

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT
E I A R D

Fifth Meeting European Coordination Group (ECG), Athens, 7-8 October 1999
Venue: St.George Lycabettus Hotel; Athens

Draft REPORT

The meeting was attended by representatives from Austria (Ralph GRETZMACHER), Belgium (Luc SAS), Denmark (Klaus WINKEL), the European Commission (Hans-Jörg LUTZEYER-*Executive Secretary*, Guy POULTER; Jaak SINNAEVE, Uwe WERBLOW), Finland (Mirja SUURNÄKKI), France (Gilles SAINT-MARTIN), Germany (Marlene DIEKMANN, Stephan KRALL), Greece (S. VIZANTINOPOULOS), Italy (Marina PUCCIONI), Netherlands (Hans SLOT), Norway (Ruth HAUG), Portugal (Joao BORGES), Spain (Pilar CASTRO), Switzerland (Paul EGGER-*Chairman*, Christine GRIEDER), United Kingdom (Paul HARDING), European Forum (Wim VAN VUURE). Resource persons present was: John RIGGAN, The Conservation Company

1. Opening

a) Opening and welcome by Mr. VIZANTINOPOULOS; Director General of NAGREF.

On behalf of Prof. Dr. MARAVEYAS, the newly elected president of NAGREF, Dr. VIZANTINOPOULOS pointed to the importance of investments in agricultural research for development for food security; to ensure sustainable development and to protect the environment. He pointed to the challenges ahead (scientific revolutions, increasing competition - WTO) which necessitate permanent evolutions of institutions to adapt. He announced that Greece will become a more active member of EIARD.

The ECG-Chairman Paul EGGER thanked him and NAGREF for the invitation to host the meeting in Greece.

b) Approval Agenda

The agenda was approved adding the following:

- Under 5 "CGIAR" a point of information on the Poverty Workshop organised by CIAT
- Under 8 "Regional Organisations" a discussion of the EIARD Impact Paper

2. Overview of EIARD 1998-1999, EIARD-Strategy, Log Frame and Work Programme

a) Overview

The subject was introduced by Hans-Jörg LUTZEYER. "From Florence to Athens": A summary of the developments since the third ECG Meeting last year in Florence was given. Reports of the ECG4 in Florence, the Informal ECG in Beijing (24 May 1999), and of the Working Groups have been sent to all members and are available on the EIARD Intranet. Specific activities to support future access to genetic resources have started and issue papers have been developed ("Support to regional ARD organisations", "National Agricultural Research Systems: Focus on sustainability and impact on livelihoods of the poor").

On Information sharing: The EIARD Intranet was launched. It is available in an improved version giving easier access to all relevant documents under subject headings. This opens the opportunity to differentiate the information distribution. Documents with concise information or

urgent for meetings or actions will be distributed as in the past by email. Information on specific items and processes will be available on the EIARD Intranet (Genetic Resources, European and Global Forum process, CGIAR discussions etc.). EIARD members interacting on specific activities are invited to use the EIARD Intranet as their common platform for information sharing. By the end of the year also direct uploads of documents by EIARD members should be possible.

On achieving EIARD goals: EIARD lives through the contributions of its members, France and Switzerland so far provided the chair, the Netherlands and Germany the Executive Secretary. EIARD is a light coordination mechanism. Tasks can only be fulfilled if members are willing to take over responsibilities for activities and provide expertise. EIARD is a platform for concertation of its Members. In varying compositions EIARD members may join forces to promote activities on a European level. The discussion in EIARD on the need for a leaflet for EIARD outreach activities and the unavailability of funds for graphics and printing, a very modest operational budget show the difficulty of operations. Members were requested to look into opportunities to provide funds for specific EIARD activities.

b) EIARD-Strategy, Log Frame and Work Programme

Guy POULTER introduced the EIARD log frame and the reasoning behind ("If you do not know where to go, any road will lead you there"). The log frame was based on a small "team up" meeting held in June. This meeting had reached agreement on the purpose and goal of EIARD but had only briefly discussed the outputs, and more specifically, the activities. The draft was circulated to EIARD members for comments in writing. Those received have been incorporated in the final draft. It was emphasised that a log frame is not a one-time exercise but has to be revised regularly.

In addition to activities in the draft logframe, the following points were made:

- Enhance the utilisation of the European research resource base for the generation of knowledge relevant for the South. The example was given, that around half of health research results needed to solve problems in the South are generated by Northern research programmes with different objectives. The case of agriculture is partly different due to location specificity (NRM) and strong cultural and socio-economic interactions. It was emphasised that the research agenda has to be in line with orientation towards Development needs, and set by Development problems.
- The importance of exchange on CG matters was emphasised, specifically in the view of restructuring the CGIAR.
- Development oriented research should be promoted. To show how policies and the institutional framework has to be modified to achieve development goals and where knowledge deficiencies have to be covered for better impact on poverty, marginal lands etc..
- Awareness raising on the benefits of investments in agricultural research for development for different audiences, including the European Parliament.

Conclusions and actions:

The discussion on the EIARD strategy was finalised. The ECG agreed on minor changes mainly concerning presentation. The EIARD strategy was finally ratified.

It was decided to publish the strategy. The secretariat will provide options for publication for the next Working Group to decide (depending also on available funds). Draft translations in French, Spanish and Portuguese will be provided by the secretariat. They should be finalised by the EIARD Members concerned.

Agreement was reached on the Goal, Purpose and Output level of the Logframe. The EIARD Working Group should reach final conclusions on the activity level. An EIARD Work Programme should complement the Logframe. The EIARD Secretariat will provide a draft Work Programme for consideration by the next EIARD Working Group.

3. European Forum and the European response to the Global Forum

The European Forum, once initiated by EIARD, gained its own momentum. The conclusions and recommendations were widely distributed ("Call for Initiatives"). The European Forum served as a mechanism to propose "research partnership case studies" and "innovative partnerships" to the Global Forum.

The ECG welcomed to further improve the linkages and agreed to invite the Chairman of the European Forum Steering Committee to the EIARD ECG meetings. On behalf of Prof. Karsen, Wim VAN VUURE introduced the topic.

He recalls in his report the developments since the European Forum in April. The call for case studies on research partnerships yielded 19 proposals (5 NL, 3 D, 3 ES, 3 FR, 1 DK, 4 Trans European), 9 are related to Genetic Resources Management and Biotech, 4 to Natural Resource Management, 1 to Commodity Chains, 1 covers all 4 themes. The proposals were transmitted to Alain Derevier who so far had received 46 proposals. 3-4 Case Studies will be selected for plenary presentation in Dresden. All other relevant cases will be invited for poster displays in Dresden and published afterwards (a complete overview of proposals submitted is available on the EIARD Intranet).

The call for new innovative partnerships yielded 19 proposals (3 DK, 3 FR, 2 UK, 1 D, 2 Trans European (NATURA, ETFRN), 3 relate to NRM, 3 to genetic resources and 3 to all themes. There will be no pre-Dresden selection, but proposals will be discussed in various groups during the Global Forum.

In the Global Forum process 4 documents are of importance (all are available on the EIARD Intranet): the draft Global Forum Shared Vision, the paper on the process towards a global shared vision, the implementation strategy "Les prochaines étapes" and finally the "Issues paper" (Agriculture in the 21st century).

"Les prochaines étapes" analyses the why and how of building global partnerships based on the 5 topics of the Global Forum. Critical comments on the value added by the Global Forum (Global Forum versus project market) were reflected in Fernando Chaparros "comments..." paper which was tabled in the meeting.

Finally Wim van Vuure described the idea of a Post-Dresden initiative to implement the recommendations and suggested a joint action of EIARD, the European Forum and the Commission on a strategy for Africa in preparing for Dresden.

The ECG welcomed the initiatives taken by the European Forum. Different views were expressed concerning the evaluation of mechanisms. It was suggested to review after the Dresden meeting the European Forum mechanisms keeping in mind that the European Forum should not be seen as an institution. Also the usefulness of the Global Forum and its elements should be reviewed. But it was also stressed not to evaluate long term processes on short-term results.

An EIARD expert group was suggested to discuss on how to make research a motor for development.

In conclusion EIARD encourages the active leading role of the European Forum in the Global Forum discussions. European support to regional mechanisms should be developed in a coordinated way. The policy level and the European institutions have a role to play, always respecting the demand orientation of the process.

EIARD will observe how investments in mechanisms like the European Forum and the Global Forum add value and when and how to review them.

4. Genetic Resources

a) Access to Genetic Resources

Christine GRIEDER and Mirja SUURNÄKKI introduced the item. CBD led to a shift in paradigm, Genetic resources are owned by countries and no longer conceived as heritage of mankind. This made the harmonisation and renegotiation of the International Undertaking (IU) to comply with CBD necessary. The critical and interlinked issues in recent negotiations end of September 1999 were: Access, Scope and Benefit Sharing. Farmer's Rights had been settled in April. G77 expects a European proposal on benefit sharing in the next negotiations in February 2000. In Europe a discussion on the political level is needed to progress. The Finnish presidency of the European Union will bring the issue to the attention of the European Council (Agriculture) November meeting. An option could be that Member States restrict part of their FAO funding for the implementation of the IU. Appropriate fora should be used to convey key messages to partners in the negotiations:

- Countries poor in resources will be the biggest losers if the IU negotiations fail. They have no Genetic Resources for bargaining and they have no Financial Resources to buy the Genetic Resources in improved varieties to feed their population.
- The CG system as we know it is at risk. It loses much of its operational basis if exchange of genetic material to improve plant varieties comes to a halt.

The EIARD / EU group which met in early September decided to bring these issues to the attention to the CGIAR members. Subsequently the EIARD secretary sent a letter to the CGIAR secretariat to add the point to the agenda.

Conclusions: The work of the joint EIARD / EU group in the negotiations was welcomed. The group should continue on an ad-hoc basis. At ICW 99 the EIARD chair will reaffirm the request to discuss these issues.

b) Nominations for the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee

ECG decided to nominate 3 candidates: Christine Grieder, Carl-Gustav Thornström and Frank Begemann.

5. CGIAR

a) Funding of the CGIAR; the European Contribution

Paul EGGER introduced the item pointing to emerging trends of CGIAR funding:

- Restricted money is gaining influence over non restricted money
- Money increasingly drives the research agenda
- Time horizon for investments is shortening
- The "agreed agenda" has less meaning

These trends are undermining key principles of the CGIAR system: an agenda of strategic research derived from independent "technical" advice.

For the composition of Member Countries funding see Annex 1 (compiled by Marlene Diekmann and Stefan Krall).

The European Funding update by the CGIAR Secretariat was welcomed. The document would be even more useful if actual historical data would be included. Some specific comments for future improvement of the document: A general problem is the proper labelling of unrestricted funds (case of Denmark or Netherlands for example). The document labels unrestricted funds "restricted", though it was the decision of the Center and not the decision of the donor to link unrestricted funds to a certain programme at Center's level. In the case of Italy historical data for 1998 were not correct.

Conclusions and actions: The EIARD secretariat will write a formal note to the CG secretariat on these points. EIARD members are invited to get in direct contact with Ravi Tadvalkar at the CG secretariat on specific cases. Stephan Krall will provide a questionnaire to EIARD members to complement the overview on European contributions to the CG.

b) Longer-term CGIAR financing strategy

John.RIGGAN of The Conservation Company made a presentation of current thinking regarding the above.

A CGIAR working group was formed to develop: a longer-term financing strategy for the CGIAR and a harmonised structure for the CGIAR's public awareness/resource mobilisation (PA/RM) activities. Optimal strategies for gaining new sources of donor support are sought, including a focus on enhancing relationships with current members, mobilising support from developing countries ("free rider implications"), support from other sources beyond aid programs, private sector funding (endowment, new billionaires, rules for Centers to approach endowments in a concerted way). An endowment linked to a great idea like "preservation of genes" is examined. The CGIAR PA/RM Working Group is also developing a CGIAR-wide initiative on PA/RM that will consist of multiple actors on multiple levels working in concert.

Comments of EIARD members related to the problem that the CG might send out conflicting signals to a growing donor community coming from different angels. This could erode focus and existing ODA donor commitment.

c) Leadership in the CGIAR

Paul EGGER introduced the item. It is obvious that CGIAR leadership will be one of the major issues to be addressed at ICW 99. So far no open discussion took place on the different options (Chair, vice-chair, secretary), independent of persons.

The leadership issues shall be included in the agenda of ICW. It will be important to discuss options and to take a longer-term perspective.

It was concluded that EIARD will send a letter to the CG Chair to call for an open discussion of CG leadership / governance. The issue has to be tabled at ICW 99. Options / draft TORs should be developed with a clear view on functions of a chair, a vice chair and an executive secretary. The procedure of appointment has to be open and transparent.

d) Briefing on the Poverty Workshop organized by CIAT

Paul EGGER outlined the major findings. Main messages are:

- Decline of absolute poverty is closely linked with growth in the agricultural sector

- Unequal distribution of assets leads to little effect of agricultural productivity gains on poverty alleviation
- Research - poverty linkages are difficult to establish
- Direct effects exist on producer incomes and on consumer welfare. Equally important are indirect effects inter alia on non-adopting producers. More in-depth analysis is needed on poverty profiles (old people, single women with kids etc., jobless youth) and across countries.
- Discussion on research efficiency was a major issue. Increase of effectiveness of research appears to be as important as research targeting to poor producers, consumers or regions. Crucial is the enhancement of the influence of the poor on the research agenda.

More information is available at: <http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/> and on request via: c.schreuder@cgiar.org

6. European S&T Co-operation (including ARD) with Developing Countries

Jaak SINNAEVE informed about the state of operations in the INCO-DEV programme. For this years call, closing mid of September around 200 proposals have been received for a budget of around 28 Million Euros. Calls will be launched in March 2000 and 2001 with a closing date mid September and a total budget of 80 Million Euro in 2000 and 63 Million Euro in 2001.

In the meanwhile discussions on the 6th Framework Programme (2002 - 2006) are starting. Arguments on a research for development component have to be sharpened. EIARD could play an important role to show the valorisation of research for development investments. To that end the visibility of EIARD has to be increased.

Guy POULTER provided briefing on the ongoing effort to mainstream research and technological development within the various sector programmes of DG DEV (formerly DG VIII). A series of diagnostic studies on research needs, problems and opportunities particularly at the policy level, are being initiated. Local consultants are being recruited for this purpose in Ghana and a contract with a European institute is being issued for a study in the Dominican Republic. Other studies are planned for the Indian Ocean Region and possibly Uganda. A limited invitation to tender for a study on possible issues and options for a European Foundation for Research for Development has been launched. The Unit B/3 in DG DEV will shortly be strengthened by Rosmarie Barlöw who will be seconded by Sweden for a period of 6 months, and by Rob Scheer, from the Netherlands, who will follow Rob van den Berg for a period of 3 years. A further Expert Group Meeting is envisaged during the first half of next year. The agenda is likely to include discussion of the outcome of the completed diagnostic studies and the issues and option paper on a possible Research Foundation.

7. Integrated Pest Management Europe: Guidelines

A report of Malcolm ILES was tabled. As he could not be present the item was post poned.

8. European Support to Regional and Subregional Agricultural Research Organisations

a) Support to Regional Organisations

UWE WERBLOW briefed the ECG on the state of EC programmes to strengthen regional organisations. In the frame of regional indicative programmes the Commission has the opportunity to fund regional programmes on request from the South. In an attempt to go

beyond project funding to programme funding ASARECA and CORAF were supported to develop a strategy, to set priorities and to develop regional research programmes. Based on an evaluation (done by ECART) ASARECA submitted a proposal to the Commission including regional programmes and a fund for competitive grants. CORAF developed a similar programme. It includes additionally a small fund with seed money for proposal preparation. Proposals developed could be submitted to different donors, for example to the INCO-DEV programme. If SACCAR is ready a similar programme may be set up for Southern Africa.

It was stressed that funding regional programmes does not mean that the money is used on regional structures. Research is actually conducted in the National Systems, but with scope of regional priorities and with research links to partners in the region. The NARS directors drive the ASARECA research agenda. This assures complementarity. The regional priorities so far relate to the public sector. The private agricultural research sector (coffee) is not yet ready for regional cooperation as competition over cutting edge technologies prevails.

Gilles SAINT-MARTIN explained the draft overview on French support to regional mechanisms. Stephan KRALL will provide an overview of German support. Other EIARD members are still invited to follow.

Concerns were raised on mixing European donor support to regional organisations with European ARIs research interests. It was concluded that processes have to be driven by the development interests of the South, both donors and ARIs have different opportunities to respond. The example of the 1997 meeting in Leiden was given where one message from the South was "Please tell us your interests directly so that we can deal with them in an open way". The potential overlapping of donor programmes is an issue. It was suggested to use EIARD as a mechanism of information exchange and concertation.

In conclusion the Commission was commented for its programmes to support regional mechanisms. EIARD will serve as a mechanism for information exchange and concertation. To that end EIARD members were invited to share information on their support for regional organisations. The secretariat will prepare a questionnaire to address EIARD members. European coordination interactions should take place prior to regional meetings (FARA/SPAAR, 23-25 February 2000 Conakry, AARINENA, 21-23 March 2000, probably a preparatory meeting early February 2000 in Portugal).

b) Impact Assessment

Guy POULTER introduced his paper: National Agricultural Research Systems: Focus on Sustainability and Impact on Livelihoods of the Poor (an informal concept paper prepared by the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development)

The discussion concentrated on the added value EIARD could contribute. Impact assessment is an element of the EIARD strategy. On the other hand the issue is very complex and actors like the CGIAR IAEG are already involved. ECART is involved in supporting ASARECA. EIARD will be represented by Marina Puccioni and Guy Poulter.

It was concluded to get experts from member countries together in a small group. To built on the experiences of the workshop with ASARECA for follow-up and activities in

support of other regions. EIARD activities in this way add value and build on discussions of others and make sure that impact assessment is helpful to the partners to raise awareness for research funding in their political environment.

9. Composition Working Group (WG), EIARD chair

The composition of the WG will be formed of the following members that were in the working group before: CH (Chair), I, F, D, UK, NL, ES, EC, and the Executive Secretary. Carl-Gustaf Thornström (Sweden) stepped down. He will be replaced by Janie ERIKSEN (Denmark). Gilles Saint Martin was nominated as deputy chair and elected at the informal EIARD ECG meeting during ICW 99 in Washington.

10. Date and Place next ECG meeting

The EIARD ECG will have an informal meeting at the CGIAR International Centers Week on Sunday October 24, 14.30 - 18.00, room H1-200.

Portugal will host the sixth ECG meeting in Lisboa from 5 to 6 October 2000. The next meeting of the EIARD Working Group will be on 20 January 2000 in Brussels

Closure

In his closing address the Chairman expressed pleasure in what had been achieved. He equally pointed to the tasks ahead. Finally he thanked the Greek hosts, NAGREF (Mr. Vizantinopoulos and Ms Karakatsani) for their hospitality and excellent organization of the meeting.

Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer