs definition of food security were presented in the Plenary Session and adopted. These recommendations covered issues of investment in biotechnology R&D, facilitating regulatory management, promoting science-based public perception and awareness, and building partnerships, including public-private and south-south partnerships.

2. Meetings

2.1 Executive Committee Meetings

2.1.1 The first meeting of the new APAARI Executive Committee for 2007-2008, elected during the 9th APAARI General Assembly Meeting (GAM) last November, was held on 17 March 2007 at the Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Raghunath D. Ghodake. The Chairman made the welcome remarks which were followed by remarks by Dr. Shukor, MARDI; Dr. Raul Montemayor, IFAP; Dr. William Dar, ICRISAT; Dr. Grace Lih-Fang Lin, CoA, Taipei and Dr. Anil Bawa, ICAR. In his brief on APAARI activities, Dr. Raj Paroda highlighted the successful meetings and expert consultation organized in New Delhi, India on 6-7 November 2006, which gathered about 100 participants from different stakeholder groups (NARS, CGIAR, FOs, NGOs, ARIs, private sector, donor agencies, other regional fora and youth). He intimated that Agriculture Production Division of FAO, Rome is keen to work with APAARI on a few important recommendations from the expert consultation on linking farmers to market as well as from the previous high level policy dialogue on biotechnology. The members unanimously appreciated the achievements of APAARI and made specific recommendations on (i) progress of the activities; (ii) sustainability of APAARI and secretariat support; (iii) advocacy for increased R&D investment in agriculture, and (iv) promoting APAARI and increasing its membership. The agenda items discussed included (i) membership and payment status; (ii) brief on meeting with CoA delegation; (iii) Work plan for 2007; (iv) IFAP program activities; (v) Audited Accounts for 2006; (vi) secretariat matters, and (vii) other items. The audited accounts for 2006 and work plan for 2007 were approved by the Executive Committee.

2.1.2 APAARI mid-term Executive Committee Meeting was held on 10 October 2007 back-to-back with APAARI Expert Consultation at ICRISAT, Patancheru. The Chairman, Dr. R. D. Ghodake welcomed all members/participants, and pointed out that APAARI as an active forum has made substantial progress in its activities. This was followed by remarks by Dr. William Dar, ICRISAT; Dr. Mangala Rai, ICAR; Dr. Carlos Sere, ILRI appreciating the role of APAARI and concerns on its strengthening. Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI thanked all participants for their contributions in the success of APAARI programs/networking activities carried out in a partnership mode. He dealt with the achievements made during 2007: holding expert consultations on biofuels and ARD networks and consortia; meetings on public-private partnerships; on ICT/ICM for senior NARS managers; its participation in network activities and the support to INCANA and CLAN. He pointed out to the new publications and those under process including some successful case studies on LFM; updated CDs on NARS, APAARI, success stories, and the designing of APCoAB and APARIS websites for information dissemination of its activities. Discussing work plan for 2008, several topics were suggested for future success stories such as of mungbean and vegetables by AVRDC, pigeonpea in China, chickpea in Myanmar, virus free citrus production in Taiwan. It was also agreed that the next venue for the General Assembly meeting will be Japan, hosted by JIRCAS; and the interest of National Taiwan University, Taipei and of RDA, Korea in hosting further meetings/workshops was appreciated. The topic agreed to for the expert consultation was on climate change as relevant to agriculture in Asia-Pacific. Dr. Paroda apprised the members on the funding position and thanked them for their timely contributions, and on new membership-ICRAF, National Taiwan University; but expressed further support of ACIAR, GFAR, and others to strengthen its programs. Budget options were discussed for activities in hand and for 2008. The deliberations of the meeting were very fruitful and the EC approved of the activities proposed.

2.1.3 APAARI Executive Committee Meeting was held back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific NGO Regional Workshop on ARD, on 19th April, 2008 at Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok. The Chairman, Dr. Raghunath Ghodake welcomed the members and special invitees. He was pleased to announce the establishment of a NGO Consortium on ARD for the Asia-Pacific region. He stressed on inter-regional partnership and active involvement of farmers, the private sector, CSOs and NGOs. This was followed by remarks from the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Abd Shukor, appreciating the achievements of APAARI for strengthening ARD partnership in the region.

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI dealt with the achievements made during last six months: holding the APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting, APAARI's participation in GFAR Steering and Program Committee Meetings, organization of NGO, ICT Meetings, etc. He mentioned the new publications and those under process including ASTI report. Meetings on Biotechnology, Expert Consultation on Adaptation to Climate Change and the one on Underutilized Crops in the Pacific would be organized later this year. He expressed thanks to ACIAR, COA, GFAR, MAHYCO and CIAT for funding support. While discussing the work plan for 2008, members appreciated the multifaceted activities of APAARI. Dr. Paroda apprised the members on new memberships of ICRAF, SAARC and IFAP. Budget options for the activities on hand were also discussed and the proposed program was duly approved. Dr. Ghodake thanked COA and Dr. Roy Y. Y. Wu for the generous support of US \$105,000 for a period of three years for activities relating to agricultural biotechnology.

One additional seat to ensure representation of NGO's, beside farmers' organization in the Executive Committee was approved. Members were pleased to know that APAARI was honored with the Outstanding Partnership Award by ICRISAT on 22 November, 2007.

2.2 APCoAB Steering Committee Meetings

2.2.1 The VII Steering Committee meeting of APCoAB was held on 6 June 2007 at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI. The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction on the progress made by APCoAB and felt that all important issues relating to promotion of agricultural biotechnology in the region were being appropriately addressed by the Consortium. The members were appreciative of the high quality of publications and expressed happiness over the decision of FAO to provide funding support for two future publications of APCoAB. Some of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee were : (i) Compilation of more success stories on topics like Tissue Culture Production of Orchids in Thailand, and Production of Virus Resistant Papaya; (ii) Finalization of compilation of Biosafety Regulations with tabulated information and a brief synthesis, (iii) Organization of training programs in collaboration with relevant institutions in the region, (iv) Exploring more options for revenue generation, and (v) Preparing budget for 2008 based on committed and expected funding support and expenditures. A new Steering Committee of following members was constituted which included Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI; Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI; Dr. Mangala Rai, ICAR; Dr. William Dar, ICRISAT; Dr. Adisak Sreesunpagit, DoA; Dr. Malcom Hazelman, FAO; Dr. Raju Barwale, MAHYCO; Dr. Abdelmajid Slama, GFAR; Dr. Randy A. Hautea, ISAAA. The SC members also discussed the issue of resource generation and agreed to mobilize their efforts and approach various donors/organizations (including ACIAR, GFAR, MAHYCO, etc.).

2.2.2 The VIII Steering Committee Meeting of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 28th February 2008 at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI and attended by seven Steering Committee Members or their representatives. The participants commended the achievements of APCoAB and made suggestions on expanding its activities in information dissemination, capacity building and regional collaborations.

The members expressed satisfaction over the good progress made during the period under report (July-January 2008) and approved the Work Plan for 2008. The progress of compilation of Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific countries was reviewed. It was recommended that the country regulations should be uploaded on APCoAB website for wider access by the interested users. Organizing awareness and consultation meetings was recommended to help build

consensus on important issues related to application of agricultural biotechnology in the region. Measures were suggested for enhancing the impact of APCoAB website as an information dissemination system on agricultural biotechnology in the AP region. The proposal of APCoAB for organizing one training program on marker-aided selection and one on conservation of plant genetic resources was appreciated. The members advised to continue efforts of raising resources and developing partnerships to expand further the activities of APCoAB.

- 2.2.3** The IX Steering Committee Meeting of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 19th August 2008 at Mines Beach Resort, Salengor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. It was chaired by Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI and attended by six Steering Committee Members/representatives and special invitees. The meeting began with welcome address by the Chairman followed by adoption of proceedings of the VIII SC. Presentations were made by the Executive Secretary, APAARI and Coordinator, APCoAB on Action Taken Report, progress made during the period under report (March – August 2008) and budget for 2008.

The participants commended the overall achievements of APCoAB and expressed satisfaction over the progress made during the period under report. It was felt that the new publication “Biosafety Regulations in the Asia-Pacific Countries” brought out by APCoAB would be very helpful in understanding the biosafety regulatory systems prevailing in the AP region and in forging regional partnerships for biotechnology and biosafety adoption and harmonization. The initiative taken towards organization of training programs on genetic resources conservation, marker-aided-selection and bioinformatics was appreciated. It was recommended to organize public forum meetings in collaboration with ISAAA, CG centres and NARS to create awareness about biotechnology in agriculture and related issues. Suggestions were made about enhancing the partnership of national systems for building regional information base on agriculture biotechnology and for strengthening the APCoAB website. Efforts of APCoAB towards building regional and interregional partnerships were appreciated and recommended to be strengthened further. The SC approved the revised work plan and budget for 2008.

2.3 APARIS Steering Committee Meeting

- 2.3.1** The newly constituted APARIS Steering Committee, composed of three NARS leaders (one each from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific) and representatives from ACIAR (the current Chair), GFAR (the Co-Chair), FAO, and AIT met on 20th April 2008. The Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Simon Hearn and co-chaired by Dr. Ajit Maru, commended the progress made so far by APARIS, finalized the work plan for 2008, and suggested future strategies to further improve the impact of APARIS at NARS/NAIS level. The advocacy and capacity building roles of APARIS were identified as critical.

APARIS realized that the ICT/ICM needs of most NARS are gradually shifting from hardware infrastructure to human capacity building for standardization and better coordination. APARIS will explore a knowledge-sharing mechanism for other activities such as APCoAB, thematic Regional Research Networks, and NGO association.

3. Publications

3.1 APAARI Bi-annual Newsletter (June and December 2007 and June 2008 Issue)

These issues were published in time and circulated widely. Under a recent evaluation supported by DFID, APAARI Newsletter has been adjudged to be one of the best publications for the dissemination of knowledge in agriculture globally.

3.2 Micropropagation for Production of Quality Potato Seed

This publication provides information on techniques of producing virus-free potato plants, their rapid multiplication, and microtuber and minituber production. Methods of integrating micropropagation with conventional potato seed production used successfully in some Asia-Pacific countries are detailed.

3.3 Brainstorming Session on Models of Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology-Highlights and Recommendations

This publication summarizes the proceedings of brainstorming session on this topic held in April 2007. Besides a general recommendation on the need to expand inter-sectoral partnerships for transferring the benefits of agricultural biotechnology to farmers and other stakeholders, the publication details specific recommendations on (i) Models of Public-Private Partnership, (ii) Policy, and (iii) Capacity Building.

3.4 Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Biofuels

This publication is currently in the press and will be distributed widely soon. A Press Release has already been picked up widely by the Media. The electronic version is also available on APAARI website.

3.5 Diversity in Agricultural Research Resources in the Asia-Pacific Region

Science and Technology (S&T) are the major contributors to food security, poverty reduction and economic growth, and their overall impact has been witnessed in South Asia through the remarkable success of Green Revolution. In order to meet the emerging challenges in agriculture, it is necessary to understand the existing diversity in agricultural research resources in the region. Quantitative data are also vital for measuring, monitoring and benchmarking the performance of national agricultural research systems (NARS).

In this context, based on joint efforts of ASTI/IFPRI and APAARI, two publications have been brought out recently, viz.; Research Brief No. 11, and the Status Report on 'Diversity in Agricultural Research Resources in the Asia-Pacific Region'. These provide useful information on major investment trends, variation in human resources, and the institutional developments in the public research and development (R&D) systems of 11 countries (South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam; and the Pacific: Papua New Guinea). It was observed that distribution of R&D spending among Asia-Pacific countries was quite uneven, with China, Japan and India, accounting for the lion's share of the regional agricultural research expenditure.

Many countries in the region such as Malaysia and Vietnam realized impressive growth in agricultural R&D spending in recent years, whereas growth in other countries has remained sluggish (and in some cases negative). Further, bulk of the R&D in agricultural sector is currently financed by the government, although there has been some diversification through the private sector in recent years. Also used lately are the research support mechanisms such as competitive funding, internally generated funds, and production or export levies. Much variation has also been observed in donor dependence, being higher in Laos and Nepal. Through national agricultural technology projects (NATPs), funded by the World Bank, India has increased R&D expenditure in the recent past. Also, substantial increase in agricultural research has been observed recently involving the private sector partnership, particularly in the field of biotechnology, as evident by the release of GM crops in India and the Philippines.

It is felt that wider dissemination of this report will be useful in catalyzing the policy makers, research managers of the national research systems and the donors. It will also help in assessing the future needs and gaps for strengthening agricultural research to help realize goals in the Asia-Pacific region. Accordingly, this publication has widely been distributed and also posted on APAARI website.

3.6 Linking Farmers to Market: Some Success Stories from Asia-Pacific Region

Over the past few years, much concern has been expressed on 'Linking Farmers to Market' – especially the LFM initiatives undertaken by NARS. APAARI, realizing the importance of LFM issues, organized an expert consultation in November 2006 at New Delhi, India, wherein need was expressed to identify some successful cases and publish them for wider use of NARS partners. The current APAARI publication serves this purpose amply. It deals with three success stories based on LFM initiatives undertaken in the Philippines, China and India

The LFM related case studies carried out in the Philippines deal with four crops - two of these on cashew, one each on citrus and arrowroot. These case studies demonstrate amply as to how an integrated approach involving smallholder farmers as cooperators with R&D support of government institutions, NGOs and even the private sector helped to establish small but profitably well managed cooperative enterprises,

taking care of the production and processing aspects, promoting value-addition, diversify products and cater to the demand-driven markets,

The second success story is on LFM case studies that cover the experiences of small farmer households growing potato in Wuchuan County in Inner Mongolia - an Autonomous Region (IMAR) of China. It relates to the development of Wuchuan potato industry commensurate with the expansion of supermarkets in China and the opportunities and challenges it posed to farmers to organize themselves; and thus leading to the development of farmers' associations. It focuses on the successes achieved by these associations in meeting LFM needs. The case studies presented describe the progress/success achieved towards development of modern potato industry in Wuchuan County, and how small farmers could be included in the new system and adapted to the changed market scenario despite several constraints.

The third success story focuses on case studies/models vis-à-vis national perspective for LFM development in India. It presents four selected case studies of infrastructure strengthening and market networking at state level and one with wider applicability, providing market information using e-information system (e-choupal). Besides these, it also deals with other successful LFM related cases such as those of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) and some other agricultural institutions in development and delivery of appropriate, adaptable, accessible technologies and innovations developed for application in the rural sectors for increased income generation to farmers/producers. It focuses on the strong market network and knowledge-empowerment of the farmer/rural sector to capitalize on new technologies for their overall benefits.

APAARI strongly considers that wider dissemination of this publication, brought out as part of proposed GPP for LFM by CIAT and GFAR, will be helpful initiating similar studies in other countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Further, it will help in generating interest expanding such rural based initiatives on LFM for the benefit of farmers, providing more income vis-à-vis promoting rural welfare, thereby contributing positively towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

3.7 Agricultural R&D Capacity and Investments in the Asia-Pacific Region

This brief report has been published as a joint effort of IFPRI and APAARI. It reviews major institutional developments and investment, and human resource trends in agricultural research and development (R&D) in 11 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The report draws on a set of country briefs, reports and underlying datasets developed by the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative. These data were then linked with investment and human resource data from the Chinese government and other secondary sources to provide a broader regional and global context.

3.8 Micro-propagation for Quality Seed Production in Sugarcane in Asia and the Pacific

This publication provides step-by-step protocol for production of disease free planting materials in sugarcane using meristem tip culture method. Field multiplication of *in-vitro* seedlings aimed at reducing the cost of seedling paid by the farmers is also detailed. Success stories of *in-vitro* sugarcane propagation in India, Australia and the Philippines are recounted. This publication has been brought out jointly by APAARI/APCoAB and FAO.

3.9 Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries

This publication details the regulatory instruments comprising of laws/acts/decrees/ regulations/rules related to biosafety of products of biotechnology for agriculture and food existing in 39 countries of Asia and the Pacific. Besides, chapters have been included on recent developments in agricultural biotechnology in the region, issues on biosafety, and international regulatory instruments on biosafety. A brief analysis of the present status of national biosafety regulations with respect to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has also been provided. The Agriculture Production Division of FAO provided the funding and technical support for this joint publication which is in great demand.

3.10 Proceedings of Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), largely the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is becoming increasingly important in providing the benefits of agricultural research to farmers, through

their grassroots level approach. However, much concerted efforts of diverse stakeholders are needed in a collaborative, partnership mode to achieve agricultural sustainability with focus on poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection etc. with the required thrust on agricultural research for development (ARD). In order to deliberate on this emerging concern, APAARI, jointly with ANGOC and with support of GFAR, organized a regional workshop at Bangkok from 17-18 April 2008, to discuss possible ways of strengthening regional cooperation among the NGO community actively associated with ARD activities and to explore possibilities for the establishment of a regional NGO consortium which can provide a neutral platform for regular interaction and legitimacy for representation in the national, regional and global organizations engaged in ARD.

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Chairman, APAARI welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. He Changchui, FAO Assistant Director General for Asia and the Pacific, Fr. Francis Lucus, Chairman ANGOC, Dr. Mark Holderness, Executive Secretary, GFAR, Dr. Sidi Sanyang, Director of Policy and Marketing, FARA and other participants. In their brief remarks, all asserted the need for such a workshop to focus on the role played by NGOs in the field of agricultural research. Dr. Paroda stressed on continued partnership and consultation mechanism among the NGO community to achieve desired goals with reorientation of ARD agenda in the context of emerging changes in the region.

The technical deliberations were conducted in four sessions. In the Plenary Session, the Rapporteurs of the three thematic groups presented their group recommendations. The participants unanimously decided to form a “NGO Association for Agricultural Research in Asia-Pacific, NAARAP”. The major goal of the Consortium will be to develop strategic partnership with APAARI and GFAR in the conduct of ARD agenda. Further, operational/organizational modalities for its establishment were also discussed. All NGO participants agreed to be the members of NAARAP with its Secretariat for the first two years at ANGOC in Philippines. Both APAARI and GFAR agreed to support and work closely with NAARAP in future.

4. APAARI on CD – 2007 & 2008 versions

A revised version of “APAARI on CD-2007” was brought out and distributed to all members last year. An updated version of “APAARI on CD-2008” will be released during the Tenth AGM to be held at Tsukuba, Japan on 20 October, 2008 and made available to all APAARI members and others on the mailing list.

5. Web-based Information Dissemination

5.1 APAARI Website has homepage with a new design and is being continuously up-dated with the latest information. To facilitate access to scientific publications generated by agricultural research in the region, all new publications are uploaded on the website regularly. APAARI publications and CD-ROMs are widely distributed in the region.

5.2 As part of its continuing activity, APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org) provides regular updates on developments in agricultural biotechnology with specific reference to the Asia-Pacific countries. A revised database of agricultural biotechnology institutes of the Asia-Pacific region has been completed and uploaded on the website. At present, information on 489 institutes from 36 countries is available and data on others are being gathered. A new e-news service has been started with the objective of providing wide circulation to information on significant developments in agricultural biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region.

6. Some Important Initiatives

6.1 Facilitating collaboration with ARD Networks

APAARI continued to facilitate activities of various networks. In particular, support was provided to INCANA and CLAN.

6.2 Participation in CGIAR Senior Management Program

APAARI had taken special initiative for the participation of senior NARS leaders for a CGIAR organized Management Orientation program in Switzerland. Dr. Raghunath Ghodake (NRI-PNG), Dr. M.E. Tusneem (PARC-Pakistan), Mr. A.K. Upadhayaya (ICAR-India) and Ms. Grace Lin (CoA-Taipei) had participated representing APAARI.

6.3 Visit to ADB

A delegation of APAARI consisting of Drs. R.S. Paroda, Raghunath Ghodake and M.E. Tusneem visited Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters on 30 August 2007 in Manila to explore possibilities of future collaboration in strengthening agricultural research in Asia-Pacific region. The delegation was received by the Vice-President, Mr. Jin and Senior Directors of various Divisions of the Bank. Efforts of APAARI were highly appreciated and it was agreed to initiate some joint activities in order to strengthen partnership between the two organizations.

6.4 Greater Stakeholder Involvement

In order to ensure greater involvement as well as ownership of ARD related activities of APAARI, the General Assembly in 2006 had approved additional seats for representation of CGIAR, GFAR and CSOs. Recently, it has been decided to expand the representation of CSOs by having one seat each for the representatives of NGOs and Farmers. This is considered as an important step forward.

6.5 “Oasis” Challenge Program Endorsed

“Oasis”- a new Challenge Program proposal has recently been submitted to CGIAR jointly by ICARDA and ICRISAT for its funding. This Challenge Program aims to address desertification - the degradation of the world's vast drylands due to human and climatic factors with major focus on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). A workshop for the project finalization was organized at Bonn, Germany from 12-14 March 2008. On APAARI's behalf, Dr. J.C. Katyal, Vice-Chancellor, Haryana Agricultural University, India, participated. He is an expert in the field of natural resources management.

6.6 Assistance to DFID Team for Scoping Study

A DFID expert team for Scoping Study consisting of Dr. Andy Hall and Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman had a meeting with Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI in New Delhi to explore the possibilities of collaboration between APAARI and DFID for developing a "Strategy for Research on Sustainable Agriculture" in South Asia. Dr. Hall explained the objective of the study to identify important research areas and programs in South Asia which could further be strengthened through DFID support in a partnership mode with APAARI. Dr. Paroda briefed them about the on-going APAARI regional networks in agricultural research for development. APAARI is overseeing their operations through the organization of group meetings, capacity building and exchange of information. In a recently organized expert consultation to review the progress of agricultural research networks and consortia, it was recommended that the existing networks need to be evaluated for their effectiveness and impact. Dr. Paroda suggested that DFID could support such evaluation activity in order to identify those which are important and need further support for yet better performance and results. APAARI further assured the DFID Team that it would be happy to undertake the responsibility of catalysing new networks, in areas where there are research gaps, by involving more active partnership among NARS of South Asia. The team has been provided with various publications of APAARI and the database on research institutions in the region.

7. Inter-Regional Collaboration

7.1 Collaboration with ERA ARD

APAARI took the lead in enhancing involvement of Southern Regional Fora in the European efforts to coordinate better their agricultural research on the occasion of the 4th Steering Committee meeting of the European Research Area–Agricultural Research for Development (ERA ARD) held in Maribor Slovenia from 2-3 October 2007.

The involvement of Southern Advisory Group (SAG) was initiated in Brussels in June 2007 at ERA ARD's mid-term conference and was made official during the 2nd SAG meeting in Maribor. SAG also agreed to have a chairperson on rotation basis. APAARI's representative, Dr. Nerlita M. Manalili, was endorsed to be the first chairperson of SAG.

7.2 Partnership for Agricultural Biotechnology

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) in collaboration with GFAR, FAO, ICARDA and ARC-Egypt held an Expert Consultation Meeting at Cairo from 15-16 December 2007 to deliberate on the establishment of Regional Network for Agricultural

Biotechnology in the Near East and North Africa. Dr. J. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB participated to share the experiences of the Asia-Pacific region and discuss possible inter-regional collaboration with the proposed network. The efforts of APCoAB in promoting agricultural biotechnology were very much appreciated. It was decided to jointly approach GFAR to seek funding support for the Bioinformatics Training Course to be held by AARINENA biotechnology network in Egypt, and the Expert Consultation on Biotechnology being organized jointly by MARDI/APAARI/APCoAB in Malaysia during 2008.

7.3 Support Extended for CLAN Activities

For intensification of research on legumes, especially in the extent of sustainability of cereal based cropping systems (rice-wheat and maize-wheat), scope of Cereal and Legume Asia Network (CLAN) expanded to cover chickpea, lentil, mungbean and soybean through partnership of three international centers - ICRISAT, ICARDA and AVRDC. Through this initiative, the CLAN scope was extended to have an inter-regional activity covering countries representing the Central, South and West Asia. A proposal for new CLAN is currently under consideration for funding by IFAD. Besides, APAARI provided partial funding support for organizing the 9th Steering Committee of CLAN.

7.4 Participation in Inter-Regional Cotton Network - INCANA

Inter-regional network on cotton (INCANA) has further been supported by APAARI for its activities on IPM, Bt Cotton and hybrid cotton technologies. A success story on existing cotton-wheat rotation in South-Asia is currently being edited for publication and wider circulation for promoting this production system in Central and West Asia.

7.5 Global Partnership Program on Linking Farmers to Market (GPP on LFM)

APAARI has been actively taking part in the development of GPP on LFM. Besides holding of an Expert Consultation in 2006 on this subject, APAARI is being represented in the interim Steering Committee through Dr. Nerlita M. Manalili. Based on current efforts to assess success stories on LFM in Asia, APAARI has submitted a draft proposal for inclusion in the Global Partnership Program for funding consideration by the donors through GFAR. The draft proposed for GPP on LFM has recently been endorsed to GFAR for funding and it has also been circulated among interested institutions/organizations.

8. Efforts on Capacity Building

The following capacity development activities have been planned.

- Training course on “Molecular Methodologies for Assessing and Applying Genetic Diversity in Crop Plants”- To be held at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India from 17-28 November, 2008.
- International Training Course on “*In vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources”- To be organized jointly by National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Bioversity International and APCoAB from 17-29 November, 2008 at New Delhi, India.
- Training on “Production and Indexing of Pathogen-Free Citrus Seedlings”- To be held jointly by National Taiwan University (NTU) and APCoAB from 18-29 November, 2008 at Taipei.

9. Resource Generation

Additional funding support for two main programs of APAARI namely, APARIS and APCoAB, has been received from ACIAR and CoA, Chinese Taipei. Also support has been received from GFAR for some meetings and expert consultations held on thematic issues such as Biofuels and Research Networking. Support from FAO has been received for the joint publication of success stories and reports on biosafety and biotechnology. Similarly, partnership in cost-sharing with CIAT (LFM: Some Success Stories from Asia-Pacific Region), ICARDA (Lentil Production in Nepal), ISNAR/IFPRI (Diversity in Agricultural Research Resources in the Asia-Pacific Region) enabled APAARI to bring out some very useful publications. JIRCAS has been generous in hosting the General Assembly meeting of APAARI on 20 October and the Symposium on Climate Change on 21-22 October, 2008.

10. New Membership

During the year, ICRAF, IFAP, National Taiwan University (NTU) and SAARC have joined APAARI as new Associate Members, whereas China, Bhutan and Indonesia have again been approached become members of APAARI. Also CIAT is likely to join as Associate Member, whereas South Pacific Commission (SPC) and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) have been approached to become Reciprocal Members. Continued efforts in this regard are being made.

Epilogue

As is evident from above report, APAARI remains committed to follow the principle of inclusiveness and subsidiary in all its activities, and foster the culture of learning through sharing of knowledge among its stakeholders. APAARI continues to aim at more meaningful partnership (both intra and inter-regional) for the accelerated growth of agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region. Continued support of APAARI members is, therefore, duly acknowledged.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near and North Africa	ICM4ARD	Information Communication Management for Agriculture for Development
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agro-forestry
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ANGOC	Asian Non-Government Organizations Consortium	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
APARIS	Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System	ICT/ICM	Information Communication Technology/Information Communication Management
APCoAB	Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development	IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
ARI	Advanced Research Institution	IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ASTI	Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators	IMAR	Inner Mongolia – an Autonomous Region of China
AVRDC	Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center	INCANA	Inter-Regional Cotton Network
CFTRI	Central Food Technological Research Institute	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
CIARD	Coherence on Information for Agricultural Research Development	LFM	Linking Farmers to Markets
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture	MAHYCO	Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company
CLAN	Cereals and Legume Asia Network	MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
COA	Council of Agriculture (Chinese Taipei)	MDGs	Millennium development Goals
CP	Challenge Program	NAARAP	NGO Association for Agricultural Research for the Asia-Pacific
CSO	Civil Society Organization	NAIS	National Agricultural Information System
DFID	Department for International Development	NARS	National Agricultural Research System
ERA ARD	European Research Area – Agricultural Research for Development	NATP	National Agricultural Technology Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NBPGR	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research for Africa	NDDDB	National Dairy development Board
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research	NGO	Non Government Organization
GPP	Global Partnership Programme	NINP	National Information Nodal Point
IARCs	International Agricultural Research Centers	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas	NTU	National Taiwan University
		R&D	Research and Development
		RSS	Really Simple Syndication
		SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
		SAG	Southern Advisory Group
		SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
		S&T	Science and Technology

LIST OF APAARI MEMBERS

MEMBERS

- ACIAR-Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (Australia)
- AREO-Agricultural Research and Education Organization (Iran)
- BAR-Bureau of Agricultural Research (Philippines)
- BARC-Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Bangladesh)
- CARP-Council for Agricultural Research Policy (Sri Lanka)
- COA-Council of Agriculture (Chinese Taipei)
- DOA-Department of Agriculture (Thailand)
- IAC-Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien (New Caledonia)
- ICAR-Indian Council of Agricultural Research (India)
- JIRCAS-Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (Japan)
- MAFF- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (Fiji)
- MARD-Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
- MARDI-Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Malaysia)
- MCFF-Ministry of Commerce, Forests and Fisheries (Samoa)
- NARC-Nepal Agricultural Research Council (Nepal)
- NARI-National Agricultural Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
- PARC-Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Pakistan)
- PCARRD-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (Philippines)
- RDA-Rural Development Administration (Republic of Korea)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AVRDC-World Vegetable Center (Chinese Taipei)
- Bioversity International (Italy)
- CIMMYT-International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Mexico)
- ICARDA-International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Syria)
- ICBA-International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (United Arab Emirates)
- ICRAF-International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Kenya)
- ICRISAT-International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (India)
- IFAP-International Federation of Agricultural Producers (France)
- IFPRI-International Food Policy Research Institute (U.S.A.)
- ILRI-International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya)
- IRRI-International Rice Research Institute (Philippines)
- IWMI-International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka)
- NTU- National Taiwan University (Chinese Taipei)
- PNG UniTech - Papua New Guinea University of Technology (Papua New Guinea)
- SAARC-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Bangladesh)
- The World Fish Center (Malaysia)

RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

- AARINENA-Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (Jordan)
- AIT-Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- APAFRI-Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions (Malaysia)
- APSA-The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (Thailand)
- NACA-Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (Thailand)

APAARI PUBLICATIONS

- Bi-annual APAARI Newsletter
- APAARI Success Stories (listed below)
- APAARI – A Decade of Progress, 2001
- Proceedings of Expert Consultations and APAARI Meetings (listed below)
- APAARI Vision 2025
- ICT in ARD: Status and Progress in the Asia-Pacific Region. 2004
- APAARI on CD (updated annually)
- 15 years of APAARI: A Retrospective. 2006
- Agricultural Research Priorities for Asia and the Pacific- A Synthesis, 2001. 2006
- Directories of Agricultural Research Institutions (CD). 2006
- Posters: APAARI, APARIS, APCoAB, ARD Networks. 2006

Success Stories

- Baby Corn production in Thailand (1994/1), Chamnan Chutkaew and R.S. Paroda
- Tilapia farming in the Philippines (1994/2), Rafael D. Guerrero III
- Hybrid rice in China (1994/3), Lou Xizhi and C.X. Mao
- Dairying in India (1994/4), R.P. Aneja
- Hybrid cotton in India (1995/1), A.K. Basu and R.S. Paroda
- Palm oil industry in Malaysia (1995/2), Y.B. Basiron
- Transformation in Korean farming (1996/1), Chae Yun Cho
- Cotton production in Pakistan (1996/2), Badaruddin Soomro and Parvez Khaliq
- Orchids in Thailand (1997/1), Kanchit Thammasiri
- Wheat production in Iran (1997/2), Abbas Keshavarz and M.J. Mirhadi
- Agro-tourism in Australia (1997/3), Tom Connors
- Direct seeded rice in Malaysia (1998/1), Cheong Ah Wah
- Direct seeded rice in China (1998/1),
- Groundnut in China (1998/2), Duan Shufen *et al.*
- Oilseeds in India (1999/1), Mangala Rai
- Integrated pest management in rice in Indonesia (1999/2), Soejitno
- Bivalve Mariculture in India (Pearl Oyster, Edible Mussel & Oyster) (2000/1), V.N. Pillai *et al.*
- Farming of Carrageenophytes in the Philippines (2001/1), Rafael D. Guerrero III
- Resource conserving technologies: Transforming the rice-wheat systems of the Indo-Gangetic plains (2002/1), Raj K. Gupta *et al.*
- Success story on the control of newcastle disease in village chickens (2003/1), Robyn Alders
- Lentil improvement in Bangladesh (2004/1), Ashutosh Sarker *et al.*
- Some success stories in classical biological control of agricultural pests in India (2004/2), S.P. Singh
- Sustaining the Green Revolution in India (2004/3), S. Nagarajan
- Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) culture in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal (2005/1), A.K. Rai *et al.*
- Selected success stories on Agricultural Information Systems (2006), Sahdev Singh
- **Lentil Production in Nepal (2007), Ramakrishna Neupane *et al.***
- **Commercialization of Bt corn in the Philippines- A status report (2005), Reynaldo V. Eborá *et al.***
- **Micropropagation for production of quality potato seed in Asia-Pacific (2007), Prakash S. Naik and J.L. Karihaloo**
- **Bt cotton in India- A status report (2007)**
- **Linking farmers to market: Some Success Stories from Asia-pacific Region (2008/1), Rosendo S. Rapusas *et al.***

- **Micropropagation for quality seed production in sugarcane in Asia and the Pacific (2008), N.C. Jalaja *et al.***
- **Biosafety regulations of Asia-Pacific countries (2008), Kavita Gupta *et al.***
- **Diversity in agricultural research resources in the Asia-Pacific region (2008), Nienke M. Beintema and Gert-Jan Stads**
- **Cotton-wheat production system in South Asia: A success story (2008), C.D. Mayee *et al.***
- **Production and Cultivation of Virus-free Citrus Saplings for Citrus Rehabilitation in Taiwan (2008), Hong-Ji Su**

Proceedings of Expert Consultations and Meetings

- NARS-CGIAR Partnership for Agricultural Research and Development, 1996
- Research Priority Setting by the NARS, 1996
- Management and Strengthening of Research Networks, 1997
- Research Management Mechanisms of NARS, 1998
- Developing APAARI Vision 2025, 1999
- Development of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS), 2000
- Regional Priority Setting for the Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2001
- Status of Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, 2002
- Development of Second Phase of APARIS, 2002
- Strengthening of Research Partnerships Through Networks and Consortia, 2002
- Establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology, 2003
- Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System and Regional Research Networks, 2003
- Post harvest Technologies for Ensuring Food Security and Value Addition for Enhanced Income, 2004;
- Brainstorming Session on Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology, 2005;
- Research Needs Assessment for South Asia, 2004; Southeast Asia, 2005; and the Pacific, 2005;
- High Level Policy Dialogue on Biotechnology for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation: Opportunities and Challenges, 2005;
- Roundtable meeting on Implementation of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2005
- ASIAN Contact Group on SMTA Meeting, 2006
- Ad hoc Working Group on Linking Farmers to Market Meeting, 2006
- Inter-regional Meeting on APARIS, 2006
- Regional Synthesis of Research Needs, 2006
- Workshop on Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for Harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2006
- Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovation: Linking Farmers to Market, 2006
- The Ninth APAARI General Assembly, 2006
- **Brainstorming Session on Models of Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology, 2007**
- **Expert Consultation on Biofuels, 2007**
- **ICT/ICM Sensitization and Awareness Building Workshop for NARS Leaders & Senior Managers, 2007**
- **Expert Consultation to Review Progress of Agricultural Research Networks and Consortia in Asia-Pacific, 2007**
- **Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development, 2008**
- **Workshop on Development and De-centralized Management of ARD Information Resources, 2008**
- **Expert Consultation on Agricultural biotechnology for Promoting Food Security in Developing Countries, 2008**

Note: Those in bold letters are the publications brought out during 2007-2008 period.

APAARI READY RECKONER

Membership Fee Status As on 31 August 2008

ANNEXURE- V

S.No.	Country	Payment Category	Year								Remarks
			2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
1.	ACIAR – Australia	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
2.	AREO – Iran	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		
3.	BAR – Philippines	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		
4.	BARC – Bangladesh	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		Rec.		
5.	COA – Taipei	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
6.	DOA – Thailand	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
7.	ICAR – India	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		
8.	IAC – New Caledonia	III		Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
9.	JIRCAS – Japan	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
10.	MAFF – Samoa	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		
11.	MPIFC/KRS – Fiji	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.		
12.	MARD, Vietnam	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.			
13.	MARDI, Malaysia	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.			Rec.	Rec.	
14.	NARC – Nepal	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
15.	NARI – Papua New Guinea	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	

S.No.	Country	Payment Category	Year								Remarks
			2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
16.	PARC – Pakistan	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
17.	PCARRD – Philippines	II	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
18.	RDA – Republic of Korea	I	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	
19.	CARP – Sri Lanka	III	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	

Status of Contributions by Associate Members

As on 31 August 2008

S.No.	Country							
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	The World Vegetable Center (AVRDC), Chinese Taipei	Rec.						
2	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico	Rec.						
3	International Crops Research institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India	Rec.						
4	International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka	Rec.						
5	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines	Rec.						
6	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Rome, Italy	Rec.						
7	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Syria	Rec.						
8	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya	Rec.						
9	International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE							
10	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA	Rec.						
11	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), India							
12	International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), France	Rec.						
13	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Bangladesh	Rec.						
14	The World Fish Center, Malaysia	Rec.						
15	PNG University of Technology, Papua New Guinea	Rec.						
16	National Taiwan University, Chinese Taipei	Rec.						

APAARI WORK PLAN FOR 2009

Activities	Details
1. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings of the symposium on climate change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI Newsletter (December 2008, June and December 2009)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of new success stories on orchid production in Thailand, Taro production in Papua New Guinea and on other selected topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI on CD and NARS on CD
2. Meeting & Expert Consultations	Expert consultations on selected themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Underutilized crops in the Pacific (March, 2009) (ii) Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biosecurity (iii) Biofertilizers and Biopesticides (iv) Sensitization of NARS leaders for strengthening ICM4ARD and building of regional communication strategy
3. APARIS Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New APAARI web site development • Institute Directory (NARS on CD): Database to be updated • Implementation of Regional Agricultural Expert Locator (RAEL) on APAARI web site • APARIS Steering Committee Meeting (April/May, 2009)
4. APCoAB Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APCoAB Steering Committee Meetings (Jan & October/November, 2009) • Public Awareness Forum on conventional biotechnologies • Developing and understanding models for strengthening Public Private Partnership • Publication of status reports on success of tissue culture technology in banana, orchids, papaya etc. • Training Programs on Genetic Resources Conservation and Marker Assisted Selection
5. Inter-regional Cooperation	Participation and strengthening of cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCANA • Biotechnology • LFM • Global RAIS

Proposed Budget for 2009 – 2010
(Amount in US Dollars)

S. No.	Items	Approved		Proposed	
		2007	2008	2009	2010
1.	Publications (Newsletter, Success Stories Directory, Technical Reports, etc)	25,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2.	APAARI Secretariat Support I Staff salary II Office Stationery & Postage III Miscellaneous Items	80,000 25,000 20,000	85,000 25,000 20,000	120,000 30,000 25,000	150,000 35,000 30,000
3.	Consultancy / Travel / SSA	50,000	50,000	70,000	80,000
4.	Training / Selected Research Projects / APAARI Programs and Network Support	60,000	70,000	75,000	80,000
5.	Expert Consultation (s) / General Assembly and Executive Committee Meetings of APAARI	60,000	60,000	75,000	85,000
	Total:	320,000	340,000	425,000	490,000

ANNEXURE- VIII

From: raj paroda [mailto:raj.paroda@yahoo.com]

Sent: 16 June 2008 16:30

To: Sampan Campiranon; Ibrahim Hamdan; Said Irandoust; Baskaran Krishnapillay; Sena de Silva; Shawki Barghouti; Joachim Von Braun; Colin Chartres; William D Dar; Emile Frison; Dennis Philip Garrity; Abdul Halim; Stephen Hall; Wais Kabir; Dyno Keating; Thomas Lumpkin; Carlos Seres; Mahmoud Solh; Robert Zeigler; Abdul Shukor Abdul Rahman; Richard Beyer; Bui Ba Bong; Wen-Deh Chen; Peter Core; N P Eleazar; Patricio S Faylon; Raghunath Ghodake; Kenji Iiyama; Jafar Khalghani; Thierry Mennesson; Nanda Prasad; Mangala Rai; Rohan Rajapakse; Abdur Razzaque; Hyun Soon Kim; Metanee Sukontarug; Philip Tuivavalagi; M E Tusneem; A K Bawa; Patrick Dugan; Jocelyn Eusebio; CLL Gowda; Gracelin; Ashok Gulati; Simon Hearn; Abul Kasheem; Tae-San Kim; Koyama; Noel Magor; P N Mathur; S Mruthyunjaya; Ortiz Rodomiro; Roozitalab; Ashutosh Sarker; B R Sharma; Dil Prasad Sherchan; Robert Simmons; V Pal Singh; T Solsoloy; Suwit; Iain A Wright

Cc: Raj Paroda; pksaha@apaari.org; Poonam Saini; Urairat; Monika Sachdev

Subject: Proposed APAARI Constitution

Dear Members,

As per requirement of APAARI Constitution, your endorsement will be required in the next General Assembly Meeting on 20th October, 2008 at Tsukuba, Japan for the proposed change in the Constitution. Accordingly, an advance 60 days notice is required as per Constitution. We will appreciate receiving your kind endorsement/approval for the proposed amendment.

Recently, the Executive Committee has agreed to have one additional seat for the representation of NGO stakeholders. Currently, the one seat for CSO's is being alternatively shared between NGO and Farmer's Organizations. Accordingly please find attached the Present and Proposed Article for your kind attention and suggestions.

Best regards,

Raj Paroda

Executive Secretary

APAARI

Article X : EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Present Provision

16. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association composed of three officers, namely Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Secretary of APAARI, and seven other members. The following three will be the ex-officio members: the Executive Secretary, who shall be appointed according to Article XII under paragraph 22, the Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and one CGIAR Center Director General from among associate members. The outgoing Chairman will be a member for the next term, whereas three members would represent the Pacific, South-East Asia and South-West Asia sub-regions. The remaining one member will be from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the seven other members shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the member institutions at the biennial meeting and shall hold office until the next biennial session and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office. No country will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.

Proposed Amendment

16. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association composed of three officers, namely Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Secretary of APAARI, and **eight** other members. The Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and one CGIAR Center Director General from among Associate Members will be the ex-officio members; while the outgoing Chairman will be a member for the next term. There will be three NARS members representing the Pacific, South-East Asia and South-West Asia sub-regions. The remaining **two** members will be from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)- **one each from regional farmer's and NGO's associations/communities**. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and other members shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the member institutions at the biennial meeting and shall hold office until the next biennial session and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office. However, the Executive Secretary of APAARI shall be appointed according to Article XII under Paragraph 22. No country NARS members will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.