

# The Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia

2–4 December 2002

Penang, Malaysia



## PROCEEDINGS



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok

# **THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI AND EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NETWORKS AND CONSORTIA**

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## PREFACE

Research partnerships in agriculture are gradually gaining wide acceptance to address issues of common concern and based on shared vision, partnerships have been established involving scientists, and/or institutions in the form of either, research networks or consortia. The strategic partnerships also prove useful to accelerate the process of technology generation, assessment and refinement (TAR) and thus help in addressing some of the important challenges confronting the development of agriculture. APAARI, in pursuance of its mandate, has constantly strived to foster agricultural research partnerships among institutions and other stakeholders in the region.

Earlier in 2001 APAARI had organized an Expert Consultation to identify regional ARD priorities and to develop a plan of action for agricultural development where it was recommended that in order to translate the research priorities into programmes, an assessment of the on-going collaborative R&D initiatives be undertaken through a well planned gap analysis. As a follow up, a gap analysis was undertaken in respect of some existing research networks in the Asia-Pacific region. Subsequently, an Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia was organized in Penang, Malaysia from 2-4 December, 2002 in partnership with the World Fish Centre (formerly ICLARM).

The discussions in the Expert Consultation led to several useful suggestions for improving the existing regional ARD networks such as: CLAN, TAMNET, UTFANET etc., and to initiate some new networks which can address the specific issues of NRM, crops, livestock, biotechnology, microbes, resource conservation, post harvest technologies, information technology, etc.

These proceedings present a brief account of the deliberations held during the Expert Consultation and the Seventh General Assembly of APAARI. We express our thanks to the participants for providing their valuable input to improve the functioning of existing ARD networks and also for initiating new research partnerships. We are confident that this report will be found useful by all the members and the concerned research institutions/organizations. It is our expectation that research partnerships based on mutual trust and commitment among the participating organizations will go a long way in achieving the science-led sustainable development of agriculture in the region.



(R.S. Paroda)

*Executive Secretary*

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AARINENA	: Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near-East and North Africa
ANGOC	: Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
AIT	: Asian Institute of Technology
APAFRI	: Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions
APARIS	: Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System
APCoAB	: Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology
APSA	: Asia-Pacific Seed Association
AREO	: Agricultural Research and Education Organization
ASTI	: Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
AVRDC	: Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre
BAPNET	: Banana and Plantain Network
BAR	: Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines
BARC	: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BUROTROP	: Bureau for the Development of Research on Tropical Perennial Oil Crops
CAAS	: Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
CAC	: Central Asia and Caucasus
CARP	: Sri Lankan Council for Agricultural Research Policy
CLAN	: Cereals and Legumes Asia Network
CLVNET	: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam Network
COA	: Council of Agriculture
CORRA	: Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia
CWANA	: Central and West Asia and North Africa
CURE	: Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environment
DOA	: Department of Agriculture, Thailand
EAPGR	: East Asia–Plant Genetic Resources
EMBRAPA	: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
FAO-RAP	: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GFAR	: Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GoFAR	: Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture Research
IAC	: Institut Agronomique Néo-Calédonien
IARC	: International Agricultural Research Centre
ICAR	: Indian Council of Agricultural Research

ICBA	: International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture
ICLARM	: International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
ICUC	: International Centre on Underutilized Crops
IGP	: Indo-Gangetic Plains
IFPRI	: International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	: International Livestock Research Institute
INGER	: International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice
IPGRI-APO	: IPGRI Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania
IRRC	: Irrigated Rice Research Consortium
ISTA	: International Seed Testing Association
IWMI	: International Water Management Institute
JIRCAS	: Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences
MAFFM	: Ministry of Agriculture Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology, Western Samoa
MARD	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam
MARDI	: Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
NACA	: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NAARM	: National Academy of Agricultural Research Management
NARC	: Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NARI	: National Agricultural Research Institute, Papua New Guinea
PARC	: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
PCCARD	: Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development
PROCORD	: Global Coconut Research for Development Programme
PIC	: Pacific Island Countries
PVP	: Plant Variety Protection
RDA	: Rural Development Administration, South Korea
RECSEA	: Regional Cooperation in South East Asia on PGR
RRN	: Regional Research Networks
RWC	: Rice-Wheat Consortium
SANPGR	: South Asia Network on Plant Genetic Resources
SEARCA	: Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
SPC	: Secretariat of Pacific Community
SSA	: Sub-Saharan Africa
TAC	: Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR
TAMNET	: Tropical Asian Maize Network
UPOV	: Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
UTFANET	: Underutilized Tropical Fruits Asia Network
WFC	: World Fish Centre

# **EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NETWORKS AND CONSORTIA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Perspective Plan of APAARI has laid particular emphasis on regional collaboration/networking on programmes focusing agricultural research and development. To achieve these objectives, APAARI in 1997 organized an Expert Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region jointly with AREO, Tehran, Iran. The outcome of this meeting resulted in a clear understanding of the agricultural research networks operational in the region among the member countries for strengthening their structure, coordination in agricultural research and sustainability, and possible ways for their improvement. Subsequently, APAARI organized an Expert Consultation during 2001 at Bangkok, to identify the important priorities for ARD. The common areas of research opportunities included: (i) natural resource management, (ii) genetic resources (iii) commodity chain development, (iv) meeting protein demands, and (v) tree and forest management. Two important cross cutting areas of research opportunities identified were: (i) information management for agricultural development to address the issues such as packaging, access and use of information, and (ii) capacity building to address issues of human resource development, institutional development, and research and policy development (food insecurity and poverty mapping).

For translation of these research priorities into programmes, it was decided to have an assessment of the ongoing R&D programmes through a well planned gap analysis, based on some of the existing research networks in the Asia-Pacific region. Accordingly, to review the current situation an Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia was organized by APAARI with the help of World Fish Centre, from 2-4 December 2002 at Penang, Malaysia. These proceedings highlight the discussions of this meeting. The programme and the list of participants are given in Annexure I and II, respectively.

## **INAUGURAL SESSION**

Chair : Dr R.P. Sapkota

Co-Chair : Dr S.H. Anang

Dr M.V. Gupta, Director, International Relations, World Fish Centre, Penang welcomed the participants. Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI apprised the delegates about the objectives of the Expert Consultation. He welcomed the participants, particularly the new members of APAARI and special invitees who participated for the first time. He conveyed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Malaysia who had sent message of good wishes for the success of the Expert Consultation. Dr Paroda briefly mentioned the achievements of APAARI during the last one year and informed that the Association had organized three Expert Consultations, brought out eight publications, enrolled new members, constituted Steering Committee of APARIS etc. It was mentioned that the meeting was organized primarily to get an assessment of the ongoing research networks, the gaps based on identified research priorities and how these could be addressed. Dr Paroda also raised concerns of poverty and food insecurity in Asia and emphasized that the region must get the required importance from the donor community. He suggested that a meeting of policy makers could be convened to draw their attention towards achieving sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Dr R.P. Sapkota, in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of agricultural research networks for faster and cost effective development of agriculture in the region. It was mentioned that in view of declining investments in agriculture and gradual pull back of support from the donor agencies for ARD programmes, a partnership approach to solve the regional problems facing agriculture was considered crucial. He called upon the member NARS and other stakeholders to iron out any apprehensions and move ahead. He thanked all members for the support provided during his tenure as the Chairperson of APAARI.

Datuk (Dr) S.H. Anang, Director General, MARDI read the message of Datuk (Dr) Effendi Norwawi, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Malaysia. Dr Norwawi conveyed his good wishes for the success of the meeting and expressed happiness for choosing Malaysia as the venue. He emphasized on the need to adopt modern technologies such as biotechnology, GIS, ICT etc. in order to enhance the farm yields. He also desired that issues of integrated use of resources, sharing of NARS experiences, implications of IPRs etc., need to be understood and efforts made to improve the livelihood for sustainable development. The role of APAARI in promoting research partnerships in the region was highly appreciated.

On this occasion, two APAARI publications: (i) Proceedings of the FAO–APAARI Expert Consultation on Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific Region, and (ii) ARD Priorities in the Asia-Pacific – A Synthesis, were released by Dr Sapkota and Dr (Ms) Meryl Williams, Director General, World Fish Centre, Penang, respectively.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr P.K. Saha, Technical Officer, FAO-RAP and Liaison Officer, APAARI.

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS

### SESSION I: STATUS OF REGIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS: GAP ANALYSIS

Chair : Prof Emil Q. Javier

Co-Chair : Dr (Ms) P. Pitakpaiwan

Prof Emil Javier delivered a Keynote Address on Importance of ARD Networks for Strengthening Agricultural Research Partnerships. This was followed by three presentations entitled “An Overview of the World Fish Centre R&D Programme” by Dr (Ms) Meryl J. Williams, DG, WFC, and “APAARI Initiative—from Priority Setting to Research Networking” and “Networks in South and South East Asia” by Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary and “Networks in the Pacific Region” by Dr R.D. Ghodake, DG, NARI.

Dr (Ms) Williams apprised that the World Fish Centre, Penang conducts research on fisheries and other living aquatic resources with a vision to contribute towards food security and efforts on poverty eradication in developing countries. The major challenges focused on sustaining livelihood of one hundred and fifty million people who depend on fish for employment, and severe depletion of natural fish stocks. The Centre has five major research programmes namely on biodiversity and genetic resources, coastal and freshwater resources; policy and impact assessment, and partnerships; information and training that aim to raise and sustain the productivity of fisheries and aquaculture systems; and strengthen the capacity of national programmes to support sustainable development. It was informed that WFC has research collaboration with as many as 259 research institutions at global level including regional bodies, NGOs, etc. of which 131 are in Asia.

The presentation by Prof. Javier focused on specific issues of networks such as their value, concerns and network-design features which could help strengthen research partnerships in the region. He defined networks as “an interconnected group or system” having a discrete entity. In this context, CGIAR was referred to as a network of sixteen autonomous international centres bound by a shared vision and mission and linked by a common set of benefactors. APAARI too was cited as a regional network, with several sub-regional networks covering various research problems and themes operational under its umbrella. Two important objectives of networks cited were to overcome the problem of economies of scale and to manage effectively research spillovers. Prof Javier expressed concern over the sustainability of the networks. It was suggested that the network members must remain aware of the transaction and participation costs and also consider how long the network would sustain once the donor support dwindled or the founding members relinquished the leadership role. Five elements namely, (a) clearly defined objective (b) strong self interest of members (c) effective coordination (d) members committing their own resources, and (e) sustained external funding were considered crucial for the success of the networks. A sunset clause was also suggested providing for an independent peer review for the network to indicate whether the network shall be allowed to wind up or renewed in its present form or revitalized with a new vision and format. He concluded his presentation with a suggestion to reckon the challenges of proliferation, sustainability and accountability as one moves ahead with these networks.

Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary made two presentations: (i) APAARI Initiatives – From Priority Setting to Research Networking; and (ii) Networks in South and South East Asia.

In the first presentation, he elaborated on various initiatives of APAARI to promote the research partnerships in the region. He informed about the APAARI initiative to identify common research priorities at the regional/sub-regional level. It was mentioned that APAARI over the years has been able to catalyze inter-regional fora to identify common ARD priorities, promote dialogue among stakeholders to strengthen

agricultural research and development, disseminate knowledge, transfer of technology through Success Stories, promote/strengthen/establish research networks/consortia, and strengthen and establish regional agricultural information system. He mentioned that to translate the priorities identified in the Expert Consultation held in 2001 into concrete action proposals, it was necessary to undertake a gap analysis of the ongoing research partnerships. Some of the issues highlighted for the consideration of the delegates were: *Gap Analysis* – Identify gaps between present collaborative efforts and regional needs/priorities; *implications* for existing regional networks and regional collaborative programmes; adjusting and/or strengthening their activities; development of new proposals for regional and/or global partnerships; *funding strategy* – resource sharing by the stakeholders; mobilizing additional funding from donors.

Dr Paroda further presented the status of agricultural research networks in south and west Asia. The gap analysis was based mainly on the ARD networks in the sub-region that are supported by APAARI such as CLAN, RWC, TAMNET and UTFANET. He referred to successful examples of research networking, namely, release of several varieties of chickpea and pigeonpea and reduction in R&D time lag following participation of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal in CLAN; development of improved varieties of groundnut and better management practices adopted by the farmers to increase their income in Vietnam and Indonesia; research programme facilitated by TAMNET on quality protein maize (QPM) in India; development and adoption of improved seed drill for zero tillage and several other resource conservation technologies under RWC research programmes.

It was mentioned that several of the regional NARS are still weak and capacity building efforts are required for improving their efficiency. Programmes such as training in use of ICT, impact assessment, enhancing involvement of west Asian countries need to be initiated, and emphasis be given for strengthening policy research and policy interface. The research gaps were identified in areas related to livestock, agro-forestry, and policy research, and impact assessment. The need to bridge these research gaps was highlighted, whereas for the existing networks additional support was emphasized. Research in network mode was considered important for diversification of agriculture, post harvest technologies and enhancing productivity through improvements in water use. Further, important areas identified for collaborative research were commodity chain for linking production to markets, socio-economic studies including constraint analysis and impact assessment, proper use of genetically modified organisms and the implications of Intellectual Property Rights, PHT, food legumes, cotton, minor fruits and soil and water management.

## Pacific Region

Dr R.D. Ghodake, Director General (acting), NARI, PNG presented gap analysis of research networks in the Pacific Region. He informed that the region comprises of 22 Island countries and territories with a population of 7.6 million representing diverse agro-ecological conditions and economies where agriculture and fishing formed main occupation for majority of the people. The major donors and collaborating institutions in the region included SPC, FAO, UNDP, EU, AusAID, NZDO, ACIAR, IAC, GTZ/GDS, USP, CGIAR institutes, APSA, CGPRT etc.

Among the major research issues were: natural resource management, crops followed by livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors in order of priority. In NRM, land management, soil fertility, watershed management and integrated NRM were important issues for research. In the crops sector: value addition, markets and marketing, plant genetic resources, including plant improvement and pest and disease management were identified as high priority research issues. For the livestock sector: efforts were called for feed formulation and development, animal waste management, livestock improvement (introduction and selection) and zoonoses.

The presentation focused on the research networks – past, present and planned such as: International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT), International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP), Taro Genetic Resources: Conservation and Utilization (TaroGen), Taro Network for South

East Asia and Oceania (TANSOA), South Pacific Yam Network (SPYN), The Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN) and South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources (SPRIG).

The gap analysis indicated that some high priority research issues were not addressed under networks, namely post-harvest operations like processing, storage, packaging, transportation, grading and quality improvement; market studies; feed formulation, locally available ingredients and resources; genetic material–introduction, improvement by selection; sustainability of atoll production through agro-forestry and other land management practices; feeding systems – especially proteins, fish pen culture, local alternatives, feed distribution, waste and disease management, poly-culture; Integrated systems involving agriculture, policy research on management of natural resources, environment, climate change, land and soil. However, work is required to ensure that the priorities get converted into real projects on the ground. He emphasized that networking for research may continue to be beneficial, given the nature of difficulties the countries face. Hence, NARS could gain through collaborative activities and networking.

During the discussion, the important points that emerged were: (a) in the gap analysis, there is greater emphasis on demand side and supply side remained weak, this imbalance needs to be corrected, (b) PHT be recognized as a high priority research area, and (c) that collective efforts are needed to bring the importance of research network concept to the attention of donors.

## **SESSION II: NETWORK REPORTS**

Chair : Dr William D. Dar

Co-Chair : Dr Dae-Guen Oh

In this session, the reports of eight research networks were presented by respective network coordinators/representatives. The networks were: CLAN, CORRA/INGER, RWC, TAMNET, GoFAR, PGR, COGENT, and BAPNET.

**CLAN:** The network report was presented by Dr C.L.L. Gowda, Network Coordinator. Cereals and Legumes Asia Network. He informed that CLAN was established in 1992 to serve as a research and technology exchange network for Asia involving sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeon pea, and groundnut. The network has successfully undertaken exchange, testing, and use of germplasm and breeding material and human resource development to upgrade research skills of NARS scientists. The activities of CLAN were appreciated and it was suggested that the scope of the network be enlarged by including legumes such as, mungbean, soybean and lentil with cooperation of AVRDC and ICARDA, respectively, as new network partners.

**CORRA:** The presentation by Dr William Padolina, DDG (Partnerships), IRRI dealt mainly with the outcome of sixth CORRA meeting held from 14-15 September 2002, in Beijing, China and co-hosted by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). He informed that some major issues such as current trends of international rice trade; rice supply and demand; opportunities for improving rice productivity and profitability; implications and challenges for public sector agricultural research were discussed. The meeting identified prime constraints in rice production as: quality seeds, resource use efficiency, mechanization, changes in labour force, declining farm land area due to urbanization and technology transfer/training. The meeting decided that the network would identify issues and directions for regional R&D networks, e.g., Irrigated Rice Research Consortium (IRRC), Consortium on Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE), streamline and coordinate IRRI-NARES partnership and research agenda–by identifying priorities for member-countries, provide advice and feedback to IRRI on its research priorities and strategic activities. CORRA would further build collaboration and promote sharing of information and technology among the member-countries, facilitate technology transfer and information dissemination. The network would also strive to establish public/private partnership research.

**RWC:** The consortium report was presented by Dr Larry Harrington, Director, NRM, CIMMYT. The Consortium was established in 1994 as an eco-regional initiative of the CGIAR involving the NARS of South Asia, namely, Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan, the IARCs and Advanced Research Organizations. The activities are being coordinated by Facilitation Unit, at CIMMYT, India office. RWC adopts a network approach and links national and international agricultural institutions to address the issues of productivity enhancement of rice and wheat in a sustainable fashion. The major focus of RWC is to address concerns of tillage and crop establishment, water, nutrient and pest management, socio-economics and policy issues. It was mentioned that the Consortium adopts a research agenda that is prioritized by participating NARS. The new technologies developed through the RWC, include tillage and establishment, of surface seeding of wheat, reduced tillage sowing, rice transplanting and dry seeded rice, IPM, IPNS and an overall eco-regional approach to NRM. Among major resource conservation technologies of RWC are Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) – a low cost device to ascertain optimum N use, zero till machine and reduced till systems. The adoption of technologies has also led to decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in higher yields and has added up to six weeks of extra employment for the farmers.

During the course of the discussions, it was suggested that China being a major rice growing country, should also be made a Consortium partner.

**TAMNET:** Dr Harrington also presented the report of TAMNET. It was mentioned that the functioning of TAMNET till 2000 had been quite satisfactory but in the recent past its activities had come to a standstill. The maize trials had stopped in 2002 and the last issue of TAMNET Newsletter was published in the year 2000. One of the main reasons cited for the present situation was that facilitation unit and financing support provided by CIMMYT for TAMNET was withdrawn and the office in Bangkok was closed. It was informed that TAMNET can continue as a CIMMYT coordination activity provided research is NARS driven and network themes are re-assessed by stakeholders and conforms to the interest of NARS in assessing the performance of hybrids. It was also mentioned that there was need to re-assess the balance between hybrid yield trials and collaborative research in TAMNET. However, the demands appear to be for white materials, QPM, drought tolerant and early maturing materials. Several NARS leaders and private sector representatives who had participated in the activities of TAMNET desired that the network be revived. It was decided that a small group consisting of participants from FAO, APSA, APAARI, and CIMMYT should meet separately and deliberate on how the network could be made functional again.

**GoFAR:** Dr M.V. Gupta, Coordinator Asia-Pacific Group of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (GoFAR), WFC, presented the activity status report. It was mentioned that world's total fish production in 2000 was 137 mt of which Asia-Pacific region contributed 91 per cent through aquaculture and 49 per cent of capture fisheries production. The sector forms one of the largest export commodities in many countries of the region.

The aquatic products provide about 30-70 per cent of animal protein in diet of population in the Asia-Pacific region and over 56 million people in the region are dependent on fisheries as source of livelihood. The important findings of concern were: depletion of over 2/3 of fish stocks, over fished or fully exploited; lack of information to arrest stress on aquatic resources and increasing production on sustainable basis, and development of systems' approach (to include agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry). He desired that collaborative research partnerships among country NARS and private sector are needed to address regional concerns.

**PGR:** Dr Paul Quek, Scientist, Documentation Information, IPGRI-APO presented the activities and achievements of PGR Networks in Asia, the Pacific and Oceania Region promoted/managed by IPGRI. The four sub-regional PGR networks operational are: South Asia Network on PGR (SANPGR); Regional Network for Conservation and Utilization of PGR in East Asia (EA-PGR); Regional Co-operation in

Southeast Asia for PGR (RECSEA-PGR); and Pacific Agricultural Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN). He stressed on collaboration with APAARI in strengthening networking, by initiating joint programmes, training, promoting sustainable networks through assistance in improving coordination and conduct benchmark survey and monitoring for effective networking. He pointed out the need for linking InfoBase activities with APARIS and FAO–WIEWS so as to lead to a vision of bringing crop networks under the sub-regional networks and then the possibility of initiating a Pan Pacific PGR Network by bringing together sub-regional networks.

**COGENT:** Dr Pons Batugal, Coordinator International Coconut Genetic Resources Network presented the report. COGENT operates in 39 countries across the world with the goal to increase income of farmers in developing countries through the improved cultivation of coconut and efficient utilization of its products. The various activities of the network are: coordination and capacity building, documentation, communication and publications, collecting and conservation, characterization, evaluation and use, germplasm health, and socio-economics and development aspects. COGENT's 3-pronged strategy for the poverty reduction project aims to: increase yields by deploying high-yielding and adapted varieties and hybrids; increase incomes through the production and marketing of high-value products made from the kernel, husk, shell, water, wood and leaves; and increase farm productivity through intercropping and livestock/fodder production. He informed that COGENT's expansion to Global Coconut Research for Development Programme (PROCORD) has been done to create a platform for wider coconut R&D related problems and opportunities in global/regional research, Commodity chains (Production to consumption) and Subsidiarity. The main components of PROCORD with their defined roles are *COGENT*: Genetic resources and improvement and Socio-economics and policy support; *BUROTROP*: Agronomy and coconut-based farming systems and Crop protection and *APCC*: Processing and Marketing.

During the brief discussion, it was suggested to include of pest-risk analysis as part of the germplasm exchange programme considering that coconut is grown across the continents and the germplasm exchange is a regular activity. It was further proposed that under the IPGRI-APAARI MOU umbrella, establishment of Centres of Excellence could be considered for HRD to address diverse areas of PGR.

**INIBAP/BAPNET:** The International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) was established in 1985 in recognition of the need to accelerate *Musa* improvement research and introduce an international perspective into such work. With headquarters located in Montpellier, France, INIBAP operates through regional offices, one in each of the four major banana growing regions: Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa. The Programme has four specific objectives: organize and coordinate a global research effort; promote and strengthen collaboration and partnerships; strengthen the NARS capability, and to coordinate, facilitate and support the production, collection and exchange of information and documentation related to banana and plantain. INIBAP will continue to enhance and support this regional initiative as enhancing regional collaboration in its programme area. With the re-launched Banana Asia Pacific Network (BAPNET), the collaboration is expected to promote a more coherent research strategy based on the needs and priorities of the participating countries. The re-launching of BAPNET was to strengthen a sustainable network that is responsive to the needs of the region working within the framework of the MOU for collaboration signed by IPGRI (INIBAP)-APAARI in 1998. The programme areas identified were: sustainable crop management; genetic diversity management, development and utilization; supply chain management; human resource development; and information development and exchange. BAPNET may link and make use of the global programmes of INIBAP. These are: The International *Musa* Testing Programme (IMTP), The *Musa* Germplasm Information System (MGIS), PROMUSA, The Global Programme for *Musa* Improvement (PROMUSA) and *Musa* Information and Documentation.

### SESSION III: PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS AND ARIS IN ARD NETWORKS

Chair : Dr Takahiro Inoue

Co-Chair : Dr Patricio S. Faylon

In this session, the presentations from the private sector were made by APSA and Monsanto representatives and on ICBA by Prof Faisal Taha.

**APSA:** Dr J.S. Sindhu, Director, informed that APSA provided a forum to formulate recommendations on seed policy issues and stimulate technical and economic co-operation among seed enterprises in the region. A systematic interchange of information on various aspects of seed (breeding, production, conditioning, quality control and marketing) is a regular activity and over the years APSA had developed a functional relationship with several organizations namely, FAO, FIS, ISTA, UPOV, and others. The country membership now has risen to 58. Of the 310 APSA members, 200 have got their own R&D with about 2300 scientists engaged in research on crop improvement, agronomy and seed technology to improve production and trade of quality seed and planting material of agricultural and horticultural crops. He drew the attention of participants towards the present state of TAMNET and called for its revival. He informed that the CLVNET (AVRDC/APSA) and International Hybrid Rice Trials (IRRI/APSA) had entered in the second phase.

**Monsanto:** Dr Eric Johnson presented the R&D programme of Monsanto. He mentioned that the organization is committed to working with both private and public sector institutions in bringing new technologies to growers and invests \$1 million per day in research. The Vision set for the organization is *abundant food and a healthy environment*. The company adopts an integrated approach to solving agricultural problems. In joint projects, it shares fundamental scientific data; technology, including genes and traits; know-how to move proven technology into crops important for small scale farmers; consultation on environmental stewardship and information on food safety and licenses to patented technologies. Dr Johnson informed that Monsanto produced the first “draft sequence” of the rice genome, to support internal research and development programmes and the sequences are being shared with public researchers. He suggested the establishment of two possible research networks related to maize market development and regional agricultural biotechnology safety assessment centre.

**ICBA:** Dr Faisal Taha, Director (Technical), Centre for International Biosaline Agriculture highlighted the Centre’s research programmes and linkages. ICBA is mandated to develop sustainable management systems to irrigate food and forage crops, greening plants with saline water and to provide resources of salt-tolerant plants for socio-economic development in the arid, semi-arid and salt-affected areas of the Islamic World and elsewhere. The Centre over the years has emerged as a focal point for bio-saline agriculture. ICBA networks focus and align efforts on information sharing among those with common interest in biosalinity and information resource. Established in 2002 by the Islamic Development Bank/COMSTECH to stimulate and coordinate research and development towards productive use of saline water, the network is coordinated by ICBA. Network provides mechanism for coordinating research, share information on database of scientists, NGOs; provide expertise; train human resources; facilitate exchange of scientists and work with other international agencies and donors.

### SESSION IV: ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPING NEW RESEARCH NETWORKS AND COOPERATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Chair : Dr Mohan C. Saxena

Co-Chair : Dr R.D. Ghodake

In this session, there were three presentations on new proposals for networks on Water Management, Inter-Regional Cotton Network and on Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology.

**IWMI:** A new proposal for collaborative research as CGIAR Challenge Programme (CP) on Water and Food was presented by Dr Christopher Scott, Regional Director, IWMI. The project aims at catalysing effective and efficient improvement of water productivity in food production in a way that is pro-poor, gender-equitable and environmentally sustainable. It was emphasized that in river basins, water productivity needs to be understood in the widest possible sense, including crop, livestock and fishery yields, social impacts such as health, together with the systems of resource governance that ensure equitable distribution of these benefits. The project aims to link with the global climate change research agenda to build on and contribute, through ARI as partners. Dr Scott apprised the participants about proposed structure, governance and collaborating organizations, funding, implementation schedule, milestones and monitoring mechanism. The project will be developed on *shared decision-making* through the Consortium of IARCs, NARES, ARIs and NGOs and will have 5 CGIAR centres: IWMI (lead), IRRI, IFPRI, CIAT and ICLARM each with clearly defined roles.

**Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB):** A draft concept note on the proposal, was presented by Dr A.K. Bawa, Scientific Officer, APAARI. It was informed that the establishment of APCoAB was agreed to by the participants of the FAO-APAARI Expert Consultation on the Status of Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific held at FAO-RAP from 21-23 March, 2002 in Bangkok. It was mentioned that in the years ahead, the escalated food demand would call for increased productivity, improved food and nutritional qualities, enhanced resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, wider adaptation range, efficient use of nutrients and tolerance to deficiency and toxicity in plants/species, bioremediation and improvement of environment, diagnosis and disease management. These issues would require to be resolved in a much shorter span of time than the conventional technologies could deliver. In this context, the agro-biotechnology interventions are considered crucial. At the same time, it was also recognized that the NARS in the region, that are the main national technology generators, are at various levels of development and may not be able to use biotechnological approaches in providing the solutions to enhance agricultural productivity within the desirable time frame. Thus, there is a need to formulate collaborative research among NARS-NARS; NARS-CGIAR/IARCs, and NARS-CGIAR-Private sector. With several interlinked and important issues influencing the promotion of biotechnological applications for agricultural development, it was considered desirable to bring together all regional research agencies at a common platform by formation of a consortium so as to facilitate sharing of knowledge, capacity building, enhance policy formulations and disseminate transfer of technology.

**Inter-Regional Network on Sustainable Cotton Production System in Asia and CWANA:** The proposal on establishment of cotton research network was presented by Dr R.S. Paroda and was based on the outcome of an Inter-Regional Workshop on Cotton held at AREO, Tehran during October 2002. It was mentioned that cotton is not just a fibre, but provides food (oil) and fuel for many resource poor farmers in about 70 countries in 5 continents. Keeping in view the overall cotton production scenario, a wide range of research priorities have been identified for sustainable cotton production system in Asia and CWANA. These are water management, development of early maturing varieties tolerant to abiotic and biotic stresses; nutrient (both micro and macro) management; integrated pest management to reduce pesticides applications; cotton quality and technology; growth regulators; hybrid and transgenic cotton; mechanization and farm management; increasing crop productivity and intensity of cropping system and economics and commerce. The network partners identified are AARINENA, APAARI, CAC, GFAR, ICARDA and AREO and the Facilitation and Coordination Unit will be located at Cotton Research Institute of AREO, Tehran, Iran.

## SESSION V: STRENGTHENING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR RESEARCH NETWORKS

Chair : Dr Jean François Giovannetti

Co-Chair : Dr Gajendra Singh

In this session, five presentations were made. These related to ICT activities of APARIS, ASTI, GFAR, CABI and ISNAR.

**Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS):** A Report on Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS) was presented by Dr Sahdev Singh, Consultant, APAARI. He mentioned that a preliminary ICT Need-Assessment exercise is initiated with the help of National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) to get information on ICT infrastructure in NARS, ICT skills level, publications of interest and expectations from APAARI website. The Gateway function of APARIS will provide a portal to RRNs, NARS Institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, web-enabled information on key ARD topics and Intelligent Gateway. Dr Singh informed that the Second ICT Expert Consultation held in October 2002 reviewed the progress of APARIS Phase-I, an APARIS Steering Committee was formed and an action plan for APARIS Phase-II was prepared. Emphasis was placed on enhanced involvement of NARS, capacity building, access to publications, thematic forums, providing intelligent Gateway/Portal Facility, identifying other bodies involved in similar activities and design and develop promotional materials for APARIS. The Steering Committee will develop monitoring procedures and also represent APAARI in meetings/conferences in their region.

**GFAR:** Dr Jean F. Giovannetti, Interim Executive Secretary, GFAR gave an overview of the important and improvised features of GFAR website, e-GFAR, that has been restructured.

**CABI:** Mr E. Cagampang, CABI representative outlined the CABI Gateway function support to APAARI. In order to define the areas and nature of support to APARIS Gateway, it was decided that a separate meeting among GFAR, ISNAR, CABI and APAARI be held for further deliberations.

**ISNAR:** Dr Stein Bie, DG, ISNAR presented ISNAR's priorities in the Asia-Pacific region on ICT for research networks. He mentioned that biotechnology and information technology will form the backbone of new agricultural science and that the farmers and the emerging private sector will be important partners in generating new relevant knowledge responding to social concerns. Highlighting the ISNAR association with APAARI, he informed that ISNAR since last meeting had become part of the planning for the build-up of APARIS and also provided training to NARS staff from the region in the use of intranet and internet (venues in India, Vietnam). Further, ISNAR had prepared course in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for staff from Bhutan and a course in writing a convincing proposal for PFU-ICARDA staff from Uzbekistan. Referring to recent ISNAR review, he informed that a restructuring team will be assisting ISNAR to find new modus operandi to support NARS and thus, a closer association with national, sub-regional and regional organizations in support of networks is expected.

**ASTI:** Ms Nienke Beintema, Coordinator, informed that ASTI is an inter centre activity of IFPRI-ISNAR that was launched with the objective to provide internationally comparable information on the investment and institutional environment surrounding agricultural R&D, thereby informing and improving research policy decisions around the world. The Initiative provides information on trends in public and private agricultural R&D investments, institutional structures, and funding sources at the national, (sub-) regional and global levels. It adopts a Network approach having strong links with NARS, regional, and other organizations. The main activities include completion of ASTI survey rounds in more than 25 sub-Saharan African countries and country reports on survey results. It has also established alliances with regional organizations such as: APAARI, ASARECA, CORAF, and others. For the Asia round of survey, a schedule of activities was presented and an endorsement of ASTI-APAARI MOU to implement survey in more than 20 Asian countries was solicited.

## **PLENARY SESSION: TECHNICAL SESSION PRESENTATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chair : Dr Stein Bie  
Co-Chair : Dr Meryl Williams

The Chairpersons of respective technical sessions, based on the report and the discussions, presented the following suggestions/recommendations that were endorsed during the Expert Consultation.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION – I: STATUS OF REGIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS – GAP ANALYSIS**

(Prof Emil Q. Javier)

1. The APAARI Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting (2001) has identified common areas and cross cutting issues for research at sub regional and regional level that are similar but not identical. These need to be synthesized into regional information adopting a common format.
2. In order to conduct a more systematic analysis of research gaps between perceived priorities or needs, a more detailed survey of existing networks including all those active in the region, with or without association of APAARI, must be undertaken. Such a survey of networks should indicate minimum set of priorities, such as: (a) Specific Objectives; (b) Facilitation/Coordination Unit; (c) Network Budget; and (d) Member Contributions in cash and in kind.
3. Three suggestions were offered in organizing APAARI networks in the future: a) NARS must serve as network hubs, b) Engaging development organizations as partners in the APAARI research networks; and c) Sunset clauses for networks.
4. Gap Analysis specifically identified that ARD efforts need to be strengthened in: a) Biotechnology, b) Post-harvest Technology, c) IPRs, and d) Food Legume and Minor Fruits/Vegetables. The need to bring these concerns in the regional priorities was highlighted. It was felt that APAARI could take up initiatives such as in PHT considering the relatively low investment by NARS and other ARD Centres in post-harvest research.
5. It was felt desirable to have an indepth gap analysis of the research networks adopting a uniform approach for the three sub-regions. It was suggested that in future ICAR-ICRISAT; PCARRD-IRRI and ACIAR-PNG could undertake this exercise for South and West Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific regions, respectively.

### **TECHNICAL SESSION – II: NETWORK REPORTS**

(Dr William D. Dar)

6. **CLAN:** The network, in the region, has effectively coordinated research and provided technical backstopping and support to NARS in capacity building and made a visible impact on the farmers' fields. The suggestions made to enlarge the activities of CLAN were: (a) Small expert group to revisit the mandate; (b) Include more legumes, particularly mungbean, lentil and soybean; (c) Involve ICARDA, AVRDC, RDA, COA, JIRCAS; and d) APAARI to provide need-based support, if needed.
7. **CORRA:** The programme has so far been supported by NARS and IRRI. It was felt that in future an active involvement of private sector as partners is needed for rice research.

8. **RWC:** This is a prime case study of successful NARS-led consortia, with support from IARCs and donors wherein the member countries have benefited immensely. Mention was made of the development of resource conservation technologies as zero tillage, bed planting, improving water use efficiency, energy saving (less tillage) etc. that have brought a revolution in rice-wheat areas of South Asia. It was suggested that China, a leading rice-growing country in the region may also be involved in the consortium.
9. **TAMNET:** Concern was expressed over the future programmes of TAMNET following withdrawal of support by CIMMYT. However, there was a consensus among the members to revive the network. A group comprising of APAARI, CIMMYT, FAO and APSA representatives separately discussed the ways and means to revive TAMNET and suggest further action by APAARI. The following recommendations were made to revitalize and sustain TAMNET:
  - a) Explore possibility of an alternative facilitation unit in DOA, Thailand or with APSA;
  - b) Carry out need assessment study and interest of private sector in a month by APSA;
  - c) APSA to release funds and FAO and APAARI to provide need-based support;
  - d) Trials to start from the next cropping season during 2003.
10. **GoFAR:** The network needs to be strengthened to coordinate activities of aquatic resources research in Asia-Pacific. The network is active now but is faced with funding constraint. WFC to continue its support to the network and APAARI may provide partial support to promote its activities, if required.
11. **PGR Networks:** Four sub-regional (South Asia, SE Asia, East Asia, and Pacific) PGR networks are successfully operating in Asia-Pacific region with technical and financial support from IPGRI. An MOU between APAARI and IPGRI is in existence and a work plan needs to be developed to address PGR issues such as collection, conservation, evaluation and characterization, documentation and capacity building. In this context, it was suggested that Centres of Excellence in the region could be supported under the APAARI-IPGRI MOU, for which the modalities need to be worked out.
12. **BAPNET:** The network was cited as an example of NARS-led and NARS-based network, dealing with *Musa* (banana and plantain) improvement in the Asia-Pacific. In view of the good progress that BAPNET has made under the PCARRD-IPGRI MoU and priorities identified for future work in the region, it was recommended that members need to continue extending their cooperation and support.
13. It was stressed that NARS financial support and active involvement are both needed and are critical for the networks to be effective and sustainable. There is a need to establish partnerships with others, especially the private sector (e.g., APSA, etc.), civil society organizations and development institutions. Future networks should have NARS as hubs for ownership by the stakeholders for their long-term sustainability.

### TECHNICAL SESSION–III: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS AND ARIS IN ARD NETWORKS


(Dr Takahiro Inoue)

14. Monsanto presented its SHARE (Linkages) programme designed to support farmers with small land holdings. Two programmes were proposed for possible cooperation with APAARI and/or its member-NARS. These are: (i) Maize Development Programme designed to support the continuation/expansion of TAMNET; and (ii) Regional Agriculture Biotech Regulatory Science Centre, designed to address the priority concern of the biotech to enhance its role in the company's vision of abundant food and good environment.
15. APSA proposed collaboration with APAARI on: (i) Database to post where seeds are needed or are in demand; and (ii) Development of hybrid rice through the leadership of IRRI in collaboration with NARS. The participation of Private Sector was appreciated and it was considered appropriate to prepare suitable mechanism and sustain this partnership.

16. It was suggested that collaboration between International Centre for Bio-saline Agriculture and APAARI and its members could be established to share information and technology on bio-saline agriculture including the training component.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION – IV: ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPING NEW RESEARCH NETWORKS AND COOPERATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC**

(Dr Mohan C. Saxena)

17. **CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food:** The CGIAR Challenge Programme (CP) proposal from IWMI was endorsed by APAARI members. Since the programme implementation would be in a consortium mode, the experience of APAARI was considered to be useful. The discussion therefore, focused on the partnership with APAARI and the recommendations were as follows:
  - IWMI to consider effective involvement of APAARI in the operation and management of CP;
  - Collaborative role of other CG Centres operating in dry areas (ICRISAT, ICARDA, CIMMYT etc.) to be defined;
  - More active involvement of NARS in Asia-Pacific region for research partnership to be worked out.
18. **Inter-Regional Research Network on Cotton:** There was strong endorsement of the proposal and the meeting recommended that APAARI should take further steps in moving forward with this proposal. The terms of reference of the Network, funding and coordination mechanism should be clearly defined, and possibility of inclusion of African NARES should be explored. It was decided that besides APAARI and the network members, ICARDA and CIMMYT will extend support for Wheat-Cotton systems on the lines that CIMMYT is doing for RWC. An initial contribution of US\$ 5,000 from APAARI was also agreed to start this network.
19. **Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)**  The meeting endorsed the need to establish an Asia-Pacific Consortium to promote adoption of agricultural biotechnologies in the region. It was suggested that the proposal should be further reviewed to sharpen focus of activities and priorities. Involvement of private sector and major input from stronger NARS in the region was considered essential for the success of the consortium. The meeting recommended that:
  - APAARI revisit the mandate of the consortium to address issues of policy, IPRs, capacity building, partnerships;
  - APAARI to facilitate inception of consortium in partnership with FAO and ISNAR and with active involvement of private sector.
20. Enhancing the efficacy and effectiveness of UTFANET was discussed. Philippines NARS (PCARRD), that had served as the hub for this network, as also Sri Lanka NARS, which deals with three important underutilized fruit crops, emphasized the need for more funding support for its activities by APAARI. It was recommended that possibility of linking the network either with the Tropical Fruits network of FAO (TF net) or the IPGRI global network on under-utilized crops should be explored. The following suggestions were put forth for UTFANET:
  - Facilitation unit to continue at PCARRD;
  - A review meeting be convened;
  - Link with German Government/IPGRI initiative on underutilized plants be established;
  - APAARI to extend need-based partial support after the review meeting recommendations are made available.
21. Dr F. Taha of ICBA emphasized need for APAARI to launch a global network for 'Biosaline Agriculture'. It was agreed that ICBA would take lead and develop such a proposal for further consideration by

APAARI members. Sharing salinity-tolerant germplasm and their testing by member NARS should be an essential component of such a network.

22. Dr R.D. Ghodake drew attention to the report on 'gap-analysis' done for the Pacific Region, and emphasized the need for a network/consortium that could deal with analysis of 'Demand Markets' and 'Post-Harvest Needs and Innovations'. It was agreed that Dr Ghodake would develop a proposal on the subject for consideration by APAARI.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION – V: STRENGTHENING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR RESEARCH NETWORKS**

(Dr Jean F Giovannetti)

23. There was a general consensus on the importance of information and communication for the success of the research networks and the need for a commitment of the NARS leaders was well recognized. The role of neutral platform provided by APAARI through APARIS for launching a dialogue and further exchange of information was fully endorsed and expected to be strengthened for the benefit of the stakeholders. The participation and support of members was identified as crucial for the success of the programme.
24. A technical meeting involving APAARI secretariat, CABI, ASTI, AIT, ISNAR and GFAR be organized to determine future development of APARIS.
25. The APARIS initiative of APAARI received appreciation of the participants and the support for its activities in APARIS phase-II. These were: enhanced involvement of NARS, capacity building, access to publications, thematic forums, providing intelligent Gateway/Portal Facility, and to develop promotional materials for APARIS.
26. GFAR and CABI will support APARIS website development activities (development of regional gateway, technical backstopping, technical workshop, specific expertise).
27. The meeting appreciated the signing of ASTI-APAARI MOU to undertake Asia round of survey. Accordingly, the schedule of activities prepared to implement survey in more than 20 Asian countries, was endorsed.

## **CLOSING**

Dr R.S. Paroda in his closing remarks expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the deliberations. He thanked all the Chair and Co-Chairpersons for able conduct of the various sessions and also the participants for their valuable inputs that led to the success of this Expert Consultation. He appreciated the teamwork of officials from WFC, Penang and APAARI secretariat who worked hard to ensure the success of the meeting. Dr Paroda also requested all concerned for their full support to various decisions taken in the meeting for future success of important research networks on ARD in the Asia-Pacific region.

# THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI

## Penang, Malaysia

4 December 2002

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Welcome Address by the Executive Secretary**
2. **Chairman's Address**
3. **Follow up Action on the Executive Committee Meetings held on 14 November 2001 and 24 March 2002**
4. **APAARI activities since last General Assembly**
  - Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting for ARD
  - Expert Consultation on Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia
  - Expert Consultation on APARIS
  - APAARI Homepage
  - MOU between APAARI and ASTI (IFPRI/ISNAR)
  - Feedback on APAARI activities from members
  - Review of APAARI constitution
  - Support to ARD Initiatives by APAARI members
  - Promoting ARD activities
  - APAARI Participation in meetings/workshops/conferences
  - Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation
5. **Publications**
  - Newsletters
  - Proceedings of Expert Consultations
  - Synthesis Reports on ARD Priorities
  - Success Stories
  - CD on Success Stories
6. **Membership Enhancement**
  - New Members/Associate Members
  - Reciprocal Membership
  - Invitations for APAARI Membership
7. **Administrative Matters**
  - APAARI Secretariat
    - Executive Secretary*
    - Assistant Executive Secretary*
    - Unification of APAARI Secretariat*
    - Status of Membership Payments*
    - Audited Account Statement for 2001 and up to 31 October, 2002*
    - Budget for 2002*
8. **The approval of Budget for Biennium 2003/2004**
9. **Election of Seventh Executive Committee**
10. **Venue and Date for the 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting and Expert Consultation**
11. **Any Other Item**
12. **Closing Remarks by the Chairman**

**Lunch**

The Seventh General Assembly meeting of APAARI was held on 4 December 2002 at Penang, Malaysia. A brief account of itemwise discussion is presented hereunder:

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Welcome Address by the Executive Secretary**

Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary welcomed all participants of the Seventh General Assembly of APAARI. He presented an overview of APAARI activities during the period since the last meeting and cited some of the major achievements, such as enhancement of members, successful organization of four expert consultations, publications, new initiatives and partnerships, and improvement in financial position of APAARI. He informed the members that several ARD fora, within and outside the region were also trying to adopt the APAARI model. He expressed his utmost appreciation to the members for their excellent support and cooperation that ensured the sustained growth of APAARI and helped it to attain a global recognition.

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Chairman's Address**

Dr R.P. Sapkota, welcomed the delegates and expressed, his satisfaction over the achievements of APAARI during the last two years. He enumerated various significant developments and desired that members may continue extending their full support to the activities and programmes of APAARI, since this organization has helped considerably in strengthening collaboration in agricultural research in the region as well as globally. He then requested the members to approve the Agenda and deliberate on each item and provide appropriate guidance for future activities.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Follow-up on the Executive Committee meeting held on 14 November 2001 and 24 March 2002**

The members were informed that the two Executive Committee meetings were held on November 14, 2001 and March 24, 2002 at Bangkok. The proceedings of the meeting were circulated to all the members. Discussions were held on a wide range of issues regarding APAARI activities. Action on most of the decisions taken has been completed and was reported item wise in the General Assembly.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: APAARI Activities**

- *Expert Consultation on Regional Priority Setting for ARD*

It was mentioned that APAARI successfully completed the ARD priority setting exercise for the three sub-regions i.e. West and South-Asia (July 5-7, 2001, at ICRISAT, India), East and South-East Asia (June 27-28, 2001 at IRRI, Philippines) and Pacific Island Countries (October 29-30, 2001 at SPC, Fiji).

Subsequently, an Expert Consultation was organized on 12-13 November 2001 to jointly discuss and consolidate the results of the three sub-regional meetings, streamline the regional priorities and to draw an action plan that focuses on poverty reduction, food security, better environment and overall sustainability of agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region. There were about sixty participants from member NARS, associate member institutions/organizations, FAO, IARCs and other invitees. In all, seven research issues/themes/problems were agreed upon. The common areas of research opportunity included

- i) Natural Resource Management
- ii) Genetic Resources
- iii) Commodity Chain Development
- iv) Meeting Protein Demands

#### v) Tree and Forest Management

Two important cross cutting areas of research opportunities were:

- i) Information Management for Agricultural Development to address the issues such as packaging, access and use of information; and
- ii) Capacity Building to address issues of human resource development, institutional development, research policy development (food insecurity and poverty mapping).

An important feature of the synthesis was that each of the common issues was effectively linked with more than one Challenge Programmes of the CGIAR. For translation of research priorities into implementable programmes, it was decided to have an assessment of the ongoing R&D programmes for identification of the gaps. This should be followed by an assessment of the existing research programmes, networks and activities for addressing the identified research gaps. It was also reported that the proceedings and the synthesis reports have already been published and widely circulated. Also copies of these were provided to all members in their meeting folders.

#### • *Expert Consultation on the Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia*

The General Assembly members were informed that APAARI had signed a Letter of Agreement with FAO-RAP to undertake studies to assess the needs and capacity of countries in Asia pertaining to biotechnology covering important aspects such as positive effects and areas of concern; policy advice and technical assistance required, assessment of technology options available, biosafety and harmonization with international standards etc. As per the commitment, FAO-APAARI organized an Expert Consultation on the subject from 21-23 March 2002 at FAO-RAP, Bangkok, Thailand. There were about fifty participants representing Asian NARS, CG Centres in the region, IARCs, Private Sector, NGOs, Farmers Association and FAO. The expertise of three biotechnologists was availed to prepare discussion papers at sub-regional level covering West and South Asia, China and South East Asia. In addition, there were presentations from NARS, CG Centres and IARCs on the biotechnology R&D efforts of their respective institution. Several new areas of research and proposals for research partnerships among the stakeholders have emerged. An important decision to address the promotion of agricultural biotechnology in the region by pooling synergies, harnessing comparative advantages and ensuring judicious use of resources, was that a consortium approach be adopted by bringing together relevant partners and stakeholders in the region. The idea to establish a biotechnology consortium for Asia-Pacific was unanimously welcomed by the participants. In this regional endeavour, the role expected of APAARI was to serve as neutral facilitator/supporter for the establishment of such a consortium, in partnership with international agricultural research centers, FAO, GFAR and private sector, including NGO and farmers organizations.

A concept note on an Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology was presented in the expert consultation held during the last two days in Penang and views of the members were sought on this proposed new initiative.

There was a strong endorsement of the proposal and the General Assembly recommended that it should be further improved in the light of various suggestions to sharpen the focus. Eventually, involvement of the private sector and harmony and complementation through major input from stronger NARS in the region were also recommended. It was decided to convene a meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the way ahead for the consortium. General Assembly agreed that the Secretariat might pursue the matter further and explore possibilities to establish APCoAB, if possible.

#### • *Expert Consultation on APARIS*

The General Assembly was further informed that the ICT Expert Consultation on Development of Second Phase of APARIS and the APARIS Steering Committee Meeting were held during 24-25 October 2002 at Bangkok. There were 27 participants representing the National Information Nodal Persons

from member NARS, supporting organizations and special invitees. Technical support was provided by CABI, ACIAR, FAO, AIT, GFAR and ISNAR. Major discussions during the Expert Consultation were focused to develop second phase of APARIS, define involvement of NINPs, creating/updating of ARD Projects Database, networking information on ARD in the region, promoting ICTs in the region to improve agriculture etc. As envisaged, the First Steering Committee for APARIS was constituted with representation from three sub regions i.e. Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia. There will be permanent representation from the support group. The Committee will be chaired by Ms Heather Briggs, ACIAR and Dr A. Chaudhry, PARC will be the Co-Chairman. The committee is mandated to provide strategic guidance and policy support to APARIS and also help to generate funds for the APARIS activities. The committee will have a term of two years.

The progress of APARIS was appreciated by the General Assembly and the future ICT programme in the region was endorsed, including the constitution of APARIS Steering Committee.

- *APAARI Homepage*

The members were pleased to learn that the APAARI home page [www.apaari.org](http://www.apaari.org) has been improved and further enriched with new information and links. The site now provides useful information on agricultural R&D activities in the region such as seminars, symposia, conferences etc., performs gateway function and serves as a portal to regional research networks. The objective of this component of APARIS is to facilitate access to information resources in the web, both through search engines and by facilitating access to websites of institutions that work in ARD and to websites that are related to specialized topics of ARD. This is only a portal service, and not a database. Access to the websites of the NARS institutions in the region is being facilitated through the NDIL Directory that was developed by the GFAR Secretariat in EGFAR, and that now is being transferred to each of the RAIS in the respective region. Some of the new features on the site include information on NARS database and links to other regional and global institutions. The publications of APAARI are now available on the website.

General Assembly appreciated these developments and desired APAARI home page to be more dynamic and widely linked to NARS' websites.

- *MOU between APAARI and ASTI (IFPRI/ISNAR)*

Based on the deliberations of Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting and the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting held from 12-14 November 2001, APAARI endorsed the Agriculture Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) project of IFPRI/ISNAR and its proposal to extend its activities into Asia-Pacific during 2002. APAARI thus, encourages the NARS of the Region to participate in the project and collaborate with IFPRI/ISNAR data collection and processing, with information generation to be shared for the mutual benefit of all. The members were informed that APAARI and the ASTI have developed and signed a MOU to undertake a joint programme. An action plan is being prepared to initiate the activities.

The collaboration with ASTI was approved by the General Assembly and it was agreed that APAARI would extend cooperation in this endeavour.

- *Feedback on APAARI Activities from Members*

The General Assembly was informed that in the Executive Committee meeting of APAARI held on 24 March 2002 at Bangkok, an important issue discussed was the need to further improve the functions and activities of the Association. In this regard, the members agreed to invite views from the member institutions to undertake an in house assessment of performance and also solicit the suggestions/views to make the activities of APAARI more relevant to the needs and expectations of members so as to further develop the cause of Association.

It was reported that a simple proforma was prepared by the APAARI Secretariat and the response of all members was invited. Several useful suggestions were received and compiled.

In general, the members expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the Association. Some specific suggestions called for enhanced policy advocacy role of APAARI to influence the national governments to increase investments in ARD and also the donors to focus on the Asian region that houses the largest number of poor and malnourished; fostering of new collaborative research among members and speedy sharing of information. On the improvement side, the responses highlighted the need to evolve a mechanism for efficient follow up action on the decisions taken during the Expert Consultations; ensuring timeliness of publications and broadening the scope of information and links on website. Given the present limited resources, some members felt that a very cautious approach needs to be adopted for further diversification of activities.

The General Assembly appreciated this initiative by the Executive Committee and agreed that APAARI needs to be cautious in expanding its activities keeping in view the resources and also ensuring that APAARI continues its role as a facilitator and not an executing agency for various networks and programme activities which should be through active involvement of its members mainly.

- *Review of APAARI Constitution*

The General Assembly members were informed that the APAARI Constitution was drafted at the inception stage and over the period had undergone some changes based on time to time approval of previous General Assemblies, i.e. diversification of membership (associate; reciprocal), change in the annual contribution, creation of APARIS, links with other organizations etc. All such developments, therefore, would necessitate the up-dating and reprinting of Constitution. It was agreed in the Executive Committee meeting that the revised draft prepared by APAARI Secretariat will be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee. The second draft would be prepared in the light of the comments/suggestions so received and then it would be circulated to all members and subsequently placed before the General Assembly for information. Accordingly, needed action in this regard has already been taken and the second edition will be printed and circulated subsequently. On the provision of voting rights a common view was that each regular member institution should be entitled for one vote. Some members gave their written comments during the General Assembly.

The General Assembly decided that all comments be adequately reflected in the updated version and once again circulated among members electronically for additional suggestions if any and then Secretariat may have the updated version of Constitution printed and circulated to all members.

- *Support to ARD Initiatives by APAARI Members*

The APAARI member NARS periodically organize ARD related seminars/symposia/workshops etc. and APAARI is represented through its members. The Executive Committee has decided to extend support for any important activity organized by member NARS in the region, provided it conforms to the APAARI mandate.

The General Assembly agreed to continue support for ARD initiatives of the member organizations.

- *Promoting HRD Activities*

The members were informed about the initiative on extending and facilitating support in the form of specialized training in priority research areas and ICT applications in agriculture to less developed NARS in the region.

- *APAARI Participation in Meetings/Workshops/Conferences*

During the period under report, APAARI was represented in several meetings by its members and has provided some support for the participation of the NARS in seminars/workshops, etc. These are:

- 26<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Committee for Asia-Pacific meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 13-17 May 2002 – Dr R.P. Sapkota, Chairman; APAARI
- Sixth meeting of CORRA held from 14-15 September 2002 at Beijing, China – Dr Jocelyn Eusebio, Director, Crops Research Division, PCARRD, Philippines represented APAARI
- Second Consultation on Agricultural Information Management (COAIM) at FAO, Rome from 23-25 September 2002 – Dr A.K. Bawa, Scientific Officer, APAARI
- GFAR meetings at Manila, Philippines from 26-27 October 2002: Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI and Chairman, GFAR, presented an APAARI report in the meeting. He made a detailed presentation on the programmes and activities of APAARI undertaken during the year.

APAARI provided travel support to delegate from following NARS for participation in meetings and workshops:

- i) Participation of Indian NARS in the Inter-regional Cotton Research Network meeting organized by AARINENA and CAC-RF in Tehran from 12-13 October 2002.
- ii) Participation of Indian NARS in the International Workshop on Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Wheat Production in Rotation with Cotton in Limited Water Resource Areas held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 13-18, October 2002
- iii) APAARI extended complete funding support to delegates from Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Nepal to participate in the third meeting of GoFAR at ICLARM, Penang, Malaysia from 3-5 November 2002.

The members were appreciative of these initiatives and endorsed similar representation of APAARI in future GFAR, Regional Fora and other important meetings in the region, including those of reciprocal associate members.

#### • *Seventh General Assembly of APAARI and Expert Consultation*

As agreed upon by the members in the Sixth Executive Committee meeting on 14 November 2001 at Bangkok, the Seventh General Assembly and Expert Consultation on Strengthening of Research Partnerships through Networks and Consortia was organized with the support of World Fish Centre at Penang, Malaysia, from 2-3 December 2002.

The details of the Expert Consultation were not presented since all members in the General Assembly had participated in the Expert Consultation, which proved to be highly successful in forging alliance relating to ARD activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Publications**

With regard to progress of publications, the members were informed that during the period since the Sixth Executive Committee meeting in November 2001, APAARI had brought out eight different publications. These are: Newsletters (December-2001 and June-2002); Proceedings of the Sixth Executive Committee meeting and Expert Consultation on ARD Priority Setting; FAO-APAARI Expert Consultation on Status of Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific; Synthesis Reports on Sub-regional ARD Priorities, and NARS Perspective Supplement on Country Status Report – Australia. Status of Plant Genetic Resources and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Regional Synthesis Report, published earlier by APAARI, is under revision. Success Story on Resource Conservation Technologies in the Indo-Gangetic Plains by Rice–Wheat Consortium was published and released during the annual meeting of the RWC in February 2002. CD has been prepared containing all Success Stories published by APAARI and circulated to all members.

In response to requests, the following titles for writing more success stories with regional impact were received from the resource persons.

- I. Disease-free Cultivars of Citrus by Prof Hong Ji Su, COA, Taiwan
- II. Maize Production in Iran by Dr Rajab Choukan, SPII, Iran
- III. Trout Production in Coldwater by Dr A.K. Rai, NARC, Nepal
- IV. Control of New Castle Disease in Poultry by Dr Robyn Alders, ACIAR.

Dr Paroda requested all the members to help in identifying suitable topics for success stories and also the resource persons who could be contacted to write it as per the requirements. It was indicated that topics related to livestock and forestry have not been covered in APAARI success stories. He said that the APAARI success stories on Tilapia, hybrid rice in China, and transplanted maize in Vietnam have helped in the spread of technologies across the borders. Dr Mohan C. Saxena, ADG, ICARDA suggested success of Lentil, Dr Gowda mentioned chickpea in Bangladesh and Dr (Ms) M. Williams, DG, WFC suggested topics on successful fisheries R&D efforts.

Dr Paroda also mentioned that members seldom/rarely submit materials for the APAARI newsletter. He requested the members and NARS leaders/representatives in particular, to contribute regularly information that could be included in the APAARI newsletter and shared for the benefit of others in the region.

The General Assembly was highly appreciative of the various publications of very high standard brought out by the APAARI Secretariat and desired this activity to be further strengthened and supported.

## **Agenda Item No. 6: Membership Enhancement**

The members were further informed that APAARI has been consistently striving to enhance its membership and to this effect has approached several NARS/IARCs/CG centres/Regional Fora etc, to enroll as APAARI members. The members noted with satisfaction that during the year eight organizations, under different categories, had enrolled as the new members of APAARI. These included Institut Agronomique neo-Caledonien, New Caledonia as a regular member; and ICBA, Dubai; IFPRI, USA; and CGPRT, Indonesia as associate members. A new category of membership, reciprocal members, was agreed during the Sixth Executive Committee of APAARI under which APSA, NACA, APAFRI, and AARINENA are enrolled as APAARI members and have also accepted APAARI as their member. APAARI has also invited AARD, CIP, CAAS, SPC, INBAR, New Zealand, Laos and Myanmar to join as its members.

On the issue of enrollment of less developed country NARS, Prof Javier suggested that a category of sponsored membership could be considered and the support to such least developed NARS membership could be provided by large private sector organizations in the region. Dr Gowda, ICRISAT, mentioned that several countries in the region did not have adequate foreign exchange reserves to pay the annual contribution and suggested that in such cases arrangements could be made with the local FAO or any such agency to pay on behalf of NARS.

The General Assembly was also informed that the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has also expressed its desire to become member of APAARI, indicating some specific pre-conditions related to identification of COA in the APAARI events. A letter received from CAAS to this effect was circulated for the information of all. The issue was discussed at length and being sensitive in nature, it was agreed that the response of the member from COA, should be obtained first. Dr Lee readily agreed to resolve the issue amicably. It was decided that upon receiving a favourable response soon from COA, the Secretariat may approach CAAS to join APAARI as a formal member soon.

## **Agenda Item No. 7: Administrative Matters**

- *APAARI Secretariat*

*Executive Secretary:* The Executive Committee members on 24 March 2002 meeting unanimously reposed their confidence in the leadership being provided by Dr R.S. Paroda and decided that he should continue

to provide leadership as Executive Secretary for another term of two years i.e. for the biennium 2003-04. In response, Dr Paroda has since agreed to abide by the wishes of the Executive Committee to serve for another two-year term. The Executive Committee also desired that steps be taken by APAARI Secretariat to recruit an Assistant Executive Secretary.

The decision of Executive Committee regarding continuation of Dr Paroda as the Executive Secretary was endorsed by the General Assembly, with placing on record his invaluable services to APAARI in making it a vibrant organization and for getting excellent confidence and support of all its members.

*Assistant Executive Secretary:* The issue of having a regular Executive Secretary for APAARI had been discussed at length in the Sixth Executive Committee meetings during November 2001 and March 2002 and it was decided to select a person with good IT background who could also discharge the functions of an Assistant Executive Secretary, in place of an IT Manager. This was considered to be more cost effective and would save APAARI resources. Accordingly, vacancy was announced and 76 applications from member NARS/Institutions and other countries, within and outside the region, were received. The candidates were short listed on the basis of set criterion and interviewed on 23 October 2002 by the Selection Committee consisting of Dr R.P. Sapkota, Chairman, Prof Gajendra Singh, AIT, Bangkok, Dr Jean F. Giovannetti, Executive Secretary, GFAR and Dr R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI. Mr P.K. Saha, Technical Officer, FAO-RAP was the Member Secretary. Mrs Heather Briggs could not participate on account of official reasons.

The short listed candidates were invited for the interview. Based on critical evaluation of CVs, their performance in the interview and the job requirements, the committee recommended appointment of Dr Sahdev Singh presently working in AIT. Members of the Executive Committee also agreed with the result of the selection. Dr Singh is likely to take up the assignment by February 2003.

*Unification of APAARI Secretariat:* In order to ensure a better coordination and enhance efficiency, it was decided to unify the APAARI secretariat at New Delhi, India with Bangkok office. At present APAARI is getting valuable support for overall activities in general and publications in particular, from a Senior Consultant, Dr R.K. Arora, Hony. Research Fellow, IPGRI, South Asia Office, New Delhi. In addition, a Scientific Officer for APAARI, Dr Bawa, is in position on deputation from ICAR and provides technical/scientific assistance to the Executive Secretary. His present tenure terminates on 31 December, 2002. However, with the approval of Executive Committee and in the best interest of work, his tenure will be extended for a further period of six months (up to 30 June, 2003) and both the Secretariat should get merged finally with effect from 1 July 2003 at FAO, RAP, Bangkok. As proposed, the General Assembly approved the extension of term of Dr Bawa from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2003.

The General Assembly was pleased to learn of the appointment of Dr Sahdev Singh as Assistant Executive Secretary and the extension of Dr Bawa up to 30 June 2003. The decision to unify the Secretariat w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 was also endorsed. Also efforts of Dr Bawa in supporting activities of APAARI were appreciated.

*Status of Membership Payments:* The annual contributions for the year 2002 have been received from most of APAARI member NARS and associate members. The status of membership payments up to 31 October 2002 was circulated among members of General Assembly and all felt happy on positive response of the members.

*Audited Account Statements for 2001 and up to 30 September, 2002* were circulated among General Assembly members for scrutiny and approval. The General Assembly endorsed the Audited Statement and appreciated excellent financial management of APAARI funds. Efforts of Mr P.K. Saha and Ms Urairat Rujirek were appreciated and placed on record.

## Agenda Item No. 8: Budget for 2002 and Approval of Budget for the Biennium 2003-2004

The budget proposal of US\$ 270,000/ per annum each for the years 2003 and 2004 (Annexure-V) was placed for consideration and approval of the General Assembly. The General Assembly was informed that even though APAARI activities are increasing, the fixed deposits of APAARI had reached US\$ 700,000. It was mentioned that APAARI was among the few fora that had become self sustaining. Dr Paroda attributed this achievement to the continued support of members and the support group.

Members expressed appreciation on the judicious use of funds and the excellent control and guidance provided by Dr R.S. Paroda as Executive Secretary and also approved the budget proposal for the years 2003 and 2004 as given in Annexure-V.

## Agenda Item No. 9: Election of Seventh Executive Committee

The Election of Seventh Executive Committee was to be done in the meeting as the two year term of the Sixth Executive Committee constituted for the period 2001-02 was to terminate on 31 December 2002.

Dr Paroda explained the underlying considerations in electing the Executive Committee. He stated that an effort is made to balance the representation from the South and West Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific sub-regions. The composition of the previous Executive Committees was also circulated as given in Annexure-VI.

A new Executive Committee of APAARI for the period 2003-2004 was unanimously elected by the General Assembly. The composition of the seventh Executive Committee is as follows:

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF APAARI FOR THE BIENNIUM 2003-04</b>	
<b>Dr. Takahiro Inoue</b> <i>President, JIRCAS, Japan</i>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Dr. M. Nurul Alam</b> <i>Executive Chairman, BARC, Bangladesh</i>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
<b>Dr. R.P. Sapkota</b> <i>Executive Director, NARC, Nepal</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dr. Prapaisri Pitakpaiwan</b> <i>DDG, DOA, Thailand</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dr. T. Mennesson</b> <i>DG, IAC, New Caledonia</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dr Le Van Bam</b> <i>Vice Director, MARD, Vietnam</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dr R.S. Paroda</b>	<b>Executive Secretary</b>

## Agenda Item No. 10: Venue and Date of Seventh Executive Committee Meeting and Expert Consultation

The venue and date of Seventh Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI and Expert Consultation for the year 2003 were discussed. It was agreed that the Status of Post-Harvest Technologies in the Asia Pacific could possibly be the theme of Expert Consultation tentatively scheduled for first week of December 2003.

The dates and venue would be decided in the next meeting of the Executive Committee. However, Dr James Lee, DDG, International Relations, COA extended an invitation to host the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2004 in Taiwan and also assured of meeting the cost of participation of delegates from developing countries including their international travel, boarding and lodging.

General Assembly unanimously endorsed the proposal of Dr James Lee and appreciated his generous support to the next General Assembly in 2004.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11: Any Other Item**

- *CLAN Proposal for Release of Grants for 2002*

The APAARI Executive Committee at its meeting in November 2000 held at Chiang Rai, Thailand had approved the two stage funding, US\$ 15,000/- in 2001 and US\$ 16,000/- in 2002. DG, ICRISAT had forwarded a report of CLAN activities and the request for release of second instalment of the grant. The funds for CLAN activities/programme have since been released after adjusting the unspent funds of the previous year.

The new demand of US\$ 17,000/- for the year 2003 could be examined and considered by the Executive Committee provided activities of CLAN also included crops such as mungbean and soybean (in collaboration with AVRDC) and lentil (in collaboration with ICARDA). It was also decided that APAARI support be exclusively for some HRD related activities for which ICRISAT be requested to provide specific details in their project proposal.

- *Support for the Inter-Regional Network on Cotton*

An inter-regional network on cotton has recently been established with the support of AARINENA, APAARI, CAC-RF, GFAR and the Government of Iran. For 2003, APAARI has been asked to contribute US\$ 5000 for this important initiative. A presentation on the network was also made in the Expert Consultation.

The proposal for APAARI's support to this network was approved by the General Assembly for a sum of US\$ 5000 for the year 2003.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12: Closing Remarks by the Chairman**

Dr Sapkota welcomed the new Executive Committee of APAARI. He said that it was indeed an honour for him to be associated with APAARI and to work in the capacity of Chairman. He expressed satisfaction over the strength that APAARI has gained on account of its matured planning and implementation of programmes conforming to its mandate. He appreciated the continued cooperation and support of the members as main factors of APAARI's success and felt that APAARI held promise to be a partner in improving the regional agriculture. He conveyed his gratitude to all members and also the members of APAARI Secretariat for the help and cooperation that he received as Chairperson of APAARI. Dr Sapkota urged all the members to continue to work in the same spirit and take APAARI to newer heights. Dr Sapkota in particular highlighted the enormous contribution and leadership role of Dr Paroda in making APAARI a leading regional forum and for strengthening partnership among NARS for ARD related programmes.

Dr Paroda proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the APAARI Executive Committee. He expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Malaysia, who was represented by Datuk (Dr) Saharan Haji Anang, the Director General of MARDI and also to the Government of Malaysia for agreeing to host the meeting. He appreciated the support received from Dr Stein Bie, DG, ISNAR, Dr Dhayan Kirtisinghe, ED, CARP, Sri Lanka, Dr Sapkota as Chairman of APAARI and Dr (Ms) M. Williams DG, WFC in organizing the meeting in Penang. As a token of affection an APAARI plaque was presented to each one of them. He then thanked each delegate for their continued interest and active participation in the meeting. Finally, he thanked Dr Meryl Williams and Dr Gupta for their support to organize the meeting and also to Mr Saha, Dr Bawa, Dr Sahdev Singh and Ms Urairat for providing their valuable services to APAARI.



**THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI AND EXPERT CONSULTATION ON  
STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NETWORKS AND CONSORTIA**

2-4 December 2002

Penang, Malaysia

**PROGRAMME**

**December 2, 2002 (Monday)**

08.00–09.00	Registration	
	<b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>	
	Chair	Dr R.P. Sapkota
	Co-Chair	Dr S.H. Anang
09.00–09.10	Welcome Address	Dr M.V. Gupta ICLARM
09.10–09.45	Objectives of the Expert Consultation and Introduction of Participants	Dr R.S. Paroda Executive Secretary
09.45–10.00	Chairman's Address	Dr R.P. Sapkota
10.00–10.10	Message from Datuk (Dr) Effendi Norwawi Hon'ble Min. of Agriculture	Dr S.H. Anang
10.10–10.20	Release of Publications	Dr R.P. Sapkota
10.20–10.25	Vote of Thanks	Mr P.K. Saha
10.25–10.30	Group Photograph	
10.30–11.00	Tea Break	

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
NETWORKS IN THE REGION**

**TECHNICAL SESSION I: STATUS OF REGIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS – GAP ANALYSIS**

Chair : Prof Emil Javier

Co-Chair : Dr (Ms) Prapaisri Pitakpaiwan

	An overview of WFC R&D Programme	Dr (Ms) Meryl J. Williams DG, WFC
11.00–11.30	Keynote Address Importance of ARD Networks for Strengthening Agricultural Research Partnerships	Prof Emil Q. Javier
11.30–11.50	APAARI Initiatives – From Priority Setting to Research Networking	Dr R.S. Paroda
11.50–12.20	Networks in South and South-East Asia	Dr R.S. Paroda

12.20–12.50	Networks in Pacific Region	Dr R.D. Ghodake
12.50–13.00	Discussion	
13.00–14.00	Lunch	

## TECHNICAL SESSION II: NETWORK REPORTS

Chair : Dr William D. Dar

Co-Chair : Dr Dae-Guen Oh

(Each presentation is for 15 minutes)

14.00 -16.30	CLAN	Dr C.L.L. Gowda
	CORRA/INGER	Dr William G. Padolina
	RWC	Dr Larry Harrington
	TAMNET	Dr Larry Harrington
	GoFAR	Dr M.V. Gupta
	PGR	Dr Paul Quek
	COGENT	Dr Pons Batugal
	BAPNET	Dr P.S. Faylon

16.30–16.50	Tea Break
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## TECHNICAL SESSION III: PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOs AND ARI's IN ARD NETWORKS

Chair : Dr Takahiro Inoue

Co-Chair : Dr Patricio S. Faylon

(Each presentation is for 15 minutes)

16.50–18.30	APSA	Dr J.S. Sindhu
	MONSANTO	Dr Eric Johnson
	ICBA	Dr Faisal Taha
	Discussion	

19.30	Dinner hosted by ICLARM
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## December 3, 2002 (Tuesday)

## TECHNICAL SESSION IV: ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPING NEW RESEARCH NETWORKS AND COOPERATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Chair : Dr Mohan C. Saxena

Co-Chair : Dr R.D. Ghodake

(Each presentation is for 15 minutes)

08.30–11.00	IWMI Challenge Programme Proposal	Dr Chris Scott
	Asia-Pacific Consortium on	Dr A.K. Bawa
	Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB)	
	Inter-Regional Research Network on Cotton	Dr R.S. Paroda
	Discussion & finalization of recommendations	

11.00–11.30	Tea Break
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**TECHNICAL SESSION V: STRENGTHENING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY FOR RESEARCH NETWORKS**

11.30–13.00

Chair : Dr Jean François Giovannetti

Co-Chair : Dr Gajendra Singh

11.30–12.00

A Report on APARIS

Dr Sahdev Singh

(Each presentation is for 15 minutes)

12.00–13.00

GFAR-EGFAR

Dr Jean François Giovannetti

CABI

Mr Felmer E. Cagampang

ISNAR

Dr Stein Bie

ASTI

Ms N. Bientema

13.00–14.00

Lunch

**PLENARY SESSION**

Chair : Dr Stein Bie

Co-Chair : Dr Meryl J. Williams

14.00–17.00

Technical Session Presentations/Recommendations by Chairpersons

16.00–16.20

Tea Break

17.30–19.00

Executive Committee Meeting of APAARI

20.00

Dinner hosted by APAARI

**December 4, 2002 (Wednesday)**

**THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI**

Chair : Dr R.P. Sapkota

Executive Secretary : Dr R.S. Paroda

09.00–10.30

General Assembly Meeting Welcome and  
Introduction to Agenda

Dr R.S. Paroda

Chairman's Address

Dr R.P. Sapkota

Discussion on Agenda Items

10.30–11.00

Tea Break

11.00–13.00

Discussion on Agenda Items

Vote of Thanks

Dr R.S. Paroda

13.00–14.00

Lunch

14.30–17.00

Visit to ICLARM Research Facilities



## THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APAARI AND EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NETWORKS AND CONSORTIA

2-4 December 2002

Penang, Malaysia

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## **APAARI Secretariat**

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## ANNEXURE–III(b)



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**  
**STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**  
**As on 31 December 2002**

S.No.	Country	Year					
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC), Taiwan	N/R	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
2	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Mexico	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
3	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India	N/R	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
4	International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
5	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines	N/R	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
6	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Rome	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
7	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Syria	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.	Rec.
8	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya					Rec.	Rec.
9	CAB International (CABI)					Rec.	
10	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)					Rec.	Rec.
11	International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE						Rec.
12	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA						Rec.
13	UN ESCAP CGPRT Centre, Indonesia						
14	International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR)						Rec.

## ANNEXURE-IV



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**  
**01 January–31 December 2002**

(Amount in US Dollars)

Items	Received	Disbursements		Balance
		Budget	Actual Used	
31/12/2001 Balance B/F:				720,990.96
1. Membership Fee	111,327.99			
2. Contributions	57,645.41			
3. Interest Income	13,822.69			
4. Other Income:				
4.1 Refund	10,480.40			
4.2 Profit and Loss on Transfer	3,692.62			
5. Publications		30,000.00	8,200.54	
6. APAARI Secretariat Support:				
6.1 Secretary/Technical Officer		45,000.00	28,965.21	
6.2 Office Stationery & Office Equipment		25,000.00	9,718.77	
6.3 Miscellaneous/Communication		20,000.00	17,736.00	
7. Consultancy/Travel/SSA		40,000.00	34,913.46	
8. Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support		45,000.00	15,602.00	
9. Meetings		*45,000.00		
9.1 Expenses of Biotech Meeting			36,405.88	
9.2 Expenses of ICT Meeting			21,393.68	
9.3 Expenses of General Assembly Meeting			31,816.56	
Total	196,969.11	250,000.00	204,753.09	
				713,206.98
* For Biotech Expert Consultation additonal contribution from FAO and GFAR of \$20,000.00 and \$6,000.00, respectively received				
Total amount in BKK Office:		US\$	708,488.00	
Total amount in New Delhi Office:		US\$	2,182.90	
Total amount in Tashkent Office:		US\$	2,536.08	
Grand Total			US\$	713,206.98

\* For Biotech Expert Consultation additional contribution from FAO and GFAR of \$20,000.00 and \$6,000.00, respectively received

Total amount in BKK Office: US\$ 708,488.00

Total amount in New Delhi Office: US\$ 2,182.90

Total amount in Tashkent Office: US\$ 2,536.08

Grand Total US\$ 713,206.98

Dr R.S. Paroda  
Executive Secretary, APAARI

Ms Urairat Rujirek  
Secretary & Accountant, APAARI

Ms Chavalit Sasananan  
External Auditor

## ANNEXURE-V



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2003-04**

**(Amount in US Dollars)**

S.No.	Items	Approved		Proposed
		2002	2003	2004
1	Publications (Newsletter, Success Stories, Directory, Technical Reports, etc).	30,000	25,000	25,000
2	APAARI Secretariat Support			
	i. Assistant Executive Secretary & Secretary	45,000	60,000	60,000
	ii. Office Stationery & Postage	25,000	20,000	20,000
	iii. Miscellaneous Items	20,000	20,000	20,000
3	Consultancy/Travel/SSA	40,000	50,000	50,000
4	Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support	45,000	45,000	45,000
5	Expert Consultation(s) /General Assembly, Executive Committee Meetings of APAARI	45,000	50,000	50,000
		<b>250,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>

[The budget for the years 2003-04 has been approved in the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of APAARI on 4 December 2002 at Penang, Malaysia]



## ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

### CONSTITUTION OF APAARI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

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#### Executive Committee for 1991-1992

Chairman	:	Dr Md. Yusof bin Hashim	Malaysia
Vice-Chairman	:	Dr Keith W. Steele	New Zealand
Members	:	Prof W. Lianzheng	China
	:	Mr C.R. Mahapatra	India
	:	Dr Maripaz I. Perez	Philippines
	:	Mr Tubuola Tavita	Western Samoa
Executive Secretary	:	Dr R.B. Singh	India

#### Executive Committee for 1993-1994

Chairman	:	Dr Young Sang Kim	Korea
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr Balthasar M. Wayi	PNG
Members	:	Prof. Wang Lianzheng	China
	:	Dr Zafar Altaf	Pakistan
	:	Dr William D. Dar	Philippines
	:	Mr Montri Rumakom	Thailand
Executive Secretary	:	Dr. R.S. Paroda	India

#### Executive Committee for 1995-1996

Chairman	:	Dr William D. Dar	Philippines
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr Abbas Keshavarz	Iran
Members	:	Dr Md. Sharif Bin Ahmad	Malaysia
	:	Dr Shiva Bahadur Nepali	Nepal
	:	Dr Young Sang Kim	Korea
	:	Dr S.T. Semisi	Western Samoa
Executive Secretary	:	Dr R.S. Paroda	India

#### Executive Committee for 1997-1998

Chairman	:	Dr M. Akbar	Pakistan
Vice-Chairman	:	Dr Nobuyoshi Maeno	Japan
Members	:	Dr Z. Karim	Bangladesh
	:	Dr Ananta Dalodom	Thailand
	:	Mr J. Kumar	Fiji
	:	Dr William D. Dar	Philippines
Executive Secretary	:	Dr R.S. Paroda	India

#### Executive Committee for 1999-2000

Chairman	:	Dr Ian Bevege	Australia
Vice-Chairman	:	Dr Ananta Dalodom	Thailand
Members	:	Dr Seong-Hee Lee	Rep. of Korea
	:	Dr K.A. Malik	Pakistan
	:	Dr R.D. Ghodake	P N G
	:	Dr D. Kirtisinghe	Sri Lanka
Executive Secretary	:	Dr R.S. Paroda	India

#### Executive Committee for 2001-2002

Chairman	:	Dr Dhruv Joshi	Nepal
	:	Dr R.P. Sapkota	Nepal
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr J. Kumar	Fiji
Members	:	Dr M. Nurul Alam	Bangladesh
	:	Dr Patricio S. Faylon	Philippines
	:	Dr S.H. Anang	Malaysia
	:	Dr Ian Bevege	Australia
	:	Dr Robert Clements	Australia
Executive Secretary	:	Dr R.S. Paroda	India

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