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**IFAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

5 and 6 September 2005, Paris, France

**REPORT ON THE MEETING**

By Fabienne Derrien, Policy Officer, Health, Research and Education, IFAP

The first meeting of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research included IFAP resource persons that represent the interests of farmers in the framework of agricultural research at regional and international level. (*See list of participants in appendix 1*)

1. The objective of the session was to identify IFAP's priorities in relation to agricultural research with a view to both drawing up a policy document and establishing a work plan that would put these priorities into concrete form at national, regional and international levels. It will contribute to the Committee's mission to develop agricultural research managed by and for farmers.

There was a rich discussion during the meeting, resulting in practical (how can we more effectively contribute to research in the field), realistic (what resources do we have to achieve it?) and innovative (what new actions can we implement immediately?) debates. All members of the Committee were committed in advancing this agenda.

2. The information sheet for the Committee on Agricultural Research was presented and discussed with the Committee members in order to define its mission, objectives and functioning more clearly. Modifications were made to the terms of reference, in particular to the definition of its mission and functions. There were extensive discussions among the farmers' representatives present and many modifications were made to the document in such a way as to clearly define the Committee's area of activity and send a clear message to partner organisations. (*See the final version of the Committee's information sheet in appendix 2*)

3. The roles and functions of the resource persons of the Committee were then discussed so that all Committee members could make the shared objectives their own. After having presented the nature of the present collaboration between research and the agricultural sector in their particular countries, the participants constructively modified the document presented. Resource persons need clear messages and defined actions: exchanging concrete experiences of farmers' organisations collaborating with research centres and developing positive practices, identifying possible processes for having an influence at national, regional and international level, acting to make effective extension services widely accessible and maintaining regular contact with national and international research centres. (*See the final version of the roles and functions of the resource persons in appendix 3*)

In addition, resource persons are encouraged to send articles about the collaboration between farmers and researchers and about funding farmers' participation in the activities and decisions of research centres with the aim of publishing them in the monthly IFAP newsletter.

4. The afternoon discussions concerned the IFAP farmers' priorities on agricultural research. The aim was to draw up a reference document common to all IFAP farmers rationalising the management of research at world level. IFAP member organisations emphasised the main objective of agricultural research: to improve the working and living conditions of farmers throughout the world. With this aim, the reference document groups together some general propositions and themes such as the representation of farmers in research processes, their influence on research programmes, extension services making the results of research accessible, the role of governments in the agricultural research sector etc. It should be emphasised that given the particularities of each country, the document only seeks to establish priority research themes. The Committee is therefore keen to work on the common processes that will enable the needs of farmers to be taken into

account in research centres. (See the amended version of farmers' priorities on agricultural research in appendix 4)

In order to prepare for the meeting, the IFAP secretariat sent a questionnaire to Committee members in August 2005. The discussions in this session were consequently based on a provisional document summing up the responses received to the questionnaire. The version amended by the Committee members will be discussed during the next IFAP Executive Committee meeting on 10 and 11 November 2005 in Montevideo, Uruguay, in order to obtain the final version in time for the next World Farmers' Congress in May 2006, in Seoul, Korea.

5. The following morning was devoted to the work plan for implementing IFAP farmers' priorities. The Committee members' discussions were based on a draft work plan established from the responses to the questionnaire. A revised work plan was drawn up under 5 headings: the lobbying of regional and international agricultural research structures; looking at good practices and positive processes that already exist between researchers and farmers; capacity building programmes; drawing up a farmers' reference document on agricultural research and promoting agricultural research; and facilitating and co-ordinating farmer representation at agricultural research meetings. (See revised work plan in appendix 5)

The work plan will also be put to the IFAP Executive Committee on 10 and 11 November 2005 in Montevideo, Uruguay, with a view to obtaining the final version as soon as possible.

#### 6. Miscellaneous

- With the aim of establishing a geographical balance within the committee, the request to include a representative from India was positively welcomed by members. Mrs Sarala Gopalan (India) will be contacted by the IFAP secretariat as soon as possible.
- It was brought to the attention of the Committee members that the elections of resource persons involved in GFAR programmes will take place in November 2006, in India, during the third GFAR General Conference. There will therefore be changes in the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research if new resource persons are elected.
- When an IFAP member is newly involved in a CGIAR Challenge Programme, it should be included in the Committee's discussions in order to take full advantage of its expertise.
- The problem of the lack of interpretation services in meetings on agricultural research, and indeed during this particular session, limits the participation of members that do not speak fluent English. A lack of financial resources is very often the reason. Solutions need to be found with the meetings' organisers.
- The meeting concluded by the unanimous election of Chebet Maikut (Uganda) to the position of Vice President of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research.
- The next Committee's meeting will be held in May 2006, during the World Farmers' Congress in Seoul, Korea.

IFAP would like to thank the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) which facilitated the meeting and which tirelessly works for greater inclusion of farmers in agricultural research networks all over the world.

7. Alessandro Meschinelli, from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, presented the Committee with IFAD's capacity building programme, which is currently being drawn up. Mr Meschinelli emphasised the issues common to both the programme and IFAP Committee meeting's conclusions. IFAD's capacity building programme will begin in Africa but will in the future be expanded to include other continents. Open discussions took place with Committee members as regards the ins and outs of the programme and farmers' involvement in reflections prior to implementing this type of programme.

**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING of the IFAP COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2005, IFAP Headquarters, Paris, France

**LIST of PARTICIPANTS**

**Members of the Committee**

Jack Wilkinson, Chair of the Committee and IFAP President  
Raul Montemayor, Focal point for Asia (Philippines)  
Zviad Bobokashvili, Focal point for Central Asia and the Caucasus (Georgia)  
Nduati Kariuki, Focal point for East Africa (Kenya)  
Bent Claudi Lassen, Focal point for Europe (Denmark)  
Ron Bonnett, Focal point for North America (Canada)  
Mario Costa, Focal point for Latin America (Uruguay)  
Alejandro Delfino, Focal point in CGIAR structures (Argentina)  
Vahamwiti Mukesyayira, Focal point in Challenge Programmes (D.R. Congo)  
Lydia Sasu, Focal point in Challenge Programmes (Ghana)  
Philip Kiriro, Focal point in Challenge Programmes (Kenya)  
Chebet Maikut, Focal point in Challenge Programmes (Uganda)

**International observers**

Nur Abdi, Farmers' Organizations/NGOs Focal Point, GFAR  
Alessandro Meschinelli, Policy Division, IFAD

**IFAP Secretariat**

Fabienne Derrien, IFAP Policy Officer  
David King, IFAP Secretary General

# International Federation of Agricultural Producers

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ANNEX 2

## *IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research*

Agricultural research and extension are critical for farmers. Since 1988, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) has been addressing the linkages between farmer-extension-researcher, and obstacles that hinder such linkages. Due to the pace at which the global Agricultural Research for Development arena is changing, the establishment of an IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research was decided in November 2004 during the IFAP 144<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

***Farmers consider that agricultural research should include technical and socioeconomic dimensions and should be treated in a multidisciplinary approach in order to concretely improve farmers' incomes and production processes.***

### *Mission*

The mission of the IFAP's Committee on Agricultural Research is to contribute to **the improvement of farmers' livelihoods** through the development of an agricultural and food research designed, monitored and implemented by farmers themselves.

### *Purpose*

- **Identify** processes to better influence on research priorities by farmers' organisations.
- **Influence** agricultural research priorities to develop activities and policies that take into account the needs of family farmers.
- **Mobilize** and facilitate farmers' participation in agricultural research for development and in extension services at national, regional and global levels.
- **Serve as a link** between farmers and sub-regional, regional and global organisations such involved in agricultural research.

### *Functions*

- **Act as a recognized spokesperson** bringing farmers' perspectives to the current global debates on agricultural research for development in all regions of the world.
  - Highlight mutual interests and needs and take co-ordinated action to further such interests and contribute to agricultural research;
  - Develop an understanding of the agricultural research for development arena and its application to improve farmers' livelihoods;
  - Elaborate position papers on agricultural research issues;
  - Exchange information, experiences and ideas linked to agricultural research for development.
- **Strengthen** the capacities of family farmers through their organizations thanks to their full, systematic and active participation in national, sub regional, regional and global meetings and research institutions.
- **Make sure** of the quality of extension services in order to have a concrete influence on farmers' activities at the grassroots level.
- **Keep** IFAP farmers' organisations informed about the results and discussions on agricultural research for development around the world. Ensure an automatic distribution of the current developments in this area throughout the IFAP worldwide network.

## **Structure**

The Committee is made up of the IFAP resource persons who represent farmers on regional and international research bodies. It is chaired by the IFAP farmers' representative on the GFAR Steering Committee. The officers of the Committee are mandated for a two-year period.

Through their participation in international bodies, the nominated IFAP farmers' representatives gain expertise. This expertise will be shared within the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research and used to the benefit of the whole IFAP network.

## **Officers of the Committee 2004-2006**

**Chair:** Jack Wilkinson (Canada – IFAP President)

**Vice Chair:** Chebet Maikut (Uganda)

### **Members:**

- IFAP Farmers' Focal Points in Regional Research Forums:
  - Asia: Raul Montemayor (Philippines)
  - Central Asia and the Caucasus: Zviad Bobokashvili (Georgia)
  - East Africa: Nduati Kariuki (Kenya)
  - Europe: Bent Claudi Lassen (Denmark)
  - North Africa: Bouchra Aït-Ali (Algeria)
  - North America: Ron Bonnett (Canada)
  - Latin America: Mario Costa (Uruguay)
- IFAP Farmers' Focal Point in CGIAR structures: Alejandro Delfino (Argentina)
- IFAP Farmers' Focal Points in Challenge Programmes: Vahamwiti Mukesyayira (D.R. Congo), Lydia Sasu (Ghana), Esa Härmälä (Finland), Philip Kiriro (Kenya), Chebet Maikut (Uganda)

**Policy Officer of the Committee:** Fabienne Derrien

**Contact:** [FabienneDerrien@ifap.org](mailto:FabienneDerrien@ifap.org)

## **Partnerships**

Regular working relationships with the existing regional and international research networks are the first step to a better acceptance of farmers' recommendations by researchers. Privileged relations have been established with three main international research organisations, namely: the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Partnerships in place are as follows:

- ✓ Participation of farmers in the decision-making bodies of regional agricultural research forums such as FORAGRO, AARINENA, APAARI and FARA
- ✓ Involvement of farmers in the CG Challenge Programmes such as the Sub Saharan African Challenge Programme, the Challenge Programme on Water for Food and Environment and the Generation Challenge Programme
- ✓ Presence of farmers' representatives in the CGIAR Private Sector Committee

*The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) is the world farmers' organisation representing over 600 million farm families grouped in 110 national organisations in 79 countries. It is a global network in which farmers from industrialised and developing countries exchange concerns and set common priorities.*

*IFAP advocates farmers' interests at the international level since 1946 and has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.*

**ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF FARMERS FOCAL POINTS  
OF THE IFAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

Farmers' focal points have been nominated to represent farmers' interests on regional and international agricultural research networks. Being a farmers' focal point implies to:

**Contribute in the improvement of farmers' linkages with agricultural research centres:**

- ✓ Identify research institutes in their respective regions and study their links with farmers' organisations – Identify researchers willing to collaborate concretely with farmers
- ✓ Inform farmers' organisations on research concepts and tools and support them in their lobbying strategy
- ✓ Promote the necessity of having spokespersons on research in each farmers' organisation
- ✓ Mobilize and sensitize farmers on how they can actively participate in research activities
- ✓ Encourage farmers to visit research centres in their areas so that they can interact with researchers to build partnership
- ✓ Examine extension services in place and make proposals for improvement
- ✓ Study funding possibilities for a better participation of farmers in research activities

**Represent farmers' interests in regional and international meetings on agricultural research:**

- ✓ Maintain a constant dialogue with researchers from the region so that they can appreciate farmers' concerns and needs
- ✓ Participate actively on behalf of IFAP in regional and international meetings of research networks to promote farmers' priorities and concerns on agricultural research
- ✓ Participate in agricultural research agenda setting, research programs and dissemination of the research results and make sure that farmers' interests are taken in consideration in these
- ✓ Lobby for farmers' priorities on agricultural research using IFAP documents and network
- ✓ Lobby for farmers' participation in research activities and representation on governance structures of local and national agricultural research centres
- ✓ Answer requests from regional and international research networks and comment on their documents on agricultural research when requested (with copy to IFAP Secretariat)

**Provide feedback to farmers' organisations and IFAP:**

- ✓ Send back a two-page report to IFAP after meetings with research centres summarising your participation, your positive impact and your concerns
- ✓ Ensure efficient information flow at local and regional level. Share and exchange information on agricultural research. Provide information on research trends, findings and initiatives so that farmer representatives can intelligently engage in discussions with scientists and researchers on these matters
- ✓ Disseminate the information sent by IFAP to farmers' organisations in the region. Send to IFAP Secretariat updated information on interesting research results for circulation
- ✓ Elaborate learning experience for farmers on researchers/farmers/extension linkages

**Modus Operandi of the Committee:**

- ✓ The Committee will meet at least once per year and will interact electronically.
- ✓ The Committee will report regularly on its activities to the six-monthly session of IFAP's Executive Committee and the annual IFAP regional meetings.

## IFAP BACKGROUND DOCUMENT TO IMPROVE FARMERS' INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research decided to work on common processes supporting the collaboration of farmers' organisations and research centres for a real integration of farmers' points of view from the definition of agricultural research priorities to the dissemination of research results.

The objective of a background document on agricultural research commonly supported by farmers around the world is to help in rationalizing research orientation worldwide. Consequently, this background document focuses on general proposals and issues, such as farmers' representation in research processes, influence of farmers on research programmes, extension services, the role of governments in agricultural research, etc. which are essential to better take into account farmers' needs in research activities.

IFAP farmers' organisations underline that agricultural research should have one main focus namely **Improve farmers' livelihoods**.  
All agricultural research activities should therefore give its projects this orientation.

The International Community will never reach the Millennium Development Goals without improving the involvement of farmers' organisations in research programmes and networks.

### **Ensure farmers' representation in research centres**

- ✓ Research centres from local to international levels should open up to the contribution of different stakeholders such as farmers' organisations. This will enrich the debates and programmes of agricultural research.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should find the opportunity to be involved in activities and governance bodies of research centres to give a farmer's perspective to agricultural research. This participation of farmers is crucial for well-oriented and efficient research projects.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should develop close working relationships with local, regional and national agricultural research networks. A continuous relationship between research centres and farmers' organisations is necessary for a constructive collaboration and a better understanding of farmers and researchers concerns.
- ✓ The representation of farmers in agricultural research structures at local, national, regional and international levels should be institutionalised. Formalizing this representation would contribute to a long term collaboration between farmers and researchers.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations request regional agricultural research networks to provide interpretation facilities during their meetings.

### **Influence the choice of agricultural research issues to be studied by research centres**

- ✓ Farmers' points of views should be taken into account in the definition of research priorities. The objective is to reconnect farmers' needs and concerns with agricultural research.
- ✓ Agricultural research should include technical and socioeconomic dimensions and should be treated in a multidisciplinary approach in order to concretely improve food security and farmers' livelihoods.

- ✓ Farmers' organisations should identify their needs and concerns precisely so that they are able to come to the discussion table with an open and solid proposal to agricultural researchers.
- ✓ The definition of agricultural research priorities should take under consideration cost effective projects. If not, farmers will not be able to take advantage of the results of the research.
- ✓ Enough funds should be dedicated to real current priority needs. There is a tendency not to address real on-farm research problems.
- ✓ Agricultural research issues should be set up in consultation with other national research centres to avoid duplication. Moreover, facilitating trans-boundary cooperation on research issues is important for farmers, as is sharing the results of research.
- ✓ The definition of agricultural research priorities should visualize the whole process from the development of priorities to the dissemination of the research results. Each stage up to extension services should be integrated at the definition phase.
- ✓ Farmers can provide feedback and advice on research initiatives and on the effectiveness and usefulness of research results: such feedback could encourage research centres to embark on new research work.

### **The role of governments**

- ✓ There is a need to establish new mechanisms that will revive linkages between farmers' organisations, research centres, extension services and markets. Farmers' organisations think that it is the responsibility of the government to set up an efficient consultation process to look after the overall agricultural research sector, with the specific focus of improving farmers' livelihoods.
- ✓ When appropriate, governments should rationalise the agricultural research sector in their country in order to harmonize research policies, avoid duplication and use funds in the most efficient way possible.
- ✓ Governments should finance agricultural research properly: most governments consider agricultural research as a priority but few give research centres real and continuous financial support, especially in support of farmers' organisations involvement. They should be encouraged to give more logistic and financial support to research centres.
- ✓ Governments should set up an appropriate legislative and policy framework that encourages national agricultural research systems to improve agricultural research in their country. This framework should allow the active involvement of farmers' organisations in agricultural research processes. Legislation should also encourage agricultural research to be undertaken by other players outside government, such as the university and private research service providers in specific fields.
- ✓ Governments should ensure the financing of sufficient technical staff in research centres and extension services in the all country.
- ✓ Moreover, governments should ensure that linkages between farmers' organisations, research centres and extension services are tackled in agricultural schools, scientific universities, etc.
- ✓ Farmers' organisations should take the responsibility of supporting the effort of governments through their expertise on agricultural and research issues.

### **Access to research results (extension services, Internet)**

- ✓ Strengthening extension services in rural areas is a key component of the development of the farming sector: farmers' organisations need to have access to solid extension services at the grassroots level in order to build a concrete collaboration. It is necessary to improve the geographical representation of research centres to facilitate the direct and continuous contact of researchers with farmers.
- ✓ Extension services have been run down around the world due to financial cuts. There is a real need for farmers to reactivate local effective extension services which put research findings in farmer-friendly user forms and disseminate the information to the farm community. When inexistent, the creation of new extension centres is requested.



- ✓ Extension services should work in collaboration with research centres and farmers' organisations to ensure the dissemination of their findings.
- ✓ Farmers must have access to research results through the most appropriate means adapted to their situation. The dissemination of agricultural research results should be evaluated and improved where necessary (for example, improve Internet access in rural areas).
- ✓ Technical advisors in extension services should be given updated training to improve their efficiency and qualifications. They should also mainly live in the rural areas where they work to ensure a continuous collaboration with local farmers.
- ✓ To improve the information flow among farmers' organisations, these should report back to its membership when debating with researchers and extension services.

### **Public Research: what collaboration with the Private sector?**

- ✓ Governments should not fully cede their responsibilities in agricultural research to the private sector. They should continue to develop their own projects so that farmers are given choices in new technologies, and do not become unduly dependent on private seed or technology suppliers.
- ✓ The public interests should be fully protected in cases where a technology that has been developed through publicly-funded research has been commercialized by the private sector. It is thus vital to maintain public investments in agricultural research and keep the ownership of key research results.
- ✓ In the light of budget constraints, the private sector (seed companies, fertilizer dealers, biotechnology firms, plant nutrient developers, etc.) could be a support for agricultural public research and extension initiatives. Private groups should be left free to develop technologies that they see fit, for profit and other objectives, using where applicable whatever basic technologies have been developed by public research institutions. These private groups should be allowed to freely compete with each other so that farmers can make choices based on their needs and capacities.
- ✓ But governments should ensure that lower-level technologies, such as traditional breeds or those using locally-available materials, which many farmers can more easily afford and acquire, should continue to be developed and made available to those who want to use them. Governments should play a watchdog role.

### **General agricultural research issues of interest to farmers**

Agricultural research should address major farming constraints so as to increase farmers' incomes, improve agricultural production and ensure household food security. The main priorities are as follows:

- ✓ Market oriented research
- ✓ Integrated pest management
- ✓ Food safety, standardisation and quality control
- ✓ Food processing technologies and post harvest handling technologies. Adapted agricultural tools, equipment and agricultural inputs
- ✓ Natural resources management
- ✓ Trade impact on farmers
- ✓ Appropriate organisational processes
- ✓ Weather forecast information systems

## IFAP WORK PLAN TO IMPROVE FARMERS' INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

This Work Plan has been drawn up by the members of the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research to strengthen farmers' involvement in agricultural research issues. It complements the background document on how to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research.

This Work Plan underlines the main priorities to be addressed over the next two years.

The Work Plan includes 5 immediate actions:

### **1. Launch lobby campaigns aimed at regional and international research networks**

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will launch lobby campaigns on the following issues:

1. Direct involvement of farmers' organisations in research institutes and networks
2. Socioeconomic orientation of research (marketing, policy, environmental and social issues) to complete the technical orientation of research (existing and new technologies, production, processing, etc.)
3. A budget within research projects, for the rapid and efficient dissemination of results to farmers and their organisations and for the strengthening of extension services in the case of applied research
4. An increase in public funding for research projects respecting the involvement of farmers' organisations in all its phases of development

Various means should be used in these lobby campaigns:

#### ➤ At the regional level:

This process will begin by writing to Directors of regional agricultural research networks. A model letter written by the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will be sent to IFAP focal points who will be in charge of managing the campaign in their respective region. The letter would be accompanied by documentation of the Committee.

IFAP focal points are encouraged also to meet Directors of research centres to explain farmers' motivations and the advantages of involving farmers in agricultural research activities.

#### ➤ At the national level:

IFAP focal points are encouraged to meet with the Presidents of national farmers' organisations in their respective regions to involve them in the process at national level. These Presidents could follow the same process using a similar lobby letter and meet Directors of national agricultural research institutes. The involvement of farmer leaders is highly important.

#### ➤ At the international level:

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research, with the support of the IFAP leadership, will follow the same lobbying process with international organisations.

➤ Results of these lobby campaigns

Results will be shared among members of the IFAP Committee and with the IFAP Executive Committee (meeting every 6 months) through reports of activities. These will help to track the IFAP Committee actions and adapt them to the concrete needs of farmers' organisations and their members.

## **2. Best management practices and processes – Evaluation and recommendations from farmers**

In order to improve knowledge on researcher - farmer cooperation worldwide, the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research underlines the necessity of collecting information on the following issues:

1. Existing relationships between farmers organisations, extension services and research centres

IFAP published in 1995 a booklet on “Negotiating linkages: Farmers’ organisations, agricultural research and extension”. An update of this publication is proposed by the IFAP Secretariat with the support of its Committee on Agricultural Research. This publication will be a positive tool to illustrate farmers’ demands to national, regional and international research networks. It will be disseminated widely.

2. Examination of successful experiences of dissemination of research results and extension

The IFAP Secretariat, with the support of the Committee and focal points, will collect local case studies to publish positive experiences on dissemination and extension of agricultural research results. This publication will show the constructive impacts of good collaboration between farmers and researchers. It will be disseminated widely.

## **3. Set up a capacity building programme for farmers’ organisations on agricultural research**

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will work on finding possibilities for a capacity building programme on “strengthening farmers’ organisations to play a more active role on research and extension with governments and the private sector from the grassroots to the international level” focussing on the following:

1. Awareness campaign of farmers: lobby farmers’ organisations to encourage them to build linkages with research centres, and lobby farmers’ leaders to encourage them to participate in agricultural research issues (leadership training and organisation management),
2. Extension and dissemination of research results:
  - a. Link farmers’ organisations to research centres to ensure that the results of research are adapted to farmers’ needs.
  - b. Establishment of information desks on agricultural research within farmers’ organisations: these desks would disseminate research information to farmers, with the support from extension services, and ensure the involvement of farmers in local programmes, etc.
3. Exchanges between farmers’ organisations: share knowledge and experiences,
4. Involve women farmers and young farmers in this process

#### **4. Elaboration of a documentation kit on how to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research**

The IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research will back its lobby campaigns with policy documentation such as a background document on ways to improve farmers' influence on agricultural research and two publications on best management practices and processes (*please refer to objective 2*). This documentation kit will focus on two main issues: that research programmes should improve family farmers' livelihoods and that the involvement of agricultural producers is essential for a more efficient research.

#### **5. Facilitation and Coordination of IFAP focal points' mission**

IFAP focal points are members of the Committee on Agricultural Research. This Committee has an advisory function to focal points when necessary (preparatory work to help participants in research or government meetings, providing content on policy issues, consultation on the strategy to put in place when facing a difficulty, etc). To assume their tasks (*see document on roles and functions of farmers' focal points*), IFAP focal points should be supported on the following issues:

##### **1. Representation activities:**

Financial support should be found to facilitate the participation of IFAP focal points in regional and international meetings of agricultural research networks and in their meetings with Directors of regional agricultural research networks.

Efforts should be made to convince regional agricultural research networks to invite representatives from IFAP: when necessary, financial support should be provided to focal points.

##### **2. Evaluation of existing linkages between farmers, researchers and extension services**

To contribute to the IFAP publication on "Existing relationships between farmers' organisations, extension services and researchers", IFAP focal points would be responsible for collecting information to make an inventory of the situation in their respective region.

##### **3. Ensure an information flow on agricultural research with farmers' organisations and with IFAP**

IFAP focal points should collect and share information about trends on agricultural research. This information could be collected by contacting regional research networks and programmes. Focal points should then disseminate this information to farmers' organisations in their respective regions, to the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research and to the IFAP Secretariat.

##### **4. Contribution to lobby campaigns**

IFAP focal points with the support of the Committee will manage lobby campaigns in their respective regions (*please refer to objective 1*). They will have to set up a limited database on strategic contacts on agricultural research in their region, contact and meet with them, and follow up the progress of these lobby campaigns. From their contact with research centres, IFAP focal points will be able to advise the IFAP Committee on Agricultural Research on new obstacles to be overcome.

##### **5. Organisation of annual dialogues**

IFAP focal points, with the support of the IFAP Secretariat, should organise a regional farmer-driven dialogue meeting each year, gathering Presidents of farmers' organisations, researchers and parliamentarians. These dialogues would involve Directors of national, regional and international agricultural research networks, Directors of research programmes in place in the region, and parliamentarians of influence.