

**IITA Board of Trustees Meeting
17, 19th & 20 October, 2009**

Lusaka, Zambia

Summary of Decision

Matters Arising

Decision:

- (1) To defer the CCER on Management and Administration until there was clarity on the role of Boards and management of Mega Programs in the new CGIAR.
- (2) To defer the review and approval of succession plans for the DDGs, CFO, Internal Auditor and Board Secretary until the April 2010 Meeting.

Report of the Audit Committee

An IT Strategic Plan, A continuation of Business and Disaster Recovery Plan are to be developed for review by the Audit Committee at its meeting April 2010

Report of the Program Committee

- (1) With respect to strengthening program oversight, PC Chair will consult further with the Board Chair and IITA senior program managers to see which options (see PC recommendations, October 2009) might be the most useful and which can be tried at the next meeting.
- (2) IITA Management is requested to speed up the preparation of the Banana and Plantain Strategy for Africa. If the schedule for the Draft Strategy slips any further (i.e., beyond the mid-January 2010 date anticipated), IITA should consider hiring a consultant (in consultation with Bioversity) to finalise the document. The PC requests the Strategy to be presented and discussed at the Board's next meeting, with the draft version shared in advance.
- (3) IITA should take the findings and conclusions of the Social Science Stripe Review into consideration in its further strategic planning. Since IITA was the only CGIAR-supported Centre not to participate in the Review, IITA should clarify IITA's position on this topic in the form of a short response to the Stripe Review Report.
- (4) The Board approves the IITA strategy in principle and requests the following revisions be considered in finalizing the document. (i) adding an Executive Summary which conveys IITA's passion and excitement about its strategy; (ii) adding a section on how IITA will implement the evolution from the old to the new strategy; and (iii) repositioning the paragraph on capacity development and adding a new paragraph on communications. A final editing should consider the use of specific words and concepts that are important, e.g., sustainability, gender, and partnership. PC members are invited to submit specific suggestions to the Board Chair before the end of the October 2009 Board meeting, subject to his final editing.
- (5) The Board agrees to place the evolution of the Ibadan station on the agenda of the next Board meeting and requests management to prepare a draft paper on the new ideas for the multiple use of the Ibadan station for the discussion.

- (6) The Board accepts the PC recommendation that the Board expresses its continued support for IITA's proactive approach to the CGIAR Reform and the Mega Programmes, that IITA continue to present itself as being well prepared to face the required changes and to express a positive attitude regarding its capacities to marshal its strengths in support of new directions and that IITA's interest in taking the lead in one or more Mega Programmes is appropriate.

Report of the Ad Hoc Human Resources Committee

- (1) A final version of the Gender Strategy will be prepared for the April 2010 Meeting
(2) The status of the Ad HR Committee will be changed to a Standing Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Board endorsed the Nominating Committee recommendations:

- (1) To maintain a strong Board, critical for ensuring science excellence and for positioning the Board to take on a leadership role in the new CGIAR.
- (2) Future criteria for selection of Board members:
- a. Disciplines: plant health, agronomy, natural resource management biotechnology and applied plant breeding and wherever possible to combine disciplines with research management experience.
 - b. Focus on maintaining gender balance
 - c. Regions/Countries: UK, Continental Europe (Belgium or Benelux), Canada, USA and BRICS.
 - d. Cross/common board membership. Weight will be given to experience and membership on other CGIAR boards in cases where the major criteria identified had been met.
- (3) Appointment of Emmy Simmons to a second term, until September/October 2012.
- (4) Appointment of Emmy Simmons, Paul Mafuka and Trine Hvoslef-Eide to the Nominating Committee.
- (5) Appointment of Tom Medlycott to the Audit Committee
- (6) Appointment of Hans Jöhr to the Audit Committee

Other Business

Discussion of the Institute's communication strategy should be included on the agenda of the April 2010 meeting.