ANNEXURE II

Questions for Facilitating the Consultation

Achieving desired investment and cost-effectiveness of research agenda

1. In your opinion, to what extent have the research agenda been addressing the development issues, especially the needs of the resource-poor? Have the technologies, humanware, policies and investment been optimal? Has the resource allocation for ARD been adequate and cost-effective? If not, what most important measures could enhance the impact of innovations?

Improving institutional arrangement and role of private sector

2. In your opinion, what researchable and policy issues require urgent attention to tackle the stubbornly high hunger, malnutrition, poverty, declining and degrading resources? What institutional arrangements and shifts in the NARS and outside would help address the specific needs of the majority small and marginal farmers, women and other rural poor? How can they and other CSOs and private sector be more involved in research and technology programs to render the development process pro-poor, pro-nature and pro-women?

Enhancing farmers' competitiveness and income

3. As generally perceived, poor economic, social and ecological accesses to food and income (employment) are now the main causes (not production *per se*) of hunger. In your opinion, what policies/practices/knowledge/technologies are needed to enhance farmers' competitiveness and income and to promote innovative approaches to integrate on-farm, off-farm and non-farm employment?

Bridging productivity and adoption gaps

4. Productivity growth of major staple crops in the region has declined over years, often outstripped by the population growth. How do you view its consequences? On the other hand, several excellent proven technologies, such as hybrid rice, conservation agriculture, single cross quality protein maize hybrids etc, are known, but their uptake in most Asia-Pacific countries, barring PRC and a few other countries, is rather low. In your opinion, what is the reason for this apathy– the technology *per se*, knowledge gap, investment gap, input gap, income gap, market gap or policy gap? What is your suggestion to bridge the adoption gaps?

Revitalizing innovation sharing and extension systems

5. In your experience, how can the extension/technology/knowledge transfer and innovation sharing systems be revitalized and further strengthened to make them more relevant, dynamic and development oriented, such as the institutionalization of market-led extension with broader participation including Private Sector/NGOs etc. and congruence of traditional knowledge and technologies with modern knowledge and innovations?

Enhancing value chain approaches and risk management

6. How can small farmers and others along the entire value chain be incentivized to innovate and to become extension and knowledge agents (change agents) so as to be an integral part of the change they aspire for? More specifically, how can backward-forward and research-extension-farmer-market-development linkages, technology packaging and professional

marketing of research products be strengthened to adapt to market, climate change and bio-insecurity volatilities.

Making agricultural education and research attractive

7. In your experience, what are the main difficulties faced by agricultural education and national, regional and international agricultural research systems and institutions and what can be done to make these systems and institutions not only to promote excellence in science but to be more meaningful and attractive to students and scientists to render them more entrepreneurial and development-friendly?

Improving sustainability, bio-security and employment security

8. Under the globalization, in your opinion, what policy options and knowledge domains are needed to increase agricultural sustainability and farmers' access to domestic and international markets, including the elimination of non-tariff barriers? In this context, how best can we create/strengthen awareness and literacy on gene safety, bio-safety, food safety, health safety, ecological and environmental safety, quality and overall bio-security at all levels, especially at the grass-root level.

Reaching out to farmers through policy advocacy

9. In your opinion, how good are our policy advocacy systems to provide guidance to enable farmers to adopt or not to adopt biotechnology products, production of bio-fuel crops and to decide whether to intensify their farming enterprises, to diversify their income, to adopt contract farming/group farming or to exit farming?

Meeting the challenges of the Pacific countries

10. In your opinion, how can we meet the major challenges being faced by Pacific countries with extremely small population and land areas, isolation, high costs of transport, sea level rise, and absence of AR4D policies and capacities in some?