Needs and Opportunities for a Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building

The Context

Eric Kueneman
Chief, AGPC

GFAR Programme Meeting
Recollections

- Plant Breeding in the 80s
- End of Cold War and Privatization
- Commission PGR toward GPA in 90s
  - conservation got attention
- International Treaty PGR 2001 (7 years+)
- Global Crop Diversity Trust established
  (long term support for conservation)

What about use of PGR?
Plant Breeding and Associated Biotechnology Assessment
- Current status -

Status by country
- Concluded (48 countries)
- In progress (16 countries)

Status on the 13 July 2007

Plant breeding and biotechnology capacity (PBBC) survey
National and Regional Consultations
Recommendations
Nigeria – Rome – Central Asia

• Capacity building (short, medium and long term)

• Promote and facilitate genetic resources sharing

• Technology transfer, including facilitating the integration of conventional and advanced breeding

• Lack of financial support, mainly long term investment (awareness)
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assessing national plant breeding and biotechnology capacity worldwide to determine needs and opportunities for strengthening plant breeding programmes in developing countries.

**What is GIPB?**

The GIPB is a partnership of public, private and civil society sectors from both the North and the South working in concert through a “lightweight facilitation mechanism”.

**GIPB’s goal**

The goal of the Initiative is to strengthen capacities of developing countries to improve their productivity through sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through improved breeding and seed delivery systems.

**Objectives of GIPB**

- **to provide policy guidance** on plant breeding and associated biotechnology capacity-building to policy-makers in developing countries.
- **to provide training** in plant breeding and related biotechnology capacities relevant to utilization of plant genetic resources.
- **to provide technologies** through exchange of tools, methodologies, know-how and facilities for finding genetic solutions to crop productivity constraints.
- **to facilitate access** to genetic resources from public and private breeding programmes that will benefit developing country breeding programmes.
- **to share information** among GIPB partners in order to provide access to newly available information to breeders in developing countries.

**GIPB partners**

GIPB combines the complementary facilitation role of FAO in connecting with other partners such as: CGIAR, GFAR, regional/sub-regional organizations, CIRAD, foundations such as the Rockefeller, Gatsby and B&M Gates Foundation, NGOs, universities and private sector stakeholders.
GIPB Mission

To enhance the capacity of developing countries to improve crops for food security and sustainable development through better plant breeding and delivery systems
GIPB Objectives

1. **to provide policy guidance** on plant breeding and associated biotechnology capacity-building to policy-makers

2. **to provide training** in plant breeding and related biotechnology capacities relevant to utilization of PGR

3. **to provide technologies** through exchange of tools, methodologies, know-how and facilities for finding genetic solutions to crop productivity constraints

4. **to facilitate exchange** of PGR from public and private breeding programmes that will benefit developing country breeding programmes

5. **to share information** among partners to provide access to newly available information to breeders in developing countries
GIPB History

- FAO’s plant breeding and associated biotechnology survey started in 2002
- Workshop at FAO in 2005 – Recommendations
- Consultation during the ITPGRFA Governing Body meeting in Spain (2006)
- Consultation during the International Plant Breeding Symposium in Mexico (2006)
- GIPB project submitted and approved to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (2007)
- GIPB electronic consultation to possible strategies, outputs and outcomes (2007)
- GIPB consultation to possible strategies, outputs and outcomes in Rome (2007)
- Exploring linkage to the funding strategy of the International Treaty of PGR.
GIPB - A Partnership to Promote Plant Breeding and Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources

GFAR
A logical Major Stakeholder

FAO seeks the GFAR Programme Committee’s endorsement of this priority joint effort.