



Repositioning PRGA for Transition



Imminent changes in the organization of the CGIAR will result in the discontinuation of the System-wide Program model. The CGIAR System-wide Program on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis (PRGA Program) has existed within that model for the past 12 years and is the only CG entity with a global mandate for gender and participatory research, and for gender in research (Gender & Diversity Program covers gender in the workplace). It currently has ongoing activities and an active staff, therefore its team is assessing future opportunities and actions that can lead to an orderly transition from the System-wide mode into another that will allow it to continue to contribute to the CGIAR System and its stakeholders.

However, much has changed since the Science Council decision on System-wide model was made:



- The CGIAR System as a whole has embarked upon a complete restructuring around the idea of mega-programs.

An electronic consultation in early 2009 highlighted the need for gender perspectives to be central in the New CGIAR's agenda

- A Global Platform on Gender in Agriculture is expected to be endorsed in 2010 to channel the expertise from the G&D Program, IFPRI and the PRGA Program (and other partners) to support the Centers' (and other partners') in gender sensitive responsive work (especially mainstreaming)
- PRGA Program completed a thorough gender audit of CIAT, including its regional outreach in Africa and Asia, in 2008
- CIAT has begun a process of mainstreaming gender in its programs and projects, both at headquarters and in the regional offices.



As a consequence of these changes:

- There will be ongoing need for the expertise of the PRGA Program at the System and Centers levels, as gender aspects are mainstreamed throughout the System's R&D agenda
- There is strong donor interest in maintaining a body to support the mainstreaming of gender and participatory (action) research in the CG Centers
- To support its own ongoing mainstreaming efforts, CIAT has decided to retain the staff of the PRGA Program as the nucleus of its own new gender mainstreaming strategy
- Moreover, CIAT has agreed that PRGA Program commitments and activities should continue under the umbrella of the new program at least until the designated funding runs out.

Consequently, there is a need to chart a new and reinvigorated course for the Program. The Program's areas of work and research will entail:

1. A strong link with the CGIAR Gender Platform when this becomes operational to support participatory research and gender work with a wider regional focus, supporting CG Centers, and all CIAT programs and projects in Africa and Asia
2. Gender and participatory research with a Latin America and the Caribbean mandate..

Examples of Research Themes the Program will take on are:



- Participatory methods used in plant breeding, agro-biodiversity management and adaptation to climate change by men and women farmers
- Gender-differentiated roles of men and women at different stages in value chains
- Use of gender-sensitive participation strategies for adaptation to climate change in rural communities
- Gender-sensitive participation in the management of genetic resources and agro-biodiversity
- Processes of institutionalization of gender-focused participatory research and action (e.g. ASARECA)