

**Expert Consultation to Develop APAARI Vision 2025
&
Fifth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI**

November 29 – December 1, 1999, FAO-RAP Bangkok, Thailand



PROCEEDINGS



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
BANGKOK

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	i
LIST OF ACRONYMS	iii
INAUGURAL SESSION	1
EXPERT CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP APAARI VISION 2025	3
Session I – Future ARD Needs and Research Prioritization	3
Agricultural Scenario	3
NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region	4
SWOT Analysis	4
Session II Strengthening APAARI: Organizational Needs	5
Strengthening Regional Co-operation and Partnership	5
NETWORKS	7
Session III Strengthening APAARI: R&D Needs and Management	9
Information and Communication Technology	9
Human Resource Development	11
Policy Planning and Advocacy	11
Management Needs of NARS (O&M Reforms)	11
Session IV APAARI Activities Relating to Global Forum 2000	12
Successful Case Studies	12
New Innovative Partnerships	13
Delegation of APAARI in the GFAR Meeting	13
PLENARY SESSION	14
FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI	16
Welcome by Executive Secretary	16
Address by the Chairman	16
Action Taken Report	16
APAARI Expert Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025	16
Additional APAARI Activities	16
APAARI's Participation in GFAR	17
APAARI Secretariat	17
Membership and Financial Status	17
Action-Plan 2000-2001	18
Programme Budget for Biennium 2000-2001	18
Sixth General Assembly of APAARI	18

ANNEXURE-I	: Programme	19
ANNEXURE-II	: List of Participants	22
ANNEXURE-III	: Agenda 5 th Executive Committee Meeting	29
ANNEXURE-IV	: Agenda Notes	30
ANNEXURE-IVa	: Membership Fee Status	36
ANNEXURE-IVb	: Status of Contribution Received as on 31 October 1999	37
ANNEXURE-IVc	: Status of Contribution Received as on 31 December 1998	38
ANNEXURE-IVd	: Status of Contribution Received as on 31 December 1994	39
ANNEXURE-V	: Proposed Budget 1999-2000	40
ANNEXURE-VI	: APAARI Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region	41

PREFACE

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was established in 1990 based on the recommendations of the two FAO Regional Conferences (Islamabad, 1984; Bangkok, 1985). After a decade of existence, the turn of the century provides a good opportunity to look backwards, evaluate the performance and think about the future. APAARI has developed into a neutral regional forum that provides NARS a platform to exchange views and information. It promotes collaboration and inter-institutional linkages among national, regional and international organizations such as NARS, CGIAR, GFAR, FAO, IFAD, ACIAR etc. APAARI has an overall facilitator's role and is working in partnership mode to strengthen regional collaboration for agricultural research and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Regarding the Agricultural Research for Development (ARD), the focus has now shifted from commodity based research to integrated farming system, natural resource conservation and socio-economic environment. Research managers are confronted with increasingly complex research issues. How to deal with upcoming bio-technologies, how to conserve bio-diversity, how to enforce intellectual property rights in ARD and last but not the least how to make agriculture sustainable without depleting the natural resource base have become critically important. In research management, new information technologies are available causing a shift to information management and effective networking.

To cope with these developments and to direct its activities, APAARI had organized a Brainstorming meeting at New Delhi during August 1999 in which a draft vision document was discussed. To refine and finalize the document an Expert Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025 was planned in connection with the Fifth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI, in Bangkok in November 1999.

These proceedings highlight the deliberations of this Expert Consultation meeting and Executive Committee meeting, wherein APAARI Vision 2025 has been crystallized. APAARI Vision 2025 will help in its functioning as a strong regional forum for the Asia-Pacific representing all the NARS to serve the stakeholders effectively and also represent them in the emerging Global Forum.

APAARI is grateful to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) for their financial support to organize this Consultation and the Executive Committee meeting and to the FAO Representative for Asia and the Pacific for hosting the meeting at FAO-RAP in Bangkok. We are also thankful to all the members and the associate members for their contributions to the success of the meeting.



(R.S. PARODA)
Executive Secretary
APAARI

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
APAFRI	Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions
APAN	Asia-Pacific Advanced Network
APO	Associate Professional Officer
APRAIS	Asia-Pacific Regional Agricultural Information System
APSA	Asia and Pacific Seed Association
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AST	Agricultural Sciences and Technology
CABI	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maize y Trigo
CIRAD	Centre de co-operation internationale en recherche agronomique pour le developpement
CLAN	Cereals and Legumes Asia Network
CORRA	Council for Collaborative Rice Research in Asia
CORAF	Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Developpement Agricoles/ West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD)
EGFAR	Electronic Global Forum for Agricultural Research (Homepage of GFAR)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GoFAR	Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture Research
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
GRM	Genetic Resource Management
GSV	Global Shared Vision
HRD	Human Resource Development
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centre
IBSRAM	International Board for Soil Research And Management
ICLARM	International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICUC	International Centre on Under-utilized Crops
ICW	International Centres Week
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute

INIBAP	International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
IT	Information Technology
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTM	Mid Term Meeting
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NARS-SC	Secretariat of the NARS Steering Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
PCARRD	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PNASF	Prem Nath Agricultural Science Foundation
PVP	Plant Variety Protection
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
R&D	Research and Development
RDA	Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea
RRO	Regional Research Organization
RWC	Rice Wheat Consortium
SACCAR	Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Training
SPC	South Pacific Commission/Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SWOT	Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats
TFNet	Tropical Fruit Network
UPM	University Putra Malaysia
UTFANET	Underutilized Tropical Fruit Asia Network
WAICENT	World Agricultural Information Center

INAUGURAL SESSION

The Expert Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025 and the Fifth Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI was held at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), Bangkok. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr Prem Nath, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative FAO-RAP, who was also the Chief Guest. Over 40 participants attended the meeting. They represented APAARI members from research institutes in Iran, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia and Samoa. APAARI associate members were represented from the International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) namely IRRI, CIMMYT, ISNAR, ICRISAT, IPGRI, INIBAP, ILRI, ICLARM, GFAR and CIRAD; a number of associated IARCs including CABI and IBSRAM; and networks like NACA, GoFAR, and CORRA.

Dr Ian Bevege, Chairman of APAARI and Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary of APAARI, highlighted the role of APAARI as an apolitical, neutral forum in the Asia-Pacific region, to promote and coordinate agricultural research for development activities focussing on the needs of the NARS.

Dr Paroda on behalf of APAARI, conveyed gratitude to Dr Prem Nath for agreeing to be the Chief Guest at this opening session, and for his support in organizing/hosting this meeting at FAO-RAP. He also thanked all the members, associate members and all participants for making it possible to attend this important meeting, and to the special invitees for gracing this occasion. He briefly summarized on activities of APAARI, its growth since its establishment in 1991 and highlighted on its coordinating and facilitating role. He pointed out that APAARI has addressed several NARS problems by organizing a number of Expert Consultations and by promoting networks and training activities. He expressed concern on the organizational and managerial problems of NARS. He appraised the participants on the deliberations of the brainstorming meeting in New Delhi on developing APAARI "Vision 2025"; though good headway was made through discussion of the draft document, the need to refine this and place it before all members at this Consultation was considered necessary. Thus, this meeting assumes special significance as well as great relevance towards current and future needs of NARS. He expressed concern on the heterogeneity of NARS, and that many NARS are still strengthening their operational capacity for research to achieve their countries' overall food security, poverty alleviation, economic development and natural resource management goals. He pointed out that all these issues get reflected in the vision document which he felt, with inputs from experts gathered here, will become the base-document for APAARI for reprioritizing its activities. He asserted that efforts by all member participants be made to make APAARI a strong forum to address NARS needs, to achieve self reliance and agricultural sustainability.

Dr Prem Nath in his inaugural address welcomed all participants on behalf of FAO-RAP. He pointed out that FAO has been instrumental in the genesis of APAARI and that APAARI now has developed exceedingly well into a regional forum. FAO is pleased to be associated with its activities. He referred to APAARI secretariats operating from FAO offices in New Delhi and Bangkok. At FAO-RAP, Mr Saha is providing technical support. He was happy to see the strengthening of APAARI with new staff and infrastructure and its increased role as a facilitator and coordinator. He felt extremely appreciative of the timely action initiated by APAARI in developing its Vision 2025. He asserted that for APAARI, it is essential to foster strong linkages such as with CGIAR, Advanced Research Institutions, GFAR and other sub-regional fora. It needs to respond to issues such as production efficiency, profitability and

sustainability in agriculture and to emerging research concerns such as environmental sustainability, nutrition, food quality and trade. APAARI has done a commendable job in producing diverse publications with focus on NARS needs: the expert consultations, proceedings of its meetings, success stories for technology transfer among NARS, Newsletter etc. Today, the challenge before APAARI is to fully harness the opportunities offered by the information revolution. Undoubtedly APAARI is emerging as one of the most vibrant fora with national, regional and international partnership in the Asia-Pacific region. It is structured to facilitate NARS activities, to make them dynamic and self-sustainable so as to achieve overall agricultural development in the region.

EXPERT CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP APAARI VISION 2025

The deliberations of the Expert Consultation were conducted in four technical sessions. Session I dealt with future Agricultural Research and Development Needs and Research Prioritization in the National Agricultural Research Systems. Sessions II and III discussed “Strengthening of APAARI to Meet Emerging challenges” and “Future Research Directions, Development and Management”; and Session IV related to “APAARI Activities with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research”, also focussing on GFAR-2000 meeting being held at Dresden, Germany in May 2000. The Plenary session was chaired by Dr Ian Bevege where specific recommendations were endorsed, in particular, the resolution on APAARI Vision 2025, finalized by Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI. Deliberations of each session are given in brief.

SESSION I – FUTURE ARD NEEDS AND RESEARCH PRIORITIZATION

Session Chair: Dr S.W. Bie, ISNAR

A key presentation on APAARI Vision 2025 was made by Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary of APAARI, based on the draft document that had been circulated to member-participants. In fact, this document was the outcome of the brainstorming meeting held on this topic by APAARI in August 1999 at Delhi, and thus presented a revised version incorporating views of some of the members. Dr Paroda presented an appraisal of the current scenario of national agricultural research systems prevalent in the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region, their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) and the future plan for agricultural research and development to strengthen APAARI collaboration and facilitator's role. Emphasis was laid to foster closer linkages among apex agricultural research management organizations in the region.

Dr Paroda stressed that no vision can be captured at a single given time. It has to be a collective effort. This presentation was followed by a discussion on the vision document that will be included in the final vision document. The following topics were highlighted.

Agricultural Scenario

Investment in Agricultural Research and Development

It was felt that to evaluate the level of investment in Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) by NARS, a suitable parameter is required. Investment as a percentage of GDP in Agriculture (not value added) was generally seen as a suitable parameter, although some participants mentioned that the total arable land and rural population are also good indices. The imbalance in government prioritization and resource allocation among different sub-sectors of agriculture should be given some attention as well. The desired level of investment was subject to some discussion.

It was suggested to invite the ministers of Agriculture in the region to the next General Assembly of APAARI, to address the issue of investment in ARD as was earlier recommended in the Korea meeting. Alternatively, it could be planned with the regional conference of FAO as many policy makers take part in this.

Dr Cantrell (IRRI) pointed to the dominant role of the public sector in the document. He also mentioned that universities can play a more important role. Dr Derevier (GFAR Secretariat) further stressed the need for including the private sector and NGO community in the analysis. Also, the issue of increased public awareness was raised.

Sub-Regionalization

Dr Ponce (BAR Philippines) stressed the importance of considering sub-regional issues in the document. This view was shared by other participants. Dr Bevege argued however that the issues affect all the NARS and the more regional approach enables each to capture benefits from the experience of others. Reference was made to the IFPRI/World Bank workshop held in London October 1998 where it was concluded that the so called developed countries had just as many or even more problems with the reorganization of their agricultural research, the maintenance of their political constituency and with the disinvestment by government in agricultural research as developing countries. Other participants highlighted the unique and interesting position of APAARI, having members that come from some of the poorest to some of the richest countries of the world. The problems faced in terms of organization of ARD may be of the same kind although the solutions will be different.

NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region

Dr Dar stressed that the document characterizes the NARS in the south (developing countries) but needs to be made more specific for the Asia-Pacific. Modalities for restructuring NARS with APAARI's role being to assist were discussed. Dr Cantrell asked for increased use of new technologies by NARS and Dr Bevege pointed to the need for capacity building for agricultural research and the role of the agricultural universities for properly structuring the educational systems. The plea for capturing young minds to make up the agriculture profession was stressed.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Dr Dar and Dr Bevege mentioned the bottom-up character and resulting sustainability of APAARI as a major strength. Dr Ortiz reflected on the self-sufficiency in food for the region, listed as a strength. Dr Ponce again felt the need for sub-regional groupings. Dr Paroda argued that the document refers to the regional capability to look into the concerns of major commodities required for the people. Exchange within the region does exist but is balancing. Dr Hossain of IRRI, pointed to the fact that although many countries in the region grow wheat and maize, those who have deficit like China, Japan, South Korea, Philippines import grains from outside the region. He further added that although Agriculture in Asia is the fastest growing in the world, compared with other sectors within the economy the growth is much slower. Dr Kongkeo laid stress on the strength of the aquaculture as the fastest growing sector within food industries (16% of developing countries towards 4% in the developed countries).

Weaknesses

Dr Bevege mentioned that agricultural policy frameworks are not very well developed for addressing cross sectional issues in agriculture and national planning. Dr Derevier mentioned that as countries have developed their economies, this has normally resulted in a relative decline in their agriculture, and therefore a decline in agricultural investment is not necessarily a weakness. Dr Bevege explained the paradox by mentioning that in a lot of countries where the investment in agriculture as a percentage of GDP is going down, the absolute value of agriculture is going up and therefore the need for services

is required. The rural areas have to compete with urban areas for government resources for these services. A lack of good agricultural policy was seen as the major constraint.

Opportunities

Dr Harrington mentioned that fostering improvements in the policy environment could be tackled by APAARI in its role as policy advisor. Dr Bevege added to the opportunities for APAARI to build linkages with other ARD institutions in the region, the Global Forum, and also to groups such as the FAO Commission, IARC's (both CGIAR and associated centres) and also the donor community. He asked for articulation of the facilitation of capacity building particularly in information management, and Dr Molina likewise stressed biotechnology. Dr Lee mentioned the multi-functional contribution of agricultural land as an opportunity. Dr Devendra referred to rainfed agriculture requiring due focus of APAARI. Dr Karim mentioned that in Bangladesh 65% of agriculture is rainfed, but many technologies developed for the ecosystem are not appropriate and farmers still grow traditional varieties for a large proportion of the area. Dr Bie concluded that this situation certainly needs attention.

Threats

Dr Ponce referred to the effect that the new political developments in the region will have on agriculture. Investment for ARD will of course suffer. Concern was expressed on rural population reduction, fast urbanization and how governments look at ARD and the priority given to agriculture. Dr Derevier did not see fast urbanization as a threat but felt the concern on the lack of good policy in rural development. Dr Bevege mentioned the loss of agricultural land to urbanization as a real threat to agricultural production. He expressed concern on rural labour shortages. This involves high cost of residual rural infrastructure and the effect on rural woman who have to carry on with the job. Dr Paroda stressed the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). He indicated that without proper IPR in place, the research will not be strengthened through private sector involvement. Dr Molina mentioned about trade liberalization, keeping the NARS from being open in terms of collaboration. Both Dr Paroda and Dr Cantrell mentioned the lack of incentives and rewards, resulting into considerable brain drain as a threat. Dr Bie brought attention on the disease AIDS referring to what is happening in Africa.

SESSION II STRENGTHENING APAARI: ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS

Session Chair: Dr I. Bevege, Chairman APAARI

Strengthening Regional Co-operation and Partnership

Dr Bevege stressed that no decisions have to be taken on membership policy at this stage, that will be tackled in detail by the executive committee. It is the kind of partnership and with whom.

APAARI Facilitating NARS-NARS Interaction

Dr Ponce asked for justification of being a member of APAARI vis-à-vis other partnerships and organizations of which NARS are a member in addition to the normal bilateral relationships. This also raised the issue of APAARI's linkage with the CGIAR. Dr Bie stated that ISNAR, mostly dealing with the NARS and the (sub)regional organizations, has taken a deliberate line to ensure support to APAARI and some other (sub)regional organizations because such fora have a different mission from the tasks ISNAR can normally resolve individually on a bilateral basis. He noticed a very great need, as science develops with biotechnology and information science, to ensure that the countries have a chance to exchange information so that they won't be left behind in this new technology revolution. Clearly the

possibility to meet and talk to several countries in the same region at the same time was seen as a big advantage.

Dr Paroda, representing the Indian NARS looked at APAARI's role in the context of its ownership by the NARS themselves or by the constituencies. It builds strengths in relation to views, suggestions and programmes that the NARS may like to have on ARD in regional context, also addressing the strategic issues for ARD in a holistic manner for research prioritization and implementation. These also attract the attention of the donors and the other research communities/international communities, as to what are the regional issues and needs. The biggest strength of APAARI is that it is a neutral forum which is built around the commitment and faithful partnerships and linkages between the NARS in the region. There are some good efforts from individual NARS. All international communities and centres are not addressing all issues. For non-CG-centers' mandates there seems to be no other alternative. APAARI brings in focus the need for policy issues and catalyses the policy makers. It also helps in understanding as to where we stand with other NARS who are perhaps addressing concerns much more effectively. And in the process we build a lot of mutual goodwill on bilateral level rather than to be seen through APAARI alone. That is why the Indian NARS is a founder member and a regular subscriber of membership since its inception. Dr Karim mentioned IPR as bottleneck in bilateral cooperation and therefore NARS-NARS cooperation is very important. He also raised the issue of public awareness in the national governments. Dr Kirtisinghe stated that APAARI not only gives a platform to meet other NARS in the region but also international donors. Members seem to benefit tremendously both at personal and official level. This is sufficient reason for the continuation of APAARI. Dr Puono and Dr Davanlou reaffirmed this role of APAARI. Dr Bevege mentioned the research prioritization activity which APAARI went through some years ago. It brought together from national priorities a set of regional priorities and was an extremely valuable documentation which is standing the test of time in putting together our own bilateral programmes and national programmes. He stressed the strengthening of cooperation and partnerships.

APAARI as a Regional Forum

Dr Dar, pointed out that APAARI needs to be much stronger to be the regional forum for agricultural research and development. APAARI needs to strengthen and highlight that in the Vision statement. He thought that APAARI should become the regional forum with regional mechanisms to include forestry and fisheries. APAARI has been very strong in Crops and Livestock before but to have the total system for agriculture in general, other partners should be brought in. This would include cooperation with NGOs and the private sector. With the issues like biotechnology and others, we need to properly bring them to the attention of the public and involve the public in a manner that they become the key-supporters for ARD. The other aspect that we also need to highlight is resource mobilization in the region. APAARI could be an important mechanism to implement this unified regional agenda. That could be a value added to APAARI.

Dr Cantrell mentioned that IPR and the interface with the private sector are issues of high importance being discussed in a regional setting. He also raised the issue of GMO's and biotechnology. One of the things that came out of the ICW in Washington was a big difference in attitudes towards this issue region-wise. There needs to be a regional forum to address these issues. It would give a lot more credibility to tackle these with an organization like APAARI than with ISNAR or IRRI. Dr Bevege pointed to the neutral character of APAARI as a regional forum, as a group of institutions. Dr Derevier came up with some experiences from other regions (Europe) to illustrate that somebody should take the initiative and sooner or later others will join. Regarding the partnership with GFAR he stressed that APAARI should decide regarding APAARI's participation in the GFAR. Dr Bevege added that it is the region itself which has to make up its contribution to the Global debate.

Dr d'Orfeuill asked for the admission of CIRAD as an associate member of APAARI. Motivation is of course to share information and success stories. CIRAD would like to take advantage of APAARI to take part in regional partnership in research. CIRAD used to work on a bilateral level, but it is also important to be involved in regional partnerships, programmes. We hope that APAARI can be that platform or even an engine for this.

NETWORKS

CORRA

Dr Faylon mentioned that CORRA would like to become member of APAARI. CORRA is developing modalities on how to address IPR and Private sector participation. He referred to the meeting on IPR and germplasm exchange being organized by CORRA and planned for February 2000 to bring out all of the issues associated with the implementation of plant variety protection. Dr Bevege assured to take the issue of formalizing relationship between CORRA and APAARI in the executive committee meeting. Dr Paroda stressed that this initiative of PVP and also the benefit to farmers vis-à-vis breeders is a very important issue and has its implications both for CG as well for NARS initiatives and programmes. He expressed APAARI's wish to be (non-paying) sponsor of this meeting. This idea was supported and accepted by Dr Cantrell.

Rice Wheat Consortium

Dr Harrington gave an update on the Rice Wheat Consortium. A workshop was recently held about the context and parameters of social science that drive rice-wheat system problems. And there is a special concern with measuring and monitoring long term consequences of technical change as these unfold. Also the water element will be integrated by comparing site level and farm level water use management with watershed ground water levels and concerns of rising and falling groundwater levels. Information management and dissemination activities include now, beside a newsletter and a web site, a new Project Management Information System. There are plans for a regional and district level GIS for purposes of site characterization, site similarity studies, and technology extrapolation.

Dr Paroda expressed his appreciation of the initiative and reminded the membership that this initiative was based on their decisions, as APAARI and FAO were the initiators of the dialogue and the expert consultation, which was the first one held on rice-wheat sustainability. The RWC had to address second generation problems of the Green Revolution. All the four countries, despite political sensitivities, have been working very closely together. NARS programmes are supporting. He also asked ICRISAT to play a more pro-active role as they are also incorporating legumes in their programmes. Dr Dar assured ICRISAT's involvement in the RWC where the mandate crops of ICRISAT can play a big role in sustaining the productivity of this type of production system. Mr Rudgard on behalf of CABI expressed his appreciation of the work of the RWC. Dr Karim referred to the successes of this programme in Bangladesh. He mentioned that Bangladesh became the largest country contributor to the two CG centres: IRRI and CIMMYT in RWC and expressed his concern for the sustainability of the programme with both institutes. He was also happy to note that many NGO's have joined the programme. Dr Harrington mentioned the very substantial adoption of minimum tillage practices in Bangladesh opening the other options we have talked about. He appreciated the statements of Dr Dar with respect to the legumes, and stressed to be keen to keep ICRISAT in the consortium for that very purpose. Dr Karim's question regarding sustainability was taken well for a follow up.

Dr Pathik referred to Nepal's positive participation in CLAN. He also reported on Nepal's activities with CIMMYT but mentioned the frequent changes in the government and also in NARC as a major constraint.

GoFAR

Dr Gupta presented the GoFAR report and gave a brief overview about the establishment of the group. ICLARM initiated partnerships in some of the research areas identified by GoFAR. In the GoFAR meeting the need for strengthening the research planners in the AP region in research priority setting was identified. With regards to the publications a number of activities have been initiated. A technical manual on integrated rice-fish farming for which there is a large potential in the region was developed and is about to be published. GoFAR has assisted APAARI in identifying successful case studies in aquaculture. Two case studies are being published one from India and one from Vietnam. ICLARM is bringing out the proceedings of the first meeting of GoFAR. The publication will be available by February next year and will be sent to all the partners. Dr Paroda complimented the initiative and expressed to be looking forward to the publication of the success stories that are under preparation. He was also happy with the FAO's willingness to contribute in preparing the technical report on Integrated Rice-Fish farming. He stressed that this initiative should not die because of some small funds required and urged the stakeholders to contribute. Dr Kongkeo highlighted the start of a new regional programme "Aquaculture for sustainable rural livelihood development" in which ICLARM and other GoFAR members are participating. Dr Paroda mentioned that APAARI's first published success story was on Tilapia Farming in the Philippines. That was on fish, not on crops, thus expressing overall concern for agricultural development.

UTFANET

Dr Padulosi gave a brief overview of the efforts of UTFANET. He suggested that APAARI could contribute to the agenda on underutilized species by preparing a success story booklet promoting an underutilized species in Asia. Dr Bevege agreed and suggested the possibility of making it into an e-conference theme with a bulletin board established under APAARI's website, with a moderator who could bring together information and discussion on this topic for our region; that could be a very useful way in which APAARI can contribute to UTFANET. Dr Paroda again stressed that the members had been the initiator for the UTFANET. However, he urged for action on the ground and coordination among MARDI, IPGRI and the ICUC. He referred to a publication of the National Science Council of USA brought out on underutilized crops of economic importance. If something like that kind in Asia could be brought out with IPGRI, APAARI would be happy to be associated with it.

Dr Saharan Anang announced the establishment of another network called Tropical Fruit Network (TF Net) with the objective of improving production, awareness, consumption and training. The Malaysian government has agreed that its establishment will be in MARDI. They are looking for integration with UTFANET. Dr Bevege urged that some rationalization is probably required in networking of the tropical fruit programme and perhaps TF Net may become the overall body to take this forward.

INIBAP

Dr Molina presented the activities of INIBAP. Dr Paroda appreciated the initiative and complimented all that has been done. He was concerned that Sigatoka disease, which is a major problem emerging in the region, should be addressed properly. He also asked for strengthening support to Pacific Island countries for banana as it is a major food crop besides taro. If something more can be done APAARI will be happy to collaborate because taro and banana are the two areas identified for Pacific Countries as priority crops for support. Taro blight and the Sigatoka disease of banana are the major concerns.

The requirement is for the viral-free planting material and tissue-culture multiplication besides INIBAP's effort for a genebank of banana in the Region. Dr Molina pointed out that certainly diseases are of major concern in the region and activities are going on in several countries (a programme in SPC, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines). What appeared to be very critical is the establishment of a regional multiplication centre in the Asia-Pacific. Australia and Taiwan are very important partners because of their advanced technology, and the participation of Queensland DPI is very much appreciated. It is the institute which does most of the research in Banana in the Pacific region. Dr Bevege mentioned that ACIAR was in discussion with INIBAP and QDPI to establish the virus indexing centre for the Pacific at QDPI. For Asia the Taiwan connection is quite important to work out.

Cotton

Dr Davanlou emphasized that the majority of the networks facilitated by APAARI are under the mandate of CGIAR centres. In this regard he pleaded for the establishment of a cotton network as most of the APAARI member countries grow cotton. Dr Bevege replied that if the NARS involved in cotton came together to establish a network, then APAARI would probably be in a good position to support such a network. Dr Paroda pointed out that the establishment of a cotton network was a recommendation of an expert consultation almost a decade ago but was lacking funding support. However, FAO still brings out a hybrid cotton newsletter. He suggested that APAARI should consider some such recommendation (for Soybean and Mungbean, Cotton, etc.). He referred to some significant developments like more area under hybrid cotton in India, the crop now becoming important to Vietnam, and also to Laos and Myanmar. There are opportunities and APAARI should think on how the key players can be brought together. He mentioned that also the International Cotton Development Council had expressed their interest to support and possibly the attention of ADB, ACIAR, and other organizations could be drawn. The private sector may also be interested because of the seed production. Mr. Rudgard mentioned that the suggestion on a cotton network would sit well with CABI with their work with cotton pest management through ADB.

SESSION III STRENGTHENING APAARI: R&D NEEDS AND MANAGEMENT

Session Chair: Dr I. Bevege, Chairman APAARI

Information and Communication Technology

APAARI Web-Site

Dr Mook of ISNAR, involved in the organization of the two information workshops held in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, presented the management issues regarding the homepage of APAARI which is currently hosted by ISNAR. He reported that a 'pointer' page has been registered under www.apaari.org. The major management issue is whether or not the web-page should be hosted at a server in Thailand rather than on the server with ISNAR. Ms. Achara, the new IT manager of APAARI, presented a paper in which different options for web-hosting are compared and an action plan is presented. Besides that she explained the main components of the web-site.

Information Management Workshops in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok

Mr Cagampang, CABI, reported on the two workshops. He indicated that there has been an acceleration in the field of ICT in the pace of development. However, there is a glaring gap between the advancement of ICT and its policy and management. Forty-four senior information officers and senior managers of fifteen NARS participated in the workshops. The emphasis was on policy and management issues. But

also hands-on sessions were part of the programme. Dr Mook introduced the concept of web-supported electronic conferences in which the participants are presently participating. The subject will be "the development of information strategies in the AP region" and Dr Mook will be the moderator of this group.

Proposal to ADB

Dr Bevege, Chairman, reported the developments of a proposal for Information Networking. The ADB seems to have renewed interest in this proposal. APAARI is currently in the process of redrafting the proposal with the assistance of Crawford Fund and CABI.

Asia-Pacific Regional Agricultural Information System (APRAIS)

Mr. Rudgard, CABI, reflected on the development of APRAIS. He referred to the deliberations in Tehran in the Expert Consultation in 1997. It was very clear that one of the key-roles of APAARI is information dissemination and knowledge transfer. APAARI has a potent role to add value to the National Information Systems by bringing activities together at the regional level and reflecting those to people outside the Asia-Pacific. It should promote dialogue, facilitate the uptake of new technologies and coordinate the external inputs in the area of capacity building. The emerging global knowledge system for ARD puts a further direction in place in which this activity could go. The possible development of an APRAIS has two major stages: 1) a consultative process to prepare a draft and set out the basic guidelines and parameters, and 2) a workshop to be convened to actually debate those and come to an agreement. The preliminary actions to formulate that strategy are twofold: (i) An electronic discussion forum (ii) A desk study, potentially through APAARI, to conduct a SWOT analysis as to the various aspects of an APRAIS and where it might be hosted, conducting a situation analysis before formulating the strategic alternatives to present to the consultation. This process very much mirrors what is going on in Africa for the three sub-regional fora (ASARECA, CORAF and SACCAR).

During the discussions Dr Paroda stressed that this process should not be delayed any further. He mentioned that thanks to the effort of Dr Bie, an APO is in place, also providing logistic support to this effort. He also expressed thanks to ACIAR for support to APAARI secretariat for the first three years with partial funding for the IT manager. Dr Lee asked to include more options for hosting of the APAARI web-page. He mentioned the Japanese APAN (Asia Pacific Advanced Network) initiative. Dr Mook noticed that often ARO's in the countries have not been taking the full advantage of this very high speed network with a hub in Japan. Dr Ponce mentioned that the ability of APAARI to interconnect countries is dependent on the ability of the NARS to collect the information within their country. He suggested to look into knowledge management within the country to promote interconnectivity among R&D institutions in the countries themselves. Mr Rudgard felt that a regional information activity should provide assistance to national programmes to strengthen their own systems. Dr Faylon suggested to prepare a general strategy/plan to ensure interconnectivity with other network-members and CG-centres. Dr Bevege referred to the strengthening of NARS in their ICT and Knowledge Networks system, and pointed out that this has been incorporated in the proposal for ADB. Further, activities on the development of common or harmonized procedures and processes to maximize connectivity have been flagged to the WAICENT programme of FAO.

Dr Bevege mentioned that a key issue in e-conferencing is the need for a number of conveners/moderators on particular topics. Mr. Rudgard stressed the potential value of e-conferencing, as it seems that it has not been practiced very much in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Paroda stressed that information can also be counterproductive. Knowledge is to be made available rather than only information. Effort was made to get the information managers of the NARS to the training in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. He expressed the hope that they had been sent for the training and he urged to identify the right person to be Information Nodal Point. Dr Paroda also referred to the GFAR as funding seems to be available for information networking. Dr Hoste stressed that ICT is a priority topic for GFAR. He reported on a meeting of GFAR with FAO and the World Bank in Rome earlier in the year. The main result of that meeting was making a distinction between the four levels in ARD to link it up to the global knowledge system, and all the main players were given a specific mandate according to their comparative advantage. GFAR was requested to establish EGFAR. The FAO was asked to play a more active normative role to try to set the scene and provide minimum standards to facilitate the flow of information. The CGIAR was recognized with a critical role in terms of specialized databases. And the NARS-secretariat of the Global Forum has been asked to establish a Regional Agricultural Information Strategy. The three pages presented for the AP region is an extract of this concept paper adjusted to the AP region. It is up to each region to see it and make use of it and establish the RAIS. At the national level FAO and ISNAR have taken the lead to try to establish a consortium to prepare a toolbox which can be used by the NARS. There is also a need for building up from the national to the regional node to the global level. Dr Paroda pleaded for complementarity and synergy of the efforts at all levels by different players. He was looking forward to support from both ISNAR and CABI, because they are the key-players in the region and also to support from GFAR as a result of their expectations. National level capability could be in partnership with APAARI, but these nodal officers should be in place first. But APAARI's initiative on this will go a long way.

Human Resource Development

Dr Bevege remarked that the approach to HRD has been quite ad-hoc in the past (training, workshops, expert consultations). The extent to which APAARI may put together a strategy for HRD and training in the region is something which needs to be addressed. Dr Ponce stressed the need for NARS-NARS cooperation in this respect. Dr Bevege added that APAARI could then function as a broker. Dr Bie pointed to the inter-centres working group on training. The centres have a lot to offer. ISNAR is certainly willing to cooperate with APAARI along the lines of research management for the national levels.

Policy Planning and Advocacy

Dr Ponce raised the issue of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AST) data availability. Dr Bevege pointed to the fact that these databases are around with ISNAR, IFPRI, FAO and the national systems themselves. Dr Bie mentioned that support for collecting the AST data has been deteriorating and urged for encouraging donors to invest in this again as the data are getting outdated. Dr Bevege suggested to make a resolution on this matter. Dr Paroda stressed the role APAARI has to play at the regional and global level in representing the Asia-Pacific region for Agricultural Research. In that context APAARI should move as endorsed by the region as the regional forum. APAARI should attract the attention of the donors in the region in the entire issue of support for ARD to the recommendations of this body in future. That means not only representation but advocacy of required support to the key-players. Dr Dar mentioned in this regard the responsibility of APAARI having a regional position on critical issues like IPR and biosafety etc.

PLENARY SESSION

Session Chairman: Dr I. Bevege, Chairman APAARI

The following resolutions of the Expert Consultation for Developing APAARI Vision 2025 were adopted in the plenary session.

1. The participants have gone through the draft Vision 2025 document and in principle endorse its adoption subject to the further comments of the APAARI members present to be submitted before the end of December 1999. The revised draft be then printed for distribution in the GFAR 2000 conference in Dresden.
2. Participants agreed to have a dialogue initiated to involve other regional fora/organizations (in the areas of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, nutrition, soil & water management, etc) in the AP region. APAARI should take the lead in evolving a suitable strategy for effective involvement of all the key stakeholders (including NGO's, private sector, the farmers) to develop a regional agenda for ARD for the AP region.
3. APAARI as a regional forum in the AP endorses its further commitment of effective partnership with GFAR. However APAARI would like GFAR to be complementary and effective in dealing with the AP region. The form of relationship and mode of operation between APAARI and GFAR should be specified and must be promoted further to have mutual benefits derived.
4. ICT network initiatives in the region are to be build and strengthened, in partnership with ACIAR / ISNAR / CABI / GFAR / FAO / APAN and CG centres in the region and recommended to ADB to consider this a high regional priority. All the members agreed to identify a nodal officer for the purpose. Also in the process APAARI welcomes the funding support of GFAR to ICT networks and would like to link with the GFAR web-page, FAO (WAICENT), CGIAR centres activities in this area and other regional organizations. The need for a Regional ICT Consultation/Workshop was felt in this regard.
5. In APAARI's viewpoint, networks are considered to be valuable means of partnership in ARD. Some of the successes through existing networks had been quite encouraging and APAARI is constrained to note that in some sectors of agriculture these networks are non-existing and hence would recommend to the donor community to consider these for funding. APAARI would welcome required support from GFAR and partnership in this initiative.
6. APAARI should increase its involvement in and focus on policy issues important to the future of ARD (IPR, IPM, Biotechnology, NRM) in partnership with CGIAR-centres. In each meeting in the future, some strategic issues should be taken up by APAARI for thorough discussion.
7. APAARI should continue to facilitate NARS-NARS collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

The recommendations regarding the vision document throughout the consultation are summarized under the following points:

1. Asia-Pacific region is highly diversified and APAARI member countries realized its potential and the opportunities it could provide to meet food security, address poverty eradication, malnutrition and achieve sustainability through agricultural research and development.
2. More emphasis on sub-regions is required, addressing the heterogeneity among NARS and particularly the needs of the weaker NARS. The role of agricultural development in rural development needs to be stressed.

3. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on new sciences such as biotechnology, GIS, ICT, etc. to achieve the above goals by exploiting useful diversity and by improved management of natural resources and agro-ecosystems. The potential of forestry and fisheries sectors needs to be highlighted.
4. The role of diverse stakeholders in addressing public needs, community participation, promoting bottom up approach, needs to be stressed such as of the NGOs. The private sector needs to be involved suitably to the benefit of NARS vis-à-vis active role of APAARI in its involvement with the non-government sector.
5. Public awareness as a tool to disseminate the message downstream is catching up fast. Participatory research and information dissemination, and transfer of technology to farming communities was advocated.
6. Human Resource Development (HRD) at all levels was required, based on collective/common needs of the sub-regions/regions (such as on policy (IPR) issues, biotechnology, research management) and the needs of individual NARS. In achieving this goal in a cost effective manner, collaboration of CGIAR and associated centres, , and particularly NARS-NARS partnerships would be effective.
7. Reprioritization of regional, sub-regional and NARS specific needs to meet above objectives should be reinforced suitably in the vision document, to make it more action-oriented to APAARI and for NARS and other partners.
8. Activities of research networks in collaboration with NARS and APAARI's role as a facilitator to promote and strengthen these, needs to be addressed more critically. Many networks such as CORRA, GoFAR, CLAN, Tropical Fruits (MARDI, Malaysia) would like to function under the umbrella of APAARI. However, concern was expressed on sustainability, funding aspects etc. for many of the networks. It was also stressed by members that APAARI should examine the possibilities of establishing new research networks such as on cotton, soybean and mungbean.
9. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) activities were given high priority. These needs could be strengthened by registration of a domain for the APAARI homepage. ISNAR and CABI will be required to play an important role in strengthening this system with/for APAARI in regional information development.

THE FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI

Welcome by Executive Secretary

Dr R.S. Paroda, The Executive Secretary of APAARI, welcomed and thanked all the participants, and particularly expressed APAARI's gratitude to Dr Prem Nath, Assistant Director General, FAO-RAP, for hosting this meeting. He pointed to the fact that a lot of the work of this meeting was already done during the brainstorming meeting in Delhi and referred to the minutes of this meeting.

Address by the Chairman

Dr I. Bevege, as Chairman of APAARI was encouraged by the expert consultation on APAARI Vision 2025. As far as APAARI activities are concerned he had not much to add to the activity report that was taken to the International Centres Week in Washington DC. He listed as pending activities from his side the NARS status report for Australia and the ADB proposal to be revised.

Action Taken Report

For the Action Taken Report see the agenda notes in Annexure-IV

APAARI Expert Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025

Dr Bevege looked back at a high level of interaction with the membership. Very important issues and points have been raised to strengthen the vision document considerably. The secretariat will take this into account and will ensure to come up with a most useful document for its own purposes, and to sell APAARI to the stakeholders.

Additional APAARI Activities

NARS-APAARI-ICRISAT-ICARDA Proposal to IFAD

A proposal to APAARI seeking support for the CLAN activity has been submitted for consideration. Dr Bevege referred in this regard to a de-facto policy rather than an articulated policy. He urged to be careful in how to approach requests from individual networks for support from APAARI. Dr Paroda expressed his concern that while IFAD was approached several times, yet their support is not forthcoming. In that respect CLAN will put their own facilitator. Partial support of US\$ 15000 for the first year and US\$ 16000 for the next year was requested. Dr Paroda indicated that CLAN may continue pursuing with IFAD. Till then as interim support for the first year, APAARI may agree for the funding of US\$ 15000 and then review again in the meeting next year.

Dr Bevege flagged the discussion about the meeting of IRRI-CORRA on IPR which is due for February 2000 and asked the members to, in principle, consider support of that meeting, may it be that such a request comes to APAARI. Dr Faylon stressed the importance of co-sponsoring such a meeting, particularly for the small NARS. Dr Bevege referred to the past where APAARI had sponsored activities but not necessarily funded them.

Dr Paroda pointed to the workplan under the MoU with IPGRI. What specific action from APAARI is needed that can be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. He also mentioned similar involvement of APAARI with ICUC, UTFANET and with the Tropical Fruit Network through MARDI. Dr Bevege indicated that APAARI should sit back and ask the different players to once and for all sort out who is doing what on the underutilized crops. Dr Paroda desired to ask them for a clear strategy before any request for funding is considered in future.

APAARI's Participation in GFAR

It was agreed that both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of APAARI could be requested to attend the Global Forum 2000 in Dresden and in future meetings also they could act as representative and alternate representative respectively.

APAARI Secretariat

Dr Bevege welcomed Mr Reinier van Hoffen as APO and Ms Achara Jantarsaengaram as IT Manager. Dr Paroda expressed his appreciation to the Governments of the Netherlands, FAO and particularly Dr S.W. Bie, while welcoming the joining of Reinier. Regarding the ITM position, he appreciated the support from ACIAR.

Membership and Financial Status

Dr Bevege reported on approaches to Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, IBSRAM and APSA. Dr Yang expressed his keen interest to take forward the issue of membership of APAARI with his ministry in China. IBSRAM is looking into its budget and may consider to join APAARI soon. APSA would be the first private sector group to be involved in APAARI. One of the things the membership should consider is the way we deal with membership issues regarding this new type of membership. PNASF (Prem Nath Agricultural Science Foundation) also requested membership of APAARI, the foundation would become an NGO affiliate membership of APAARI. Dr Bevege assured that the sub-group with Dr I. Bevege, Dr M. Taeb and Dr Faylon is going to study the issue of different sorts of membership in detail before the General Assembly. Dr Paroda wanted to differentiate between legitimacy of APAARI as a regional forum and the development from NARI to NARS. He suggested to exchange views through electronic conferencing. Dr Bie offered to furnish this committee with some background documentation on this issue. It really reflects a change in agricultural research globally that old players take new roles and there are new players with new roles.

Dr Paroda appreciated the regularity of clearance of the dues. Small outstanding balances with regard to the transfer costs will not appear on the balance in the future but will be considered as transaction costs. He asked endorsement to put again US\$ 500,000 in a fixed deposit. As it may be necessary to access this reserve. Mr Saha was asked to check on the date of renewal of the investment.

Regarding the request of PARC and PCARRD to pay only US\$ 6000 per year instead of US\$ 10000 agreed to by them earlier, the Executive Committee discussed at length the issue and decided to have US\$ 6000 as membership from each of them with effect from 1999. Similarly, regarding the payment of arrears and the membership of BAR, it was decided to request Dr Ponce to pay the arrears and also the membership for 1999 and 2000 at the rate of US\$ 6000 per year. Also request be made again to Vietnam to start paying their membership of US\$ 3000 per year.

APAARI Executive Committee endorsed the suggestions and accepted the details of the financial status presented by the Secretariat and appreciated the efforts of the Executive Secretary and Mr Saha

in managing the financial aspects so ably.

Action-Plan 2000-2001

Dr Bevege added two dot-points to the action plan:

- Preparation of GFAR Global Forum 2000
- Development of ICT strategy and implementation programme.

Dr Paroda wanted to add two items:

- Suggestions for future success stories to be published
- Display of APAARI success stories in GFAR 2000, and need to get them reprinted upon which the Chairman urged the secretariat to make an estimate of the cost involved.

Programme Budget for Biennium 2000-2001

Dr Bevege mentioned to consider the reprinting of the success stories as indicated before. He urged also for an expenditure statement by the end of the year. The last one that was put up in the previous meeting in New Delhi could also be circulated. He remarked that each major activity should have an expenditure statement linked with it. The programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 was endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Sixth General Assembly of APAARI

Dr Bevege mentioned that the meeting venue is in Thailand and the meeting is scheduled sometime in November 2000, for which dates have to be finalized with the host member. Dr Paroda conveyed his thanks to the Executive Committee members. He also appreciated the efforts made by the staff of the secretariats both in Bangkok and in Delhi. He asked for input for the newsletter and notification of training programmes, conferences, etc. and he in particular appreciated the work of Dr R.K. Arora, APAARI Consultant, in bringing out publications in time, and of Mr P.K. Saha for all the logistic support to the Secretariat in Bangkok. Dr Bevege thanked everybody for their participation and valuable inputs.



ANNEXURE-I

**THE FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI
&
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON APAARI VISION 2025**

29 November – 1 December 1999
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

PROGRAMME

29 November 1999

08.00 – 09.00	Registration	
	INAUGURAL SESSION	
	Chairman	: Mr Ian Bevege
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome and Objectives of the Expert Consultation	: Dr R.S. Paroda
09.10 – 09.15	Introduction of Participants	
09.15 – 09.30	Brief Comments on behalf of – ISNAR GFAR CORRA	: Dr Stein W. Bie : Dr Alain Derevier : Dr Ronald P. Cantrell
09.30 – 09.40	Chairman's Address	: Mr Ian Bevege
09.40 – 10.00	Release of Publications and Inaugural Address	: Dr Prem Nath (ADG FAO-RAP)
10.00 – 10.10	Group Photograph	
10.10 – 10.30	Tea/Coffee	
	EXPERT CONSULTATION ON APAARI VISION 2025	
	Session –I	
	Future ARD Needs and Research Prioritization	
	Facilitator	: Dr Stein W. Bie
10.30 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of APAARI Vision 2025 Draft Paper• Future ARD Scenario• Challenges Facing NARS	



ANNEXURE-II

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ANNEXURE-III

**THE FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI
&
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON APAARI VISION 2025**

29 November – 1 December 1999
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA 5TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Welcome Address by the Executive Secretary and Introduction to the Agenda
2. Address by the Chairman, APAARI
3. Action Taken Report
 - a. Expert Consultation on Research Management Mechanisms of NARS
 - b. APAARI Vision 2025
4. Additional APAARI Activities
5. APAARI Secretariat : Recruitment of Information Technology Manager
6. Membership and Financial Status
7. Action Plan for 2000-2001
8. Programme Budget for the Biennium 2000-2001
9. Sixth General Assembly
10. Any other Item



ANNEXURE-IV

THE FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI & EXPERT CONSULTATION ON APAARI VISION 2025

29 November – 1 December 1999
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA NOTES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 : WELCOME ADDRESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 : CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 : ACTION TAKEN REPORT

The important tasks accomplished as a follow-up of the Fifth General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Research Management Mechanisms of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), held from 13-15 October, 1998 at Suwon, hosted by the Rural Development Administration (RDA), Republic of Korea. Activities are as under:

Publication of the Newsletter

Two issues of APAARI Newsletter, December 1998 and June 1999 were published, and widely distributed among members, interested organizations, scientists, policy makers etc. A good response was received from members who contributed news items for report relating to agricultural research and development.

The issues were well received. It was also affirmed that for the free flow of information, this initiative of APAARI should continue. The next issue (December 1999) is being processed.

Publication of Success Stories

The success stories on "Oilseeds in India" and "Integrated Pest Management in Rice in Indonesia" were published and widely distributed to the members, associate members and other concerned organizations, scientists, etc. to promote dissemination of information and technology transfer.

Three more success stories are being processed for printing:

- Success story on "Mussel Farming, Pearl Culture and Edible Oyster" by Dr M. Devraj, Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam, Cochin, India.
- Success story on "Successful Research and Development of Integrated Agriculture-Crop-Livestock Farming System in Vietnam" by Dr Lee Thanh Luu, Vice-Director, Research Institute for Aquaculture, No.1, Dinh Bang-Tien Son-Ha Bac, Vietnam.

- “Labour Saving Technologies of Rice in Korea – Direct Seeding and Machine Transplanting”, submitted by Drs Je Kye Kim, Moon-Hee Lee and Young Sang Kim, National Crops Experimental Station, Rural Development Administration (RDA), Suwon, Republic of Korea, is being scrutinized for publication as a technical document.

Further as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Korea meeting, Dr S.K. Vasal, Team Leader, Regional Asian Maize Programme is finalizing a manual on Hybrid Maize Technology for the benefit of NARS in the region and APAARI will be publishing this.

Proceedings of the Fifth General Assembly and Expert Consultation

Proceedings of the Fifth General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Research Management Mechanisms of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) held at Suwon, Republic of Korea, 13-15 October 1998, were published and widely distributed.

Publication of Country Status Reports

As a follow-up of the recommendations of the Korea meeting, the publication on Country Status Reports including regional networks is being printed and will be released at the opening session of the meeting.

Publication on Status of PGR Conservation and Utilization in Asia-Pacific Region

The report on the “Status of Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region” completed by APAARI on behalf of the FAO, is also under print. It provides useful information of PGR Conservation and Use in National and Regional context.

Mailing List

Further additions were made to the existing mailing list maintained at the Delhi office of APAARI. The present list has 570 addresses including different institutions, NGOs, Scientists, Policy makers, donors etc., from the Asia-Pacific region and several other international and regional organizations.

APAARI Representation in the Regional Workshops

APAARI was one of the co-sponsors of the “Regional Meeting to Promote and Facilitate Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific”, held at Manila, Philippines from 25-28 December 1998. The meeting was convened by the FAO of the United Nations, APAARI and the CGIAR system wide Genetic Resource Programme (SGRP). Dr R.K. Arora, APAARI Consultant participated and presented a paper highlighting APAARI activities, including those related to the Global Plan of Action.

Circulation of NARS Publications

As a follow-up action of the Korea meeting, all member countries were approached and requested to circulate their recent significant publications on agricultural research and development and related issues, among member NARS. IARCs were also requested, IPGRI and ISNAR have since distributed some of their publications for use of the member NARS. ICAR has also distributed some of its publications including information on the “National Agricultural Technology Project” – a World Bank supported programme for strengthening agricultural research and development, capacity building, information dissemination and technology transfer. Sri Lanka Council of Agricultural Research Policy has brought out Directories of Research Personnel and of Agricultural Research Projects and this information will be useful to member NARS. Overall, the response of the member countries to distribute/share such information among each other is rather poor.

Creation of a Homepage on the Internet

The earlier document was updated and sent to ISNAR. APAARI conveys its thanks to Dr Stein W. Bie, Director General, ISNAR, and his staff particularly Dr Byron Mook, Senior Officer and Mr Anthony (Tony) Murray, ISNAR's new webmaster for collaboration in establishing the homepage for APAARI on the internet which can be viewed at <http://www.cgiar.org/isnar/hosted/apaari>. Suggestions on further improvement of this document have been received/discussed during the APAARI Brainstorming Meeting held at New Delhi from 23-24 August 1999; and also on its easy accessibility on internet. These are being considered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: APAARI EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025

It was proposed to hold the Fifth Executive Committee Meeting and the Expert Consultation on APAARI Vision 2025 proposed at FAO Regional Office for the Asia Pacific (FAO-RAP), Bangkok, from 29 November to 1 December 1999. This meeting is being organized with full support and cooperation of Dr Prem Nath, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative. The logistic arrangements are being attended to with the kind cooperation of Mr P.K. Saha, Plant Protection Officer, FAO-RAP, Bangkok.

Preparation of a Document on APAARI Vision 2025

A draft document on APAARI Vision 2025: Agricultural Research for Development prepared by Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI and Dr Mruthyunjaya, Assistant Director General, ICAR was discussed at the APAARI Brainstorming Meeting at New Delhi from 23-24 August 1999 and subsequently revised. The revised document is to be discussed at the Expert Consultation and endorsed by the members for its publication and wider dissemination vis-à-vis implementation by APAARI.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 : ADDITIONAL APAARI ACTIVITIES

NARS-APAARI-ICRISAT-ICARDA Proposal to IFAD

The earlier proposal on "Improving Productivity of Dryland Crops in Resource-poor areas of Asia" submitted to IFAD for funding support did not materialize because of change in IFAD's policy not to fund proposals that involve networking. Instead, IFAD has requested ICRISAT to submit a proposal that addresses role of legumes in improving sustainability of the cereal-based cropping systems. After discussing with IFAD, a "Concept Note" has been prepared by Dr C.L.L. Gowda, CLAN Coordinator on "Using Legumes to Improve Sustainability of Cereal-Based Systems in the Drylands of India, China, Nepal and Vietnam" and submitted to IFAD as a joint proposal of the NARS, ICRISAT, and APAARI.

It was suggested at the Brainstorming Meeting in New Delhi that ICRISAT/CLAN may also tap other donors such as the Grain Legumes Research and Development Council (GRDC) in Australia, Aus-Aid, Common Fund for Commodities.

MoU with IPGRI

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between IPGRI and APAARI a biennial workplan has been drafted by IPGRI Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Serdang, Malaysia. It is intended to strengthen activities particularly in PGR subregional/regional and commodity based networks and on information exchange under APAARI's umbrella with its wider role as a facilitator.

MoU with ICUC

Dr Nazmul Haq, Director, International Centre for Underutilized crops at the Institute of Irrigation and Development Studies, University of Southampton, U.K., has requested for developing an MoU with APAARI. ICUC besides supporting the Underutilized Tropical Fruits in Asia Network (UTFANET), is interested in establishing a Regional Network on Underutilized Crops for Asia and the Pacific.

APAARI's Participation in GFAR

APAARI participated in the activities of the GFAR: i) In the First GFAR Management Meeting held at ICAR, New Delhi from 18-19 February 1999, Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI presented activities of APAARI, ii) Mr Ian Bevege, Chairman, APAARI gave an account of APAARI's role in the NARS-SC meeting on 25 May 1999 during the MTM in Beijing, China, iii) In the Information Technology Communication Workshop organized by NARS-SC in Rome, for Asia-Pacific, Dr S.S. Tomar (ICAR) and Dr Brian Lee (ACIAR) were invited to participate. APAARI will be presenting at GFAR 2000 at Dresden some case-studies of collaborative agricultural R&D studies conducted by NARS with IARCs and other partners. The topics for such specific case studies to be presented on behalf of APAARI in GFAR 2000 were discussed at the meeting of APAARI Executive Committee members, at the Brainstorming Meeting at New Delhi on 24 August 1999. Follow-up action has been taken to present case-studies on TAMNET, Rice-Wheat Consortium, NACA, and Hybrid Rice in India. Also, APAARI plans to endorse such a proposal under Innovative Research Partnerships.

Collaboration with CABI, ISNAR and ACIAR in Information Strengthening and Capacity Building

Two workshops focussing on information management are being organized during November 1999, with APAARI as a co-sponsor.

- i. "Harnessing Information for Development": An International Training Workshop is being organized by CABI South East Asia Regional Centre in collaboration with University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang, Malaysia, from 15-19 November 1999. APAARI has supported participation of six scientists from its member countries – one each from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Malaysia. Partial support is also being provided to participants from Iran.
- ii. Workshop on "Information Management for Agricultural Research" sponsored by CABI, ISNAR, ACIAR, APAARI and UPM, is being organized by ISNAR, CABI, JIRCAS and AIT, at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand from 22-29 November 1999. Participants from India and Thailand, and some experts, will attend this workshop.

Brief report/presentation will be made by Dr Rudgard at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 : APAARI SECRETARIAT

Posting of APO

Mr Reinier van Hoffen assumed duties as APO, APAARI based in FAO Office in New Delhi on 16 August 1999. APAARI places on record thanks to the efforts of Mr Peter Rosenegger, FAO Representative in India and Bhutan and Dr Stein W. Bie, Director General, ISNAR as well as the Government of Netherlands in finalizing his posting.

Recruitment of Information Technology Manager

The applications received for the post of Information Technology Officer were scrutinized by the Chairman and Executive Secretary, APAARI and Ms Achara Jantarasaengaram from Bangkok was interviewed on 17

September 1999 by Mr Ian Bevege, Chair, APAARI, Dr G. Singh and Mr Saha, and subsequently upon selection offered the position. She joined duty with effect from 18th of October.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 : MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATUS

Membership

APAARI had approached China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam; and organizations such as IBSRAM and APSA, to become full time paid members. Taiwan has exhibited interest and has become full time paid member from 1999. APAARI Executive Committee welcomes Taiwan. APSA and Myanmar have exhibited interest but due to financial constraints will not be able to join at present.

ICUC has requested APAARI to become its Associate Member. Necessary Forms etc. have been sent to Dr Nazmul Haq, Director.

APAARI sub-group with Mr Ian Bevege as Chairman and Dr M. Taeb and Dr Beatriz P. del Rosario as members has been interacting through e-mail and will advice on expansion of membership and modalities for membership.

Payments

The NARS who have not yet paid their membership fee for 1998 were approached and requested to clear their dues. All NARS members were requested to make payments for the year 1999. The Associate Members were also likewise requested for their contribution. Membership fee received from different member countries is given in Annexure-IVa.

Financial Status

The status of contributions received as on 31 December 1998 is given in Annexure-IVb and the statement on contributions up to 15 October 1999 is given in Annexure-IVc. Funds allocated for 1999 are being utilized in managing the activities such as on sponsoring collaborative workshops on ICUC with CABI, ISNAR and ACIAR is being organized in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, Thailand; Brainstorming Meeting held at New Delhi and expert consultation proposed; publications, consultancies, secretarial assistance etc.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 : ACTION PLAN FOR 2000-2001

The activities planned are as follows:

- Publication of Newsletter
- Publication of Success Stories
- APAARI Vision 2025
- Publication of Technical Reports, Proceedings
- Support to Important Regional Networks
- Planning for the Sixth General Assembly Meeting/Expert Consultation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 : PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2000-2001

The budget for 2000 approved during the Fifth General Assembly meeting of APAARI at Suwon, Republic of Korea and for 2001 as proposed is given in Annexure-V.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 : SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI

The Sixth General Assembly of APAARI will be held at Bangkok during 2000. Details will be discussed during the Executive Committee Meeting in Islamabad.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 : ANY OTHER ITEM



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)
Status of Contribution Received (1995-1998)
(US Dollars)

Member Countries/ Institutions	Contribution in 1995	Outstanding in 1995	Contribution in 1996	Outstanding in 1996	Contribution in 1997	Outstanding in 1997	Contribution in 1998	Outstanding in 1998	Total Outstanding 1991 up to 31/12/1998
ACIAR-Australia			6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	9,986.95	13.05	13.05
BARC-Bangladesh	3,990.00	10.00	3,990.00	10.00	5,988.20	11.80	5,986.35	13.65	45.45
MPFIC/KRS-Fiji	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
ICAR-India	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
AREEO-Iran	3,977.03	22.97	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	85.09
JIRCAS-Japan			6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
MARDI-Malaysia	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
NARC-Nepal	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
PARC-Pakistan	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
NARI-Papua New Guinea	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	23.62
PCARRD-Philippines	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	5,428.00	4,572.00	4,571.12
RDA-Republic of Korea	5,980.00	20.00	9,960.36	39.64	9,960.88	39.12	9,954.70	45.30	205.98
SCARP-Sri Lanka	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
DOA-Thailand	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
MAFF-Western Samoa	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	2,975.04	24.96	4,024.96
Total	43,947.03	2,052.97	59,950.36	2,049.64	90,949.08	50.92	86,331.04	4,668.96	8,969.27
Total Received	445,030.73								



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)
Status of Contribution Received (1991-1994)
(US Dollars)

Member Countries/ Institutions	Contribution in 1991	Outstanding in 1991	Contribution in 1992	Outstanding in 1992	Contribution in 1993	Outstanding in 1993	Contribution in 1994	Outstanding in 1994	Total Outstanding 1991 up to 31/12/1994
ACIAR-Australia					6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BARC-Bangladesh					0.00		4,000.00	0.00	0.00
MPIFC/KRS-Fiji	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
ICAR-India	5,976.00	24.00	6,024.00	(24.00)	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
AREEO-Iran	4,000.00	0.00	3,949.92	50.08	4,000.00	0.00	3,987.96	12.04	62.12
JIRCAS-Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MARDI-Malaysia	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
NARC-Nepal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
PARC-Pakistan	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
NARI-Papua New Guinea	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	1,988.10	11.90	1,988.28	11.72	23.62
PCARRD-Philippines	3,800.88	199.12	4,200.00	(200.00)	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	-0.88
RDA-Republic of Korea	4,000.00	0.00	3,988.00	12.00	3,976.04	23.96	3,974.04	25.96	61.92
SCARP-Sri Lanka	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
DOA-Thailand	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
MAFF-Western Samoa	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total	37,776.88	223.12	38,161.92	-161.92	43,964.14	35.86	43,950.28	49.72	146.78
Total Received	163,853.22								



ANNEXURE-V

ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

Proposed Budget for 1999-2000 (US Dollars)

S. No.	Items	Approved 1999	Approved 2000	Proposed 2001
1	Publications (Newsletter, Directory, Technical Reports, etc).	25,000	30,000	30,000
2	APAARI Secretariat Support			
	i. Secretary/Information Technology Manager	50,000	60,000	60,000
	ii. Office Stationary and Postage	15,000	20,000	25,000
	iii. Miscellaneous Items	20,000	20,000	20,000
3	Consultancy/Travel	30,000	40,000	45,000
4	Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support	40,000	45,000	45,000
5	Expert Consultation/General Assembly, Executive Committee meeting of APAARI (partial support).	25,000	35,000	40,000
		2,05,000	2,50,000	2,70,000

Note:

1. The above Budget for the years 1999 and 2000 is in line with 1998 Budget approved by the Fifth General Assembly meeting of APAARI held at Suwon, Republic of Korea, 13-15 October 1998.
2. In the context of the current situation of FAO, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, all autonomous technical bodies under the aegis of FAO would be required to bear the cost of utility/service facilities in then new building where all the autonomous bodies secretariat have been accommodated.
3. For the Secretariat support, ACIAR has agreed to provide partial support of 30,000 Australian dollars per year for the years 1998-2000.



ANNEXURE VI

APAARI ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – A REPORT

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), during the past eight years since its establishment, has grown into an important regional forum. Its mission is to promote the development of NARS in the Asia-Pacific region through intra-regional and inter-institutional co-operation. APAARI's policies, plans, strategies and programmes focus on resolving regional concerns such as the unstable and low agricultural production, food security, malnutrition and poverty. To meet these challenges, APAARI is gearing NARS towards attaining food security and agricultural sustainability.

The overall objectives of the Association are to foster the development of agricultural research in the Asia-Pacific region so as to: promote the exchange of scientific and technical information, encourage collaborative research, promote human resource development, build up organizational and management capabilities of member institutions and strengthen cross-linkages and networking among diverse stakeholders. To meet these needs, the Association: i) convenes General Assembly once in two years, holds regular Executive meetings yearly and organizes consultations, workshops, trainings etc, ii) collects, collates and disseminates research findings, iii) maintains links through meetings/participation and information exchange, with other fora in the region and outside, and iv) promotes need based collaboration in research projects among member institutions, analyzing priorities and focussing on regional agricultural development.

Presently, 16 countries' NARS are members of APAARI (Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Western Samoa); besides some CGIAR centres as its associate members (IPGRI, ICRISAT, ICARDA, ISNAR, IRRI, IWMI). In addition, AVRDC is also its associate member. APAARI is continuously building support of the FAO, CG centres, GFAR, and donor agencies such as IFAD and ACIAR. However, APAARI is strengthening itself to become a self-sustainable forum so that it is not entirely donor-dependent.

Activities Undertaken

APAARI undertakes diverse activities as per its objectives and mission, and these are complimentary to NARS needs and priorities, vis-à-vis overall regional collaboration. Major focus has been as follows:-

- I. **Strengthening Regional Networks:** APAARI plays the role of a facilitator/catalyst to promote and coordinate network activities. It had organized an Expert Consultation at AREEO, Tehran, Iran in 1997 co-sponsored by the FAO, ISNAR and the ACIAR, to discuss the management and strengthening of research networks and the partnerships envisaged between NARS, IARCs and other partners; and how best through regional networks, information and material exchange, sharing of crop improvement results, and effective means to conserve and use genetic resources can be collectively promoted by member NARS in agricultural development. APAARI has been supportive to the Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN), Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET), Underutilized Tropical Fruits Asia Network (UTFANET), Council for

Partnership in Rice Research in Asia (CORRA), PGR Networks and Group on Fisheries and Aquatic Research (GoFAR).

CLAN has recently submitted a joint proposal (NARS-APAARI-ICRISAT-ICARDA) on "Using Legumes to Improve Sustainability of Cereal Based Systems in the Drylands of India, China, Nepal and Vietnam" to IFAD for support.

II. **Expert Consultations:** APAARI has organized several Expert Consultations pursuing on key areas of research and development of interest and benefit to NARS in Asia and the Pacific Region. These include:

- NARS-CGIAR partnership for agricultural research (February 1-2, 1996, IARI, New Delhi)
- Research priority setting by the NARS (November 25-26, 1996, IARI, New Delhi)
- Management and strengthening of research networks (October 19-21, 1997, AREEO, Tehran, Iran)
- Research management mechanisms of NARS (October 13-15, 1998, Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea)

These regional meetings have been effective in building required partnership for agricultural research in the region.

III. **Publication and Information Dissemination:** Diverse publications for the benefit of NARS in particular, has been brought out.

1. **APAARI Newsletter:** Two issues yearly are published during June and December, providing information on research development related matters in agriculture both in the regional and global context. With a mailing list of about 600, the newsletter is widely circulated, facilitating free flow of information dissemination among member NARS, IARCs, NGOs and other partners including donors.
2. **Directories of NARS Institutions:** Two regional directories for South and Southeast Asia have been published and for East Asia and the Pacific and Oceania, these are still under process. These provide to member NARS, useful contacts for exchange of information.
3. **Success Stories on Agriculture and Related Fields:** Success Stories of significant agricultural breakthroughs in the Asia-Pacific have been reviewed and published, and have been widely distributed among members. These cover diverse topics.
 - i. *Crops and Commodities:* Baby Corn Production in Thailand; Hybrid Rice in China; Hybrid Cotton in India; Palm Oil Industry in Malaysia; Cotton Production in Pakistan; Wheat Production in Iran; Direct-Seeded Rice in Malaysia; Groundnut in China and Oilseeds in India.
 - ii. *Farming Systems:* Transformation in Korean Farming; Tilapia Farming in the Philippines; Integrated Pest Management in Rice in Indonesia.
 - iii. *Other Topics:* such as Dairying in India, Orchids in Thailand and Agro-Tourism in Australia

These documents stress on inter-institutional collaboration in sharing available expertise and technology among member NARS, to boost agricultural production in particular.

4. **Agricultural Research Systems:** Two sub-regional publications on South and Southeast Asia have been brought out. These present case studies reflecting organization and management, and growth and development of NARIs.
5. **Status Report on PGR Conservation and Use:** This study, undertaken on behalf of the FAO, provides synthesis of information on plant genetic resources utilization and conservation in Asia and the Pacific. This is being printed as FAO-APAARI joint publication. Also, APAARI has been associated in organizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on PGR in New Delhi in 1996 and the publication of proceedings – a joint publication of IPGRI, FAO and APAARI.

6. **Exchange of Reports and Publications among APAARI Members:** This activity was further increased and information distributed to APAARI members and other interested partners.

Some Recent Developments

1. **MoU with IPGRI:** Both IPGRI and APAARI have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote/strengthen PGR Networks under APAARI umbrella and make them more sustainable. A work plan for 2-years is being developed.
2. **APAARI's Collaboration with GFAR:** APAARI participated in the activities of the GFAR's First and Second Management Group meetings held at New Delhi in February and August 1999, respectively, and to the NARS-SC meeting in May during the MTM in Beijing, China. APAARI will be presenting at GFAR 2000 at Dresden, Germany, some case studies in research partnership conducted by NARS with IARCs and other partners. These studies deal with TAMNET, Rice Wheat Consortium, NACA, and also Hybrid Rice in India. APAARI also intends to present a case study proposal under innovative research partnership.

In the APAARI Brainstorming Meeting organized on 23-24 August 1999, GFAR management team (Dr Henri d'Orfeuil, Dr Alain Derevier, Dr Fernando Chaparro and Dr Christian Hoste) participated. One of the agenda items in this meeting was on APAARI's participation in GFAR 2000 and discussion on APAARI Vision 2025. APAARI proposed to discuss further in detail its role and activities relating to GFAR 2000 in its Executive Committee meeting proposed to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 29 November to 1 December 1999 in which Executive Secretaries of GFAR-SC and NARS-SC will also participate.

3. **ISNAR and CABI Collaboration in Information Networking:** ISNAR has assisted APAARI in the development/establishing of a homepage for APAARI on the internet which can be viewed at <http://www.cgiar.org/isnar/hosted/apaari>. For easy accessibility, APAARI will soon have its own arrangements for direct availability on internet. ISNAR/CABI project proposal on information network is under consideration for donor's support, to create information technology base for APAARI. This will allow research information to be interactively available to member NARS and other partners, including the creation of e-mail discussion sites for specific topics.
4. **Collaboration with CABI, ISNAR and ACIAR in Capacity Building:** Two workshops focussing on information management are being organized during November 1999 with APAARI as a co-sponsor.
 - i. **Harnessing Information for Development:** This workshop is being organized by CABI South East Regional Centre in collaboration with the University Putra, Malaysia (IPM), Serdang, Malaysia from 15-19 November 1999. APAARI has suggested participation of six scientists, one each from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines and Malaysia. Partial support has also been provided to one participant from AREEO, Tehran, Iran.
 - ii. **Information for Agricultural Research:** This workshop sponsored by CABI, ISNAR, ACIAR and JIRCAS, is being organized at the Asian Institute of Technology, AIT, Bangkok, Thailand from 22-29 November 1999. Three participants each from India and Thailand will attend this workshop, apart from some experts. Also, APAARI is exploring the possibility with NAARM, Hyderabad, India and ISNAR to jointly organize a regional training on Agricultural Research Management for Senior Research Managers from Asia-Pacific region.
5. **Collaboration with FAO and SGRP/CGIAR in Regional Workshop:** APAARI was one of the co-sponsors of the 'Regional Meeting to Promote and Facilitate Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific', held at Manila, Philippines from 25-28 December 1998. The meeting was convened by the FAO

of the United Nations, APAARI and the CGIAR system wide Genetic Resources Programme (SGRP). APAARI participated in this workshop and presented a paper highlighting its activities.

6. **APAARI Brainstorming Meeting on Vision 2025:** APAARI recently organized a Brainstorming meeting to discuss its future perspective plan – Vision 2025. This meeting was held in New Delhi from 23-24 August 1999; 20 participants attended this meeting representing some member NARS, IPGRI, ISNAR, ICRISAT, ACIAR, GFAR, FAO and NGOs. The draft has since been revised incorporating suggestions from participants and will further be discussed and finalized during the Executive Committee meeting of APAARI to be held at Islamabad, Pakistan, 29 November to 1 December 1999.

