



GFAR

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FORUM MONDIAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE
FORO GLOBAL DE INVESTIGACION AGROPECUARIA

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MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

1ST – 2ND DECEMBER 2005

Progress Report from CSOs: Farmer Organizations

FARMERS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2005 WITHIN GFAR AND RESEARCH REGIONAL FORUMS

The *International Federation of Agricultural Producers* and the *Global Forum for Agricultural Research* gave in 2005 a new dynamism to their collaboration by involving more efficiently family farmers in agricultural research debates and programmes. A concrete improvement has been made through the launching of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research which is now a structured interlocutor for global and regional research forums.

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research

In its support to farmers' involvement in agricultural research, GFAR facilitated the establishment of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research in 2005. All functions and documents were discussed within the Committee so that all Committee members could make the shared objectives their own.

✓ *First meeting to launch the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research*

Following the decision of the IFAP Executive Committee to strengthen farmers' participation in research activities, IFAP organised the first meeting of its Committee on Agricultural Research thanks to the financial support of FAO through GFAR. These funds ensured the participation of family farmers from developing countries in the first meeting of the Committee on the 5th and 6th of September 2005 in Paris, France, to discuss the priorities for its programme and to establish a realistic action plan for the next few years.

The fifteen participants in the workshop were farmers representing IFAP in regional and international organisations working on agricultural research; all are members of the Committee.

✓ *Mandate, structure and objectives of the Committee*

The Committee's mandate is to contribute to the improvement of farmers' livelihoods through the development of an agricultural and food research designed, monitored and implemented by farmers themselves.

Three objectives are emphasised: influencing the agricultural research priorities in order to develop activities and policies that take account of the needs of family farmers, facilitating the participation of farmers' organisations in agricultural research and making the results accessible, and creating links between farmers' organisations, extension services and regional and international research networks.

Members of this Committee are the IFAP farmers' focal points who accepted to represent our Federation in research collaboration with the GFAR and the CGIAR.

A fact sheet of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research is available in English, French and Spanish. (*Annex 1*)

✓ *Roles and functions of the members of the Committee*

IFAP farmers' focal points need clear messages and defined actions. Exhaustively, they agree on exchanging concrete experiences of farmers' organisations collaborating with research centres and developing positive practices, identifying possible processes for having an influence at national,

regional and international level, acting to make effective extension services widely accessible and maintaining regular contact and concrete involvement with national and international research centres. (*Annex 2*)

✓ ***IFAP Background Document to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research***

Priorities of the Committee to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research are included in a reference document common to all IFAP farmers rationalising the management of research at world level. (*Annex 3*)

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research emphasises the main objective of agricultural research: to improve the working and living conditions of farmers throughout the world.

To sum up, this background document contains recommendations on the following issues: participation of farmers' organisations in agricultural research programmes and activities and in evaluating and monitoring them; representation of farmers' organisations in research centres and extension services; role of governments in establishing an appropriate policy and legislative framework for developing collaboration between research centres, farmers' organisations and extension services; circulation of the results of research to farmers' organisations and public/private partnerships in agricultural research. The Committee is therefore keen to work on the common processes that will enable the needs of farmers to be taken into account in research centres.

Special attention should also be given to the socio economic dimension of research, tackling issues such as the organizational research to allow farmers to gain more from the marketplace.

✓ ***Action Plan of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research***

A work plan for implementing IFAP farmers' priorities has been established under 5 headings: the lobbying of regional and international agricultural research structures; looking at good practices and positive processes that already exist between researchers and farmers; capacity building programmes; drawing up a farmers' documentation kit on agricultural research; and facilitating and co-ordinating farmer representation at agricultural research meetings. (*Annex 4*)

The next meeting of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will be held during the World Farmers' Congress on the 14th of May 2006 in Korea.

Enhance collaboration with the GFAR

✓ ***Participation of IFAP President in the GFAR Steering Committee***

The IFAP President represents farmers in the GFAR Steering Committee. In this function, he participated in GFAR SC meeting on the 15th of December 2004 in Rome and was represented by the Presidents of two Ugandans farmers' organisations on the 8th of June 2005 in Uganda. As a stakeholder, IFAP commented the GFAR work programme and budget as well as the involvement of farmers in GFAR structures. IFAP presented to GFAR members the importance it attaches to agricultural research and the need for farmers and their organisations to play a crucial role in it.

✓ ***Lobby Campaign for the involvement of farmers in governing bodies of regional research forums***

An Open Letter signed by IFAP President, Jack Wilkinson, was sent in May 2005 to the GFAR Regional Directors to promote the participation of farmers on the governing bodies of regional research structures. Positive responses have already been received as far as granting a seat to farmers on their boards.

✓ *GFAR Triennial Conference, November 2006*

In November 2006, GFAR will be holding its Triennial Conference in India. To this end, GFAR has asked for the nomination of farmers' representatives to the 2006 GFAR Preparation Committee. Raul Montemayor (Philippines) assisted by Sarala Gopalan (India) will be IFAP representatives and will therefore contribute to the definition of the topics for discussion and the choice of speakers.

✓ *Involvement of farmers in various GFAR programmes*

DURAS Project: encourage farmers to participate. Very few demands from farmers were received in the last two years in the DURAS project: this is the reason why DURAS Coordinator, Oliver Oliveros, contacted IFAP in January 2005, to reach farmers' organisations directly. A Call for Proposals was launched to receive projects from farmers' organisations involved in agricultural research linked to: Theme 1: Agro-ecology and other sustainable farming practices and Theme 2: Linking farmers to market and support to small and medium agro- enterprises (agri SMEs). Six farmers' organisations answered this call.

GFAR High Value Products Research Workshop, Cali, Colombia, 3-5 October 2005: Alejandro Delfino (Argentina) and Ron Bonnett (Canada) represented farmers at the workshop, the objective of which was to establish strategies to improve farmers' incomes in developing countries as a result of better access to markets with high added value. There were discussions on the following points: 1) the high quality standard systems and complex distribution systems in these markets, 2) improvement in farmers' incomes can come through the penetration of national markets, 3) technical access points to markets should be tackled, 4) external intervention will be necessary if poor farmers are to access these markets, 5) these markets are defined as markets that improve farmers' final incomes, 6) access to markets alone will not necessarily improve farmers' incomes. IFAP will continue to be involved in the group's future initiatives.

The Global Post Harvest Initiative: "Post Harvest Programme: linking farmers to the market". IFAP contacted the coordinator M. Best in January 2005 to identify ways of collaboration between farmers and the Global Post Harvest Initiative. IFAP was invited to participate in the first meeting of GPHI, on 24th and 25th of March 2005 in Antalya, Turkey. Unfortunately, the delay being too short to organise a representation, IFAP was not able to send a farmer representative. Contact should be re-established with this initiative in order to involve IFAP more effectively in the programme. To date, regular contacts, in particular during international meetings, have been made with the directors of this programme, but concrete action should now be discussed.

GFAR Stakeholder Committee for the Challenge Programme: IFAP was given three seats in the GFAR Stakeholder Committee for the Challenge Programme: Esa Härmälä (Finland), Philip Kiriro (Kenya) and Raul Montemayor (Philippines). The Committee facilitates the articulation, promotion and presentation of the views of various stakeholders to the CP management and governance structures in order to contribute to the policies, strategies, research priorities, and program activities of the CP. These representatives participated in most of the meeting of this CP in 2005.

Enhance collaboration with regional research forum activities

✓ *Nomination of farmers' representatives in the regions to collaborate with GFAR network*

In the objective of strengthening farmers' participation in GFAR regional research forums, IFAP nominated farmers' representatives in each region. These farmers are members of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research. (*List of farmers' representatives in the regions: Annex 1*)

Their role is to implement the agreed Action Plan within the regions and to interact with the concerned research forum.

A systematization of their involvement in regional research networks should be in place before the next World Farmers' Congress in May 2006. Positive evolutions could already be noticed but only punctually.

✓ *Involvement of farmers in regional general assemblies*

IFAP participated in the **APAARI** Expert Consultation, Bangkok, Thailand, 1 -3 December 2004. The expert consultation focused on post-harvest technologies and consortia activity for a host of commodities, with a focus on food safety, value addition, and productivity enhancement for small farmer crops. Some new issues were also discussed such as environmental pollution arising from post-harvest practices, post-harvest issues involving livestock, and effects of food safety regulations on small producers.

4th meeting of **FORAGRO**, Panama, 13 -15 April 2005: IFAP took part in the experts' discussion on "The institutional dimension and integration", where he looked from the point of view of family farmers at how research could be adapted to their needs and examined institutional requirements. In addition, he attended the FORAGRO Executive Committee meeting. The importance of family farmers was recognised because of the role they play in ensuring food security and the supremacy and protection of natural resources. It was thus understood that the priority themes would be reducing the technological divide and increasing innovation in family farming with the aim of incorporating them into the food production chain.

Meeting of **EFARD**, Zurich, 27 - 29 April 2005: IFAP President delivered a keynote speech linked to "Agricultural Research for Development: European Responses to Changing Global Needs". He asked the World Bank, the FAO and other participants to look with a critical eye at progress in eliminating poverty and hunger in the world and pointed out that farmers in developing countries had a close relationship with research and extension services, but it had ended when governments reduced spending and pulled out of agriculture at the end of the 1980s. IFAP President stated that research for development should be a global integrated process in which research projects were designed according to the need to build farmers' capacities.

IFAP also participated in an EFARD Survey to canvass the views of stakeholders on the current strengths and weaknesses of European agricultural research for development and on how European ARD should respond to changing global needs. Six European farmers' organisations answered this survey: they were considered in the issues paper of the next EFARD Conference.

3rd General Assembly of **FARA**, Entebbe, Uganda, 6 -12 June 2005: An IFAP delegation took part in the meetings where it was agreed to increase the representation of farmers' organisations in research structures. FARA is keen to move outside the framework of ministries of agriculture and include ministries of finance and trade in debates on agricultural research in Africa, but emphasised the need to have a framework in which to do it.

AARINENA invited IFAP to take part in its General Assembly in Yemen, 17 and 18 September 2005. However, IFAP was unable to find a farmer sufficiently fluent in English for this event.

✓ *Involvement of farmers in the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme – SSA-CP*

The Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program, a FARA Challenge Programme, is launching an initiative for an Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D). A Call for Expression of Interest to participate in the IAR4D team was sent to IFAP African members in January 2005 in order to have a farmer's seat in this team. Four IFAP names were sent to FARA DG: Lydia Sasu (Ghana), Vahamwiti Mukesyayira (DR Congo), Jack Bigirwa (Uganda), and Chebet Maikut (Uganda).

IFAP was represented at the Conference on the SSA-CP, in Accra, Ghana, on the 13th and 14th of January 2005 and in Entebbe, Uganda, in June 2005 within the framework of FARA's General Assembly.

IFAP Futures Actions

In the framework of GFAR and regional research forums, IFAP will work in the coming months on various issues:

- The problem of the lack of **interpretation services** in meetings on agricultural research limits the participation of farm leaders to the ones from English speaking countries. This is not representative of the worldwide family farmers' community. A President of a farmers' organisation is a farmer being democratically elected from the grassroots. Consequently, a small farmer having a leadership position in his/her farmers' organisation is usually not fluent in English if it is not his/her native language. These criteria impede the participation of most of the Presidents of farmers' organisations from Non English Speaking countries. IFAP asks GFAR and Regional Forums to take seriously this request into account to improve the quality and diversity of family farmers in their debates. Solutions need to be found with the meetings' organisers if they wish to better involve farmers in their debates and programmes in the future.
- Following the Action plan of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research, IFAP will **launch lobby campaigns** for:
 1. A direct involvement of farmers' organisations in research institutes and networks
 2. A socioeconomic orientation of research (marketing, policy, environmental and social issues) to complete the technical orientation of research (existing and new technologies, production, processing, etc.)
 3. A budgetary line within research projects, dedicated to the rapid and efficient dissemination of results to farmers and their organisations
 4. An increase in public funding for research projects respecting the involvement of farmers' organisations in all its phases of development
- IFAP will also coordinate a **more systematic involvement of farmers' representatives** in the regional forums and GFAR activities. A specific attention will be given to Challenge Programmes. Support from regional research forums and GFAR will be needed.
- The **next meeting of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research** will be held during the World Farmers' Congress on the **14th of May 2006 in Korea**. IFAP will invite all Directors of the Regional Research Forums and the Director of GFAR in order to put in place a consultation with family farmers on various issues of common interests. This will be a unique opportunity to share our points of views in the objective of improving the collaboration between farmers, researchers and extension services.

For more information, please contact Fabienne Derrien, IFAP Policy Officer on Health and Research, at: FabienneDERRIEN@ifap.org

IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research

Agricultural research and extension are critical for farmers. Since 1988, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) has been addressing the linkages between farmer-extension-researcher, and obstacles that hinder such linkages. Due to the pace at which the global Agricultural Research for Development arena is changing, the establishment of an IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research was decided in November 2004 during the IFAP 144th Executive Committee meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

Farmers consider that agricultural research should include technical and socioeconomic dimensions and should be treated in a multidisciplinary approach in order to concretely improve farmers' incomes and production processes.

Mission

The mission of the IFAP's Committee on Agricultural Research is to contribute to **the improvement of farmers' livelihoods** through the development of an agricultural and food research designed, monitored and implemented by farmers themselves.

Purpose

- **Identify** processes to better influence on research priorities by farmers' organisations.
- **Influence** agricultural research priorities to develop activities and policies that take into account the needs of family farmers.
- **Mobilize** and facilitate farmers' participation in agricultural research for development and in extension services at national, regional and global levels.
- **Serve as a link** between farmers and sub-regional, regional and global organisations such involved in agricultural research.

Functions

- **Act as a recognized spokesperson** bringing farmers' perspectives to the current global debates on agricultural research for development in all regions of the world.
 - Highlight mutual interests and needs and take co-ordinated action to further such interests and contribute to agricultural research;
 - Develop an understanding of the agricultural research for development arena and its application to improve farmers' livelihoods;
 - Elaborate position papers on agricultural research issues;
 - Exchange information, experiences and ideas linked to agricultural research for development.
- **Strengthen** the capacities of family farmers through their organizations thanks to their full, systematic and active participation in national, sub regional, regional and global meetings and research institutions.
- **Make sure** of the quality of extension services in order to have a concrete influence on farmers' activities at the grassroots level.
- **Keep** IFAP farmers' organisations informed about the results and discussions on agricultural research for development around the world. Ensure an automatic distribution of the current developments in this area throughout the IFAP worldwide network.

Structure

The Committee is made up of the IFAP resource persons who represent farmers on regional and international research bodies. It is chaired by the IFAP farmers' representative on the GFAR Steering Committee. The officers of the Committee are mandated for a two-year period.

Through their participation in international bodies, the nominated IFAP farmers' representatives gain expertise. This expertise will be shared within the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research and used to the benefit of the whole IFAP network.

Officers of the Committee 2004-2006

Chair: Jack Wilkinson (Canada – IFAP President)

Vice Chair: Chebet Maikut (Uganda)

Members:

- IFAP Farmers' Focal Points in Regional Research Forums:
 - Asia: Raul Montemayor (Philippines), Sarala Gopalan (India)
 - Central Asia and the Caucasus: Zviad Bobokashvili (Georgia)
 - East Africa: Nduati Kariuki (Kenya)
 - Europe: Bent Claudi Lassen (Denmark)
 - North Africa: Bouchra Aït-Ali (Algeria)
 - North America: Ron Bonnett (Canada)
 - Latin America: Mario Costa (Uruguay)
- IFAP Farmers' Focal Point in CGIAR structures: Alejandro Delfino (Argentina)
- IFAP Farmers' Focal Points in Challenge Programmes: Vahamwiti Mukesyayira (D.R. Congo), Lydia Sasu (Ghana), Esa Härmälä (Finland), Philip Kiriro (Kenya), Chebet Maikut (Uganda)

Policy Officer of the Committee: Fabienne Derrien

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Partnerships

Regular working relationships with the existing regional and international research networks are the first step to a better acceptance of farmers' recommendations by researchers. Privileged relations have been established with three main international research organisations, namely: the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Partnerships in place are as follows:

- ✓ Participation of farmers in the decision-making bodies of regional agricultural research forums such as FORAGRO, AARINENA, APAARI and FARA
- ✓ Involvement of farmers in the CG Challenge Programmes such as the Sub Saharan African Challenge Programme, the Challenge Programme on Water for Food and Environment and the Generation Challenge Programme
- ✓ Presence of farmers' representatives in the CGIAR Private Sector Committee

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) is the world farmers' organisation representing over 600 million farm families grouped in 110 national organisations in 75 countries. It is a global network in which farmers from industrialised and developing countries exchange concerns and set common priorities.

IFAP advocates farmers' interests at the international level since 1946 and has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

**ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF FARMERS FOCAL POINTS
OF THE IFAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

Farmers' focal points have been nominated to represent farmers' interests on regional and international agricultural research networks. Being a farmers' focal point implies to:

Contribute in the improvement of farmers' linkages with agricultural research centres:

- ✓ Identify research institutes in their respective regions and study their links with farmers' organisations – Identify researchers willing to collaborate concretely with farmers
- ✓ Inform farmers' organisations on research concepts and tools and support them in their lobbying strategy
- ✓ Promote the necessity of having spokespersons on research in each farmers' organisation
- ✓ Mobilize and sensitize farmers on how they can actively participate in research activities
- ✓ Encourage farmers to visit research centres in their areas so that they can interact with researchers to build partnership
- ✓ Examine extension services in place and make proposals for improvement
- ✓ Study funding possibilities for a better participation of farmers in research activities

Represent farmers' interests in regional and international meetings on agricultural research:

- ✓ Maintain a constant dialogue with researchers from the region so that they can appreciate farmers' concerns and needs
- ✓ Participate actively on behalf of IFAP in regional and international meetings of research networks to promote farmers' priorities and concerns on agricultural research
- ✓ Participate in agricultural research agenda setting, research programs and dissemination of the research results and make sure that farmers' interests are taken in consideration in these
- ✓ Lobby for farmers' priorities on agricultural research using IFAP documents and network
- ✓ Lobby for farmers' participation in research activities and representation on governance structures of local and national agricultural research centres
- ✓ Answer requests from regional and international research networks and comment on their documents on agricultural research when requested (with copy to IFAP Secretariat)

Provide feedback to farmers' organisations and IFAP:

- ✓ Send back a two-page report to IFAP after meetings with research centres summarising your participation, your positive impact and your concerns
- ✓ Ensure efficient information flow at local and regional level. Share and exchange information on agricultural research. Provide information on research trends, findings and initiatives so that farmer representatives can intelligently engage in discussions with scientists and researchers on these matters
- ✓ Disseminate the information sent by IFAP to farmers' organisations in the region. Send to IFAP Secretariat updated information on interesting research results for circulation
- ✓ Elaborate learning experience for farmers on researchers/farmers/extension linkages

Modus Operandi of the Committee:

- ✓ The Committee will meet at least once per year and will interact electronically.
- ✓ The Committee will report regularly on its activities to the six-monthly session of IFAP's Executive Committee and the annual IFAP regional meetings.

IFAP BACKGROUND DOCUMENT TO IMPROVE FARMERS' INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research decided to work on common processes supporting the collaboration of farmers' organisations and research centres for a real integration of farmers' points of view from the definition of agricultural research priorities to the dissemination of research results.

The objective of a background document on agricultural research commonly supported by farmers around the world is to help in rationalizing research orientation worldwide. Consequently, this background document focuses on general proposals and issues, such as farmers' representation in research processes, influence of farmers on research programmes, extension services, the role of governments in agricultural research, etc. which are essential to better take into account farmers' needs in research activities.

IFAP farmers' organisations underline that agricultural research should have one main focus namely **Improve farmers' livelihoods**.
All agricultural research activities should therefore give its projects this orientation.

The International Community will never reach the Millennium Development Goals without improving the involvement of farmers' organisations in research programmes and networks.

Ensure farmers' representation in research centres

- ✓ Research centres from local to international levels should open up to the contribution of different stakeholders such as farmers' organisations. This will enrich the debates and programmes of agricultural research.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should find the opportunity to be involved in activities and governance bodies of research centres to give a farmer's perspective to agricultural research. This participation of farmers is crucial for well-oriented and efficient research projects.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should develop close working relationships with local, regional and national agricultural research networks. A continuous relationship between research centres and farmers' organisations is necessary for a constructive collaboration and a better understanding of farmers and researchers concerns.
- ✓ The representation of farmers in agricultural research structures at local, national, regional and international levels should be institutionalised. Formalizing this representation would contribute to a long term collaboration between farmers and researchers.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations request regional agricultural research networks to provide interpretation facilities during their meetings.

Influence the choice of agricultural research issues to be studied by research centres

- ✓ Farmers' points of views should be taken into account in the definition of research priorities. The objective is to reconnect farmers' needs and concerns with agricultural research.
- ✓ Agricultural research should include technical and socioeconomic dimensions and should be treated in a multidisciplinary approach in order to concretely improve food security and farmers' livelihoods.

- ✓ Farmers' organisations should identify their needs and concerns precisely so that they are able to come to the discussion table with an open and solid proposal to agricultural researchers.
- ✓ The definition of agricultural research priorities should take under consideration cost effective projects. If not, farmers will not be able to take advantage of the results of the research.
- ✓ Enough funds should be dedicated to real current priority needs. There is a tendency not to address real on-farm research problems.
- ✓ Agricultural research issues should be set up in consultation with other national research centres to avoid duplication. Moreover, facilitating trans-boundary cooperation on research issues is important for farmers, as is sharing the results of research.
- ✓ The definition of agricultural research priorities should visualize the whole process from the development of priorities to the dissemination of the research results. Each stage up to extension services should be integrated at the definition phase.
- ✓ Farmers can provide feedback and advice on research initiatives and on the effectiveness and usefulness of research results: such feedback could encourage research centres to embark on new research work.

The role of governments

- ✓ There is a need to establish new mechanisms that will revive linkages between farmers' organisations, research centres, extension services and markets. Farmers' organisations think that it is the responsibility of the government to set up an efficient consultation process to look after the overall agricultural research sector, with the specific focus of improving farmers' livelihoods.
- ✓ When appropriate, governments should rationalise the agricultural research sector in their country in order to harmonize research policies, avoid duplication and use funds in the most efficient way possible.
- ✓ Governments should finance agricultural research properly: most governments consider agricultural research as a priority but few give research centres real and continuous financial support, especially in support of farmers' organisations involvement. They should be encouraged to give more logistic and financial support to research centres.
- ✓ Governments should set up an appropriate legislative and policy framework that encourages national agricultural research systems to improve agricultural research in their country. This framework should allow the active involvement of farmers' organisations in agricultural research processes. Legislation should also encourage agricultural research to be undertaken by other players outside government, such as the university and private research service providers in specific fields.
- ✓ Governments should ensure the financing of sufficient technical staff in research centres and extension services in the all country.
- ✓ Moreover, governments should ensure that linkages between farmers' organisations, research centres and extension services are tackled in agricultural schools, scientific universities, etc.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should take the responsibility of supporting the effort of governments through their expertise on agricultural and research issues.

Access to research results (extension services, Internet)

- ✓ Strengthening extension services in rural areas is a key component of the development of the farming sector: farmers' organisations need to have access to solid extension services at the grassroots level in order to build a concrete collaboration. It is necessary to improve the geographical representation of research centres to facilitate the direct and continuous contact of researchers with farmers.
- ✓ Extension services have been run down around the world due to financial cuts. There is a real need for farmers to reactivate local effective extension services which put research findings in farmer-friendly user forms and disseminate the information to the farm community. When inexistent, the creation of new extension centres is requested.

- ✓ Extension services should work in collaboration with research centres and farmers' organisations to ensure the dissemination of their findings.
- ✓ Farmers must have access to research results through the most appropriate means adapted to their situation. The dissemination of agricultural research results should be evaluated and improved where necessary (for example, improve Internet access in rural areas).
- ✓ Technical advisors in extension services should be given updated training to improve their efficiency and qualifications. They should also mainly live in the rural areas where they work to ensure a continuous collaboration with local farmers.
- ✓ To improve the information flow among farmers' organisations, these should report back to its membership when debating with researchers and extension services.

Public Research: what collaboration with the Private sector?

- ✓ Governments should not fully cede their responsibilities in agricultural research to the private sector. They should continue to develop their own projects so that farmers are given choices in new technologies, and do not become unduly dependent on private seed or technology suppliers.
- ✓ The public interests should be fully protected in cases where a technology that has been developed through publicly-funded research has been commercialized by the private sector. It is thus vital to maintain public investments in agricultural research and keep the ownership of key research results.
- ✓ In the light of budget constraints, the private sector (seed companies, fertilizer dealers, biotechnology firms, plant nutrient developers, etc.) could be a support for agricultural public research and extension initiatives. Private groups should be left free to develop technologies that they see fit, for profit and other objectives, using where applicable whatever basic technologies have been developed by public research institutions. These private groups should be allowed to freely compete with each other so that farmers can make choices based on their needs and capacities.
- ✓ But governments should ensure that lower-level technologies, such as traditional breeds or those using locally-available materials, which many farmers can more easily afford and acquire, should continue to be developed and made available to those who want to use them. Governments should play a watchdog role.

General agricultural research issues of interest to farmers

Agricultural research should address major farming constraints so as to increase farmers' incomes, improve agricultural production and ensure household food security. The main priorities are as follows:

- ✓ Market oriented research
- ✓ Integrated pest management
- ✓ Food safety, standardisation and quality control
- ✓ Food processing technologies and post harvest handling technologies. Adapted agricultural tools, equipment and agricultural inputs
- ✓ Natural resources management
- ✓ Trade impact on farmers
- ✓ Appropriate organisational processes
- ✓ Weather forecast information systems

**IFAP WORK PLAN
TO IMPROVE FARMERS' INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

This Work Plan has been drawn up by the members of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research to strengthen farmers' involvement in agricultural research issues. It complements the background document on how to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research.

This Work Plan underlines the main priorities to be addressed over the next two years.

The Work Plan includes 5 immediate actions:

1. Launch lobby campaigns aimed at regional and international research networks

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will launch lobby campaigns on the following issues:

1. Direct involvement of farmers' organisations in research institutes and networks
2. Socioeconomic orientation of research (marketing, policy, environmental and social issues) to complete the technical orientation of research (existing and new technologies, production, processing, etc.)
3. A budget within research projects, for the rapid and efficient dissemination of results to farmers and their organisations and for the strengthening of extension services in the case of applied research
4. An increase in public funding for research projects respecting the involvement of farmers' organisations in all its phases of development

Various means should be used in these lobby campaigns:

➤ At the regional level:

This process will begin by writing to Directors of regional agricultural research networks. A model letter written by the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will be sent to IFAP focal points who will be in charge of managing the campaign in their respective region. The letter would be accompanied by documentation of the Committee.

IFAP focal points are encouraged also to meet Directors of research centres to explain farmers' motivations and the advantages of involving farmers in agricultural research activities.

➤ At the national level:

IFAP focal points are encouraged to meet with the Presidents of national farmers' organisations in their respective regions to involve them in the process at national level. These Presidents could follow the same process using a similar lobby letter and meet Directors of national agricultural research institutes. The involvement of farmer leaders is highly important.

➤ At the international level:

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research, with the support of the IFAP leadership, will follow the same lobbying process with international organisations.

➤ Results of these lobby campaigns

Results will be shared among members of the IFAP Committee and with the IFAP Executive Committee (meeting every 6 months) through reports of activities. These will help to track the IFAP Committee actions and adapt them to the concrete needs of farmers' organisations and their members.

2. Best management practices and processes – Evaluation and recommendations from farmers

In order to improve knowledge on researcher - farmer cooperation worldwide, the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research underlines the necessity of collecting information on the following issues:

1. Existing relationships between farmers organisations, extension services and research centres

IFAP published in 1995 a booklet on “Negotiating linkages: Farmers’ organisations, agricultural research and extension”. An update of this publication is proposed by the IFAP Secretariat with the support of its Committee on Agricultural Research. This publication will be a positive tool to illustrate farmers’ demands to national, regional and international research networks. It will be disseminated widely.

2. Examination of successful experiences of dissemination of research results and extension

The IFAP Secretariat, with the support of the Committee and focal points, will collect local case studies to publish positive experiences on dissemination and extension of agricultural research results. This publication will show the constructive impacts of good collaboration between farmers and researchers. It will be disseminated widely.

3. Set up a capacity building programme for farmers’ organisations on agricultural research

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will work on finding possibilities for a capacity building programme on “strengthening farmers’ organisations to play a more active role on research and extension with governments and the private sector from the grassroots to the international level” focussing on the following:

1. Awareness campaign of farmers: lobby farmers’ organisations to encourage them to build linkages with research centres, and lobby farmers’ leaders to encourage them to participate in agricultural research issues (leadership training and organisation management),
2. Extension and dissemination of research results:
 - a. Link farmers’ organisations to research centres to ensure that the results of research are adapted to farmers’ needs.
 - b. Establishment of information desks on agricultural research within farmers’ organisations: these desks would disseminate research information to farmers, with the support from extension services, and ensure the involvement of farmers in local programmes, etc.
3. Exchanges between farmers’ organisations: share knowledge and experiences,
4. Involve women farmers and young farmers in this process

4. Elaboration of a documentation kit on how to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will back its lobby campaigns with policy documentation such as a background document on ways to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research and two publications on best management practices and processes (*please refer to objective 2*). This documentation kit will focus on two main issues: that research programmes should improve family farmers' livelihoods and that the involvement of agricultural producers is essential for a more efficient research.

5. Facilitation and Coordination of IFAP focal points' mission

IFAP focal points are members of the Committee on Agricultural Research. This Committee has an advisory function to focal points when necessary (preparatory work to help participants in research or government meetings, providing content on policy issues, consultation on the strategy to put in place when facing a difficulty, etc). To assume their tasks (*see document on roles and functions of farmers' focal points*), IFAP focal points should be supported on the following issues:

1. Representation activities:

Financial support should be found to facilitate the participation of IFAP focal points in regional and international meetings of agricultural research networks and in their meetings with Directors of regional agricultural research networks.

Efforts should be made to convince regional agricultural research networks to invite representatives from IFAP: when necessary, financial support should be provided to focal points.

2. Evaluation of existing linkages between farmers, researchers and extension services

To contribute to the IFAP publication on "Existing relationships between farmers' organisations, extension services and researchers", IFAP focal points would be responsible for collecting information to make an inventory of the situation in their respective region.

3. Ensure an information flow on agricultural research with farmers' organisations and with IFAP

IFAP focal points should collect and share information about trends on agricultural research. This information could be collected by contacting regional research networks and programmes. Focal points should then disseminate this information to farmers' organisations in their respective regions, to the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research and to the IFAP Secretariat.

4. Contribution to lobby campaigns

IFAP focal points with the support of the Committee will manage lobby campaigns in their respective regions (*please refer to objective 1*). They will have to set up a limited database on strategic contacts on agricultural research in their region, contact and meet with them, and follow up the progress of these lobby campaigns. From their contact with research centres, IFAP focal points will be able to advise the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research on new obstacles to be overcome.

5. Organisation of annual dialogues

IFAP focal points, with the support of the IFAP Secretariat, should organise a regional farmer-driven dialogue meeting each year, gathering Presidents of farmers' organisations, researchers and parliamentarians. These dialogues would involve Directors of national, regional and international agricultural research networks, Directors of research programmes in place in the region, and parliamentarians of influence.

