

### **For consideration by the Steering Committee:**

Proposals by the CARD Secretariat regarding the promotion of South-south cooperation

#### **Background and objectives**

The Third CARD General Meeting made the following two recommendations to the Steering Committee members which are related south-south cooperation:

- Continue pursuing funding possibilities for NRDS implementation and south-south collaboration;
- For facilitating south-south cooperation, put in place expertise on market place mechanisms whereby supply and demand for collaboration can be made available.

According to the second point of the recommendation, the Secretariat started to stocktake the facilities and human resources in the seven countries which have participated in the past General Meetings, i.e. Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

#### **Current situation**

The Secretariat took on the actions in July 2010. However, there has been limited progress. The direct reasons of the delay are:

- Failure to identify consultants of satisfactory quality, even with the assistance of IRRI and AfricaRice (had to start with limited number of countries);
- Suspension of activities due to sudden illness of the regional consultants (October 2010).

At the same time, the Secretariat perceives some other crucial constraints which would have to be addressed for effective execution of this undertaking.

#### **Measures**

##### **1. Assistance by selected SC members**

It is proposed that the modality of stocktaking be revised, with more proactive contribution by research organizations, i.e. AfricaRice, IRRI and JIRCAS.

- **AfricaRice**, with Egypt as its member country, requests this stock taking exercise to its focal point in Egypt..
- **IRRI**, with liaison offices in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, requests the stock taking exercise to its focal points.
- **JIRCAS**, with rich networks with the global research institutions, compiles relevant information in the SSC countries.

##### **2. Information flow between SSC countries and other CARD stakeholders**

With a view to effective coordination among relevant institutions in the SSC countries and to

effective communication between the SSC countries and the CARD Initiatives, nomination of a focal person in each country might be considered.

Another possible option could be to build up the effort on existing institutional linkages (as described in the above section), which would allow more direct communication with various players in a country. Or regional (e.g. ASEAN) networks with the similar objectives, if exist, may be exploited.

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### **3. Revised thematic areas**

The Secretariat would like to suggest the following thematic areas for this activity.

- Breeding (genetics, genetic engineering, seed multiplication)
- Agronomy and pathology (physiology, plant nutrient and soil science, plant protection, pest ecology)
- Post-harvesting technologies (polishing, storage, processing, transportation)
- Extension
- Marketing
- Engineering (irrigation and drainage, rural development, mechanization, System engineering)
- Policy tools (land tenure, micro-credit, tax, duty / tariff, subsidies, legislation etc)
- Institutions (cooperatives, WUA, farmer groups)
- Economics (micro / macro)