

**Report of the First Plenary Meeting of the International Assessment
of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)
30 August – 3 September 2004, Nairobi, Kenya**

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and addressed by Ian Johnson, Vice President of the World Bank and Chair, CGIAR, Louise Fresco, Assistant Director-General for Agriculture, FAO, Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, and Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP who delivered a statement on behalf of the GEF Secretariat.

2. The opening statements stressed the uniqueness of this initiative, which has brought together six co-sponsoring agencies, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank and WHO, as well as stakeholders from governments, producer and consumer groups, agricultural research institutions, NGOs and the private sector, many of whom were involved in the consultative and participatory process over the last two years.

3. Presentations on activities related to the IAASTD were made by Rudy Rabbinge of Wageningen University on the Inter-Academy Council report Realizing the Promise and Potential of African Agriculture, and Philip Dobie, Director, UNDP, on the Millennium Project Hunger Task Force.

4. The meeting was attended by the representatives from 45 governments including: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Canada, Central African Republic, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Hungary, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Uruguay.

5. Civil society groups and institutions represented at the meeting included ActionAid Pakistan, African Academy of Sciences, African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum, African Centre for Technology Studies, African Technology Policy Studies Network, APNEK Tunisia, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones & Dry Lands, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Agrobased Technologies and Industry Development Project (Bangladesh), Bangladesh Shrimp Development Alliance, Biologistics International, Biosciences East and Central Africa, Botswana College of Agriculture, CAB International, Catholic Relief Services, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Convention on Biological Diversity, CENESTA, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, Consejo Nacional Agropecuario, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, CREU (Kenya), Crop Life International, Ecuador Fundacion Ecuatoriana de Desarrollo Social, Egerton University, Emergent Genetics, Environmental Management Advisors (Kenya), European Union Commission, Foodlink Resources Institute, Friends of Nomads International, Gene Campaign, GITA PERTIWI, Greenpeace International, InterAcademy Council, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, International

Center for Research on Women, International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology, International Council for Science, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Livestock Research Institute, International Plant Genetics Resources Institute, International Technology Development Group, International Water Management Institute, Japan National Cooperation Agency, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers, Kenyatta University, Knoll Farms, Kulika Charitable Trust (Uganda), National Council for Science and Technology (Kenya), National University of Ireland, Organization Beninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique, Pesticide Action Network (Indonesia; North America; Senegal), RAMSAR, Red Accion en Alternativas al uso de Agroquimicos, SACRED AFRICA, Science Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Southeast Asia Council for Food Security and Trade, South Asia Partnership Program, Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (Pakistan), Syngenta, Third World Academy of Sciences, Unilever, Uruguay National Institute for Agricultural Research, Vredeseilanden, Wageningen University, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), World Conservation Union (IUCN).

6. Representatives from FAO, the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO and UNEP also participated in the Plenary.

II. Purpose of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

7. The purpose of the meeting, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and jointly chaired by Louise Fresco of FAO, Shafqat Kakakhel and Steve Lonergan of UNEP, and Robert Watson of the World Bank, was to:

- finalize the scope and structure of the assessment,
- finalize the timetable for preparing, peer reviewing, and approving the Report,
- agree on a budget and financing mechanism,
- agree to a governance structure, and select members of the Bureau,
- approve the principles and procedures, and
- agree to a process for developing outreach and communications, and capacity-building strategies.

8. The Provisional Agenda was adopted and is attached as Annex 1.

III. Key decisions

9. The IAASTD will include global and five sub-global assessments: Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); North America and Europe (NAE); Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA); Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) and East and South Asia and the Pacific (ESAP). The IAASTD will use a multi-disciplinary approach, and be framed by analyses of history and the future. Secretariat functions will be distributed among the World Bank, UNEP and UNESCO.

10. A provisional timetable was agreed upon, including the establishment of the Secretariats and the start of project activities, contingent upon the mobilization and receipt of financial resources.

11. A baseline budget of US\$10.76M was approved by the Plenary, to be comprised of cash and in-kind contributions from the co-sponsoring agencies, the Global Environment Facility and governments, as well as from civil society. It was agreed that additional contributions would be actively sought at both global and regional levels, including from Regional Development Banks to broaden the support base. The baseline budget does not include a contingency provision, and this will be a priority once additional funds have been obtained.

12. The IAASTD will be conducted as an intergovernmental process, with a multi-stakeholder Bureau. 60 members were elected to the Bureau, including 30 government representatives and 30 representatives from civil society and international institutions (some nominations still need to be confirmed).

13. Principles and procedures for governance and selection of authors, review editors and the preparation and approval process were forwarded to the Bureau for review and approval.

14. The Bureau will be responsible for developing outreach and communications, and capacity-building strategies.

IV. Closing of the meeting

15. The First Plenary Meeting of the IAASTD generated considerable support and good will from governments and civil society due to the strong collaboration demonstrated amongst the co-sponsoring agencies, as well as the multi-thematic, multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental nature of the initiative.

16. The meeting adopted the decisions attached in Annex 2.

17. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 16.05 on Friday, 3 September 2004.