

## SPMS Activities Update

Prepared for SPMS Meeting and SC7, March 26-30, 2007, Hyderabad

*Study of CGIAR Centers' partnerships, related to mobilizing science, with selected civil society organizations (CSOs).* The study will document CGIAR Centre–CSO partnerships experience, particularly those with NGOs and producer organizations. It will highlight the importance that such partnerships have for mobilizing science and for achieving the CGIAR mandate, and will identify and disseminate lessons learned from these experiences. The study also aims to shed light on the factors behind successes and failures of such partnerships -- what really makes them work, or what really has made them not work --, and hopes to contribute to improving the relevance and success of CGIAR Centre partnerships with civil society.

A group of experts met on July 6-7, 2006 in Rome, and defined the key questions to be addressed by the study, the methodology to assess partnership performance, and the criteria for selection of six or seven case studies.

The study was commissioned to Drs. **Joanna Chataway**, Professor Biotechnology and Development at The Open University (OU), UK and Director OU Innovation, Knowledge and Development Research Centre and Knowledge and Development Research Centre, and **James Smith** Lecturer in African Studies and Principal Investigator ESRC Innogen Research Centre, University of Edinburgh.

A short summary of preliminary results has been prepared by the consultants and will be made available before the SPMS Meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at ICRISAT. A videoconference with Drs. Chataway and Smith has also been programmed for the SPMS meeting. A pre-final report is expected by the end of April 2007.

During the meeting, Panel Members and Participants will comment on progress made so far, and Panel Members are expected to confirm endorsement of next steps as established by the TOR, namely:

- a) to have the first draft (expected by the end of April) reviewed and commented on by the Expert Group and Panel Members;
- b) to have a final draft 1<sup>st</sup> endorsed by the Expert Group; next by SPMS; and finally by the SC; and
- c) depending on the nature of the study's results, to have SPMS suggest next steps for diffusion of results.

*The Science Council's Contribution to the upcoming 2008 World Development Report on Agriculture for Development.* In collaboration with Derek Byerlee, Jock Anderson, Eija Pehu and Cathy Ragasa, all of them from the World Bank, and with input from Phil Pardey & team (see below), the SPMS has drafted Chapter 7 of the Report, titled *Innovating through science and technology*. A white cover draft of Chapter 7 was reviewed by Jim Ryan and Hans Herren in January 2007. A yellow cover draft, released March 15<sup>th</sup> for wide distribution and sent to SC and SC Panel Members, incorporates their comments to the white cover draft, and those from a select group of "WDR08 friends".

A short summary of key messages will be presented at the SPMS meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> in ICRISAT. During the meeting, Panel Members and observers are expected to provide general comments on Ch7. SPMS will summarize comments received virtually after SC07 and will send them to the WDR08 Directors. Comments will also be expected from the SC, Members of the other 3 Standing Panels, and from observers during SPMS's report Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The SC's "in principle" endorsement of Chapter 7 will be sought at that point.

In addition, The WDR08 Directors will set up a public E- Consultation from April 9 through April 21, at

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2008/0,,menuPK:2795178~pagePK:64167702~piPK:64167676~theSitePK:2795143,00.html>

The WDR08 will be launched in October 2007.

***Science for Agricultural Development 2007 (SfAD07)***. This is a Science Council's biannual flagship publication. It aims to analyse and share knowledge relevant to the application of science and technology to agricultural production, in order to help shape global perspectives and priorities on agricultural research and its contribution to meeting MDGs.

Originally commissioned in 2006 by SPMS to serve as background paper for Chapter 7 for the WDR08, the paper by Pardey, Alston, Glewwe, Binenbaum, Hurley and Wood "Science Technology and Skills" has ended up being a relatively small part of the WDR08 Chapter 7, and most of what is discussed in the paper has not been included in Chapter 7.

A "practically final" draft of the Pardey et al. paper was sent to SPMS on March 20<sup>th</sup>, and SPMS is expected to decide on two proposals:

1. That the Pardey et al. paper becomes the next (2007) Science for Agricultural Development Publication, to be published in December 2007, (SfAD07) at AGM. A decision should be made on this, depending on the quality and issues covered in the paper, and also considering SPMS budget constraints.
2. That SPMS extend the deadline for the final report of March 16 (in TOR) to May 31<sup>st</sup>, to allow time for the authors to incorporate comments to be made by SPMS and the SC during and soon after SC7. Final SPMS and SC endorsement would be sought virtually by the end of June, before sending to the editor.

***Science Forum 2007 (SF07)***. The CGIAR Annual General Meeting (AGM07) to be held in Beijing on December 2007 contemplates a full-day Stakeholder Meeting prior to the Business Meeting. This time, the Stakeholder Meeting will consist of a Science Forum, jointly organized with the Science Council. As was the case for the Science Forum in 2005, the intention is to have SF07 focus on CGIAR System Priorities.

Robert Chapman and Beatriz Ávalos of the SC Secretariat have prepared a short note with very preliminary ideas on the possible focus and planning for the SF07. These ideas include input from Hans Herren and from informal conversations with Anne-Marie Izac. They will be presented for discussion at the SPMS meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> in ICRISAT. They will also be discussed in videoconference with the CG Secretariat on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The CG Secretariat has offered to provide the financial and logistical support for the event.

The preliminary ideas developed by Robert and Beatriz visualize SF07 as an opportunity to identify and discuss new aspects of science that may be contemplated in the planning of Centers' and Challenge Programs' research to bring about significant changes in their approaches to solve long standing problems. SF07 would provide a 'window' through which those attending AGM07 (Centers' DGs and DDGs, Center scientists, CGIAR members and other stakeholders) would look outside the System at science developments in fields different from agriculture, which hold significant promise to be harnessed for CGIAR work. In sum, SF07 would focus on "Harnessing New Science for CGIAR Research to Implement System Priorities".

*Study of CGIAR Centers' Partnerships, related to Mobilizing Science, with Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs).* At SC5, SPMS proposed a new study to assess the status quo of partnerships with ARIs, identify the constraints to further collaborations, and identify and propose innovative strategies (other than CPs) to improve collaborations with ARIs to leverage expertise in areas of science. The concept was well received by the SC; it was suggested that the study focus also on how to mobilize NRM and social sciences, not only biological sciences; and that planning for this study begins in 2007 in order to incorporate the proposal into the SC 2008-09 Workplan.