

**IITA Board of Trustees Meeting
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
3 and 4 February 2006**

**Decisions/Action Points
and report on action taken to date**

1. IITA/CIAT

Outcome of the joint CIAT/Meeting held in Cali, Colombia April 2006

Action Taken: The Board Chairs and incoming Board Chairs of CIAT and IITA met in Cali in late April. The report provided by the incoming IITA Board Chair and circulated to IITA Trustees states:

The meeting was in regard to our concerns regarding the movement and release of cassava germplasm. Prior to the meeting respective scientists were asked to iterate their concerns. That led to an exchange of notes arising from that exercise, to use as background for the meeting. Each DG presented their views to us and then had a very good discussion as to how to proceed. Hartmann was asked to document specific instances of breach of the existing agreement on the part of CIAT scientists. Yves (CIAT Board Chair) has assured us that if we have appropriate evidence he will ensure that corrective action is taken. Hartmann is in the process of doing that. More importantly we agreed that, based on the excellent dialog we had, we needed to be forward looking. Thus it was agreed that the two DG's would be charged with setting up a meeting of the appropriate scientists to develop protocols for germplasm release and movement, and to make recommendations on future collaboration and to get back to the BoTs of the two institutions as soon as can reasonable be achieved. We also agreed that we should go beyond just Cassava to include all of our vegetatively propagated crops. To this end it was agreed that CIP should be invited to participate. We have not yet taken that last step but will do so.

The following note has since been sent to the Board Chair and DG of CIP
After the Alliance meeting in Cali the Board Chairs of CIAT and IITA met to discuss the movement of germplasm of Cassava to various countries around the globe. The primary concerns were for phytosanitary and adaptation issues. It was soon apparent that the principles were the same for any asexually propagated material and thus it was agreed to increase the scope of our discussion. We agreed to charge the DG's with convening a meeting of appropriate scientists to develop protocols for germplasm movement and to recommend future collaboration on these crops. CIP was identified as a key player for several crops in this category so we agreed that it would make sense to invite you to participate. I am therefore extending that invitation on behalf of Yves, Jimmy and Mort. I have attached the terms of reference for the meeting for your information. If you are interested please let Hartmann and Joachim know and they can involve you in the planning of the meeting.
Bryan Harvey

2. Director General's Report

Board Decision:

A synopsis of research highlights since May 2005 to be provided to all Board members by the Head of Communication and Information Services.

Future DG reports to the Board will include research highlights

Action: To be implemented by DG and Head of Communications and Information Services

3. The Alliance

Board Decision: *The IITA Board Chair should write to the Alliance Board to inform them of the discussions on the Alliance Principles and Procedures at the IITA Board meeting in Tanzania in February 2006.*

Action Taken: Immediately after the February Board meeting, the Board Chair wrote to the Chair of the Alliance Board expressing the Board's concerns. These were subsequently taken up at the Alliance Executive/Alliance Board meeting in Cali, Colombia and IITA has signed the ratification of the Principles and Procedures document dated 27 April 2006. The concerns expressed by IITA were reasonably resolved during the discussion. A major concern from IITA was the budget for the Alliance and we were assured that one will be presented.

4. IITA/WARDA

Board Decision: *The Board Chair will share with WARDA the discussions at the IITA Board meeting in Tanzania and develop a joint IITA/WARDA response for the CGIAR Executive Council meeting May 2006.*

Action Taken: The two centers prepared a joint response for the ExCo meeting, which was shared with Board members; however due to differences of opinion on the last paragraph included by IITA, the two centers agreed to send two separate responses. The IITA response concluded with the following two paragraphs:

The Board of IITA notes with some concern that the discussions on a merger have created substantial disruption for both Centers, have taken up significant time and resources and in some instances have been a barrier to making significant progress on initiatives already undertaken.

Seeking a solution to this through negotiation between the two centers invites an increasingly acrimonious relationship, loss of the goodwill, which now exists and erosion of the considerable progress already made in programmatic and administrative alignment. If the CGIAR continue to see a merger as desirable, IITA ask that ExCo appoint an independent third party to evaluate options, including whether a merger is appropriate, and to negotiate a process towards a preferred option with the Council of Ministers and the two center boards. Such a third party strategy has a number of precedents in the evolution of the CGIAR including its expansion in 1990 bringing in the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Fish Centre and the International Water Management Institute. A third party also negotiated the merger of ILRAD and ILCA into ILRI, the absorption of ISNAR by IFPRI and of INIBAP by IPGRI.

These two paragraphs were excluded from the WARDA response.

IITA and WARDA met again during the Alliance meetings in Cali. They agreed to modify the paragraph above and send a joint update to ExCo before its May 2006 meeting. The revised paragraphs read as follows:

The Boards of IITA and WARDA note with some concern that the discussions on a merger have created substantial disruption for both Centers, have taken up significant time and resources and in some instances have been a barrier to making significant progress on initiatives already undertaken.

Seeking a solution to this through negotiation between the two centers invites an increasingly acrimonious relationship, loss of the goodwill, which now exists and erosion of the considerable progress already made in programmatic and administrative alignment.

If the CGIAR continue to see deeper structural reform as a concept they wish to pursue, then a process towards a preferred option should be discussed with WARDA's Council of Ministers and the two Boards. We further agreed that since the two centers are scheduled to have EPMRs in 2007, that the reviews be the vehicle to determine as well as implement the process.

Other progress made:

- 1. IITA Trustees, Adama Traore and Henri Maraité attended the WARDA Board meeting in Cotonou at the end of March. A report will be provided at the August Board meeting.*
- 2. Barbara Becker and Adama Traore have since been nominated as common board members. Barbara's nomination has been approved. In the case of Adama, the procedure calls for approval by the Committee of National Experts from WARDA countries which will meet sometime to June.*

5. Program Committee

Board Decision: *IITA Management is requested to report on implementation of the PC recommendations at the August 2006 Board meeting.*

6. SSA Challenge Program

Board Decision: *IITA management will provide a report on IITA's role in the SSA Challenge Program as specified in the February Board minutes, for the August 2006 Board meeting.*

Action: To be included in the agenda of the Program Committee Meeting for August 2006

7. Report of the Nominating Committee

Board Decision:

The Board approved the report of the Nominating Committee and noted at the same time that in filling vacancies primary attention should be given to background and expertise and regional and country representation considered as a secondary qualification.

8. Report of the Audit Committee

Board Decision: *The Board approved the Audit Committee recommendations and requested the DG to proceed with implementation.*

Action: Progress will be reviewed at the August 2006 Audit Committee meeting

9. Long-Term Positioning

Board Decision: *While understanding the concerns expressed by the DG, the Board thought it premature to consider the proposal for Long-Term Positioning at a time when the CGIAR was evolving with joint MTPs and the possibility of centers coming together in Africa under a common operating strategy.*

10. Board Self-Assessment

Board Decision: *The Board suggesting that a comparison of the three assessments demonstrating the progress made be prepared for information at the August 2006 Board meeting.*

Action: To be provided for the August 2006 Board meeting

11. CCER on Governance and Management

Board Decision: *The Board Secretary will revise the Board's formal response to the CCER reflecting the points raised by members and send out a revised draft to Trustees for their approval comments. The updated response will then be circulated to the Science Council and the CGIAR Secretariat for their records.*

Action Taken: **The Board response has been updated, shared with Board members for their input. The updated version has been sent to the Science Council and the CG Secretariat.**