



G20 Mexico 2012

Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists Communiqué

1. We, the G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists, met in Mexico on September 24-27, 2012 along with other interested countries and International Research Organizations. The Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) was a commitment endorsed by G20 Leaders: “[we support] meetings of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) or high-level agricultural research officials from G20 member countries, other interested countries, and International Research Organizations such as CGIAR, with the goal of identifying global research priorities and targets, facilitating collaboration between public and private sector organizations in the key areas, most likely to drive sustainable productivity gains, and tracking progress on established goals over time”.
2. We recognize the urgency of taking actions to tackle both current and long term research and development (R&D) agriculture challenges, as it is projected that the world will need to increase the availability of food, feed, fuel, and fiber between 50-70% by the year 2050 in order to satisfy the growing global demand. The required supply increases need to take place within sustainable agricultural systems that increase agricultural productivity in an environmentally sound manner, improve livelihoods and provide healthy diets through improved access for all.
3. Our objectives are: to inform stakeholders of existing global resources, programs and collaborative efforts for agricultural research that can help address food security challenges; to identify, strengthen and complement research priority areas for collective action in coherence with existing initiatives to sustainably intensify agricultural production, in order to meet increased and changing demand for healthy, safe and nutritious food whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change; to identify avenues to better coordinate resources and existing initiatives in support of these priorities; to establish baselines and track progress toward collective commitments and priorities; and to facilitate new partnerships.
4. We deliberated on establishing MACS Global Research Collaboration Platforms (GRCPs) to promote global collective action involving our own national agricultural research for development strategies and capacities. Five initial GRCPs were presented at the meeting, including: (1) Access to scholarly publications and other technical documentation; (2) Access to germplasm collections and related information, as per international treaties to which countries are members, and in accordance with national legislation; (3) Access to genetic and genomic data, and establishment of public databases for agricultural research and development projects; and (4) Improving agricultural innovation (extension service and technology transfer) and agricultural statistics systems (information communication technology and market data). We agree to further evaluate the merits and potential of establishing such GRCPs under the G20 MACS framework and the future agenda.



5. We encourage communication, and where appropriate, coordination between our national research programs and those of other interested countries, with the CGIAR Research Programs (CRP) and the GRCPs in order to maximize the impact of global research in agriculture. We also encourage cross-linkage with the activities of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), and as a first step, the results of the MACS will be presented at the second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD), to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from October 29th to November 1st, 2012.
6. During the meeting, we reviewed the status and progress of Global Research Initiatives endorsed by the G20 and ongoing funding and collaborative mechanisms of the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI now named Wheat Initiative) and the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP), the CRPs on Maize, and Livestock and Fish, as well as the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. We strongly support these global initiatives and their novel partnerships for implementation, and encourage active participation and alignment of the national policy and research agenda of the G20 countries with these global initiatives.
7. The Global Access to Technology for Development Foundation, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation presented programs for Public-Private Partnerships, across the entire value chain of agricultural products, as mechanisms to accelerate global agricultural innovation. We emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships, with the involvement of knowledge institutes, private industry and government in Agricultural Innovation Systems.
8. The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), a G20 commitment in 2011, was formally launched by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. This platform aims to achieve greater coherence of capacity development and knowledge sharing for agriculture innovation to improve production and productivity in the tropics, with a particular focus on smallholders, under a multilateral and multi-sectorial approach. The operational framework will be further discussed during the next GCARD meeting in October 2012.
9. We reviewed the opportunities and constraints on rural advisory services in developing countries, as well as Mexico's Sustainable Modernization of Traditional Agriculture Initiative (MasAgro) to identify potential linkages with MACS, stressing the need to link farmers, input suppliers, output markets, advisory and extension services and research within the Agricultural Innovation Systems.
10. We agree to hold MACS annually, with the goal of building agreement on agricultural R&D priorities and targets, monitoring progress, and establishing policies to support GRCPs. The next meeting will be scheduled by the next President of the G20.
11. A draft MACS Terms of Reference will be presented to G-20 Sherpas for consideration.