Foresight Exchange Workshop

“How to integrate agriculture and environmental stakes in foresights?”

Introduction 2/2 (B. Hubert, Agropolis International)

Strategic thinking: a tool to promote Policy Coherence

With the support of the following institutions:

Beijing, 16th October 2011
Strategic Thinking: a tool to promote Policy Coherence

Bernard HUBERT
Chair of Agropolis International

G20 Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
Promoting Scientific Partnerships for Food Security
Montpellier – 12 & 13 September 2011
Policy Coherence: how to set shared research priorities?

Setting research priorities in order:

- to increase the chances of success in a research area
- to secure funding and to identify key partnerships
- to enhance the transfer of the research results and technologies to farmers and,
- to ensure that joint research activities respond to farmer’s needs and concerns and involve them through participatory research

How to clearly and jointly set research priorities?
New challenges facing Ag Research call for innovation

The need to build visions in order to explore and anticipate

• And not only exploit usual conceptual framework, keeping unchanged goals, performance criteria and division of labor

• But when the goals are changing and multiple and that these transformations are expected: a need for a renewal of values, concepts and knowledge ... and evaluation criteria

• To inventing the difference that will really make a difference

  In order to be ready before having to face stakes!
Thinking forward: a strategic tool?

• From a hierarchy of stakes to a strategic framework ... and to research priority setting!

• According to the skills and means of each research organization

• ... and to the demand expressed by stakeholders (farmers, donors, consumers, NGOs ...)

• Taking into account disruptive options in science

• To explore and anticipate not only to adapt!
Thinking forward: a public good?

- Emerging from dialogue and debates between a diversity of exercises
- In order to put some lights and targets on the map which will indicate the road
- Closely linked to integrated assessments on agricultural outputs (observation systems, networks, data banks ...)
- And to help to set hierarchies on what is at stake according to a diversity of concrete situations (social, geographical, historical ...)
Lessons from an Exercise Conducted in Preparation for the 2010 GCARD

THINKING FORWARD:
ASSESSMENTS, PROJECTIONS AND FORESIGHTS
Implications for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)

(Seminar co-organized by FI4IAR and CTA)
STUDIES REVIEWED DURING THE FIRST EXERCISE

➢ **Assessments**
  - Agriculture for Development (WDR 2008, WB)
  - Agriculture at a crossroads. Lessons from the IAASTD reports
  - SCAR 2nd Foresight Exercise (EC)
  - Structural Change of Rural Economies and Globalization (Ruralstruc, WB)

➢ **Projections**
  - The FAO Outlook to 2030-2050. Production, consumption, resources (FAO)
  - IMPACT (IFPRI)
  - Threshold 21, Dynamic modeling for agriculture production, emissions and consumptions (Millennium Institute)

➢ **Foresights**
  - The Future of Agriculture and Food in the Mediterranean Countries. Mediterra 2008 (CIHEAM)
  - UK Foresight Project on Global Food and Farming Futures (UK)
  - AGRIMONDE. Scenarios and Challenges for Feeding the World in 2050 (France)
Main Lessons

• Multiple convergences, but also divergences controversies, requiring further research
• Long-term outlook needed to guide decisions on research priorities as well as policy actions
• Complementarities of projections and foresights, quantitative and qualitative approaches, disruptive scenarios
• Diversity of methods and institutions desirable
• Key institutions should have long-term perspective teams
Convergent Views: four key points

• Achieving food security is mainly a problem of local access to food, not global food production
• Main challenge: understand the socioeconomic situation of rural poor and provide them with multiple income opportunities
• Ecosystems degradation and climate change affect rural poor disproportionately and require extra public investment and research
• Business as usual is not an option
Convergent Views: special issues needing more research

• Impacts of biofuels and climate change on food security
• Impacts of urbanization – (land, markets, consumption patterns, rural-urban balances)
• Demographic transition (nutritional needs, labour force, social policies)
• Consumer behaviour and attitudes
• Nutrition transition and public health
• Reducing excessive waste in the food chain
Convergent Views: widen scope beyond agriculture

- Understanding reasons for lacking political will to invest in hunger reduction
- Study capacity of secondary and tertiary sectors to absorb work force coming from agriculture
- Expand and stabilize investment in ARD, rural infrastructure, education and health - targeting the needs of the poor

12 September 2001 G20 Conference on ARD
Issues with divergent views calling for further research

- Response to market concentration (role of various SKH)
- Response to uneven/unfair distribution
- Trade and regulation (competitiveness of poor farmers, food sovereignty vs food security, addressing vulnerability
- Prioritize mitigation over adaptation in addressing climate change?
- Which change in organization of research?
  - Allow plurality of paradigms and respect niche research
  - Integrating scientific and local knowledge
- Need for paradigm change?
  - from productivity to resilience of farming systems?
  - More focus on poverty alleviation and social safety nets?
Controversies among worldviews

• Need to understand and address implications of different ‘worldviews’, not necessarily to reconcile them

• Two examples:
  – Public versus private goods
  – Which implicit model of farming in the future, if any?
Foresights and Projections: how to ensure relevance, credibility and legitimacy?

• Participation of a diversity of stakeholders (farmers organizations, NGO, policy makers …)

• Transparency of mandate and authors

• Solid empirical basis

• Quantitative as well qualitative statements

• Monitoring of follow-up
A strategic element of the GCARD Roadmap in order to

- Carry out creative discussions with a wider set of stakeholders across the world
- Present and debate with all stakeholders alternative ways and visions for the future
- Within a neutral and independent platform for developers of different foresight tools and initiatives, various approaches and organizations
- And start rethinking research priorities within an international framework and broad collaborations!
Next stages

• A Foresight Exchange Workshop linked to the Science Forum (CGIAR-ISPC, October 2011, Beijing): “How to integrate agriculture and environmental stakes in foresights?”

• One of the main issue of the next GCARD in November 2012 at Punta del Este: « Foresight & partnership for innovation and impact on smallholder livelihoods »
With a unique objective:

• To increase the chances that today’s decisions actually address the needs and widen the options of future generations
Thanks for your attention!