

DETAILED RECORD OF DISCUSSION

18th CORRA Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand

October 30, 2014

October 30, 2014 Bangkok, Thailand – The Council for Partnerships on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA) renewed its commitment to perform an advisory role for the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) program of the CGIAR as it sought to clarify specific responsibilities pertaining to the partnership on its 18th annual meeting..The 18th CORRA annual meeting was held in the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center (BITEC), in conjunction with the 4th International Rice Congress at the same venue.

This year's annual meeting was attended by 15 representatives from 14 member-countries. CORRA is a partnership of 16 major rice-producing and -consuming countries in Asia. Not present were representatives from member-countries Bangladesh and Nepal. A number of observers from Iran, Singapore, and Taiwan also attended the meeting. This year's host, Thailand, through the Thai Rice Department, also sent a number of their directors and researchers to sit in the meeting. IRRI is represented in the meeting by Matthew Morell (Deputy Director General for Research), Bas Bouman (Director, GRiSP), the CORRA secretariat under the leadership of Bruce Tolentino (Deputy Director General for Communication and Partnerships), and Jojo Lapitan (Head, Partnerships Office).

ATTENDANCE (by seat arrangement)

Mr. Chanpithya Shimphelee, Director General Thailand Rice Department, 2014 CORRA host

Dr. Matthew Morell, Deputy Director General for Research, IRRI

Dr. Bas Bouman, Director, Global Rice Science Partnership, CGIAR-IRRI

Dr. David Dawe, Senior Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization

Dr. Sang Jong Lim, Director, National Institute of Crop Science, RDA South Korea

Dr. Masa Iwanaga, President and CEO, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

Dr. Hasil Sembiring, Director General, Directorate General for Food Crops, Indonesia

Dr. Made Mejaya, Director, Indonesian Center for Food Crops Research, Indonesia

Dr. Sibnarayan Dam Roy (representative of Dr. Ayappan, ICAR), Central Island Agriculture Research Institute, India

Dr. Shihua Cheng, Director General, China National Rice Research Institute, China

Dr. Ouk Makara, Director, Cambodia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Cambodia

Dr. Hope Webber, M&E Specialist, Social Sciences Division, IRRI

Dr. Nguyen Van Tuat (representative for Dr. Trinh Khac Quang Vice President, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Viet nam)

Dr. Amitha Bentota (representative for Dr. Rohan Wijekoon, Department of Agriculture), Director, Batahalagoda Rice Research Institute, Sri Lanka

Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, Director, Crops Research Division, PCAARRD, Philippines

Dr. Syed Ghazanfar Abbas (representative of Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council), Pakistan

Dr. Zainul Abidin Hassan (representative of Dato Dr. Sharif Haron) Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Malaysia

Dr. Chay Bounphanousay, Director, ARC National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute, Lao PDR

49 Mr. Julian Lapitan, Head, Partnerships Office, IRRI
50 Dr. V Bruce J. Tolentino, Deputy Director General for Communication and Partnerships, IRRI
51 Dr. Ji-eung Jeung, Rice Breeder, NICS-RDA, South Korea
52 Dr. Abbas Shahdi, Head, RRRTC, Iran
53 Dr. Osamu Koyama, JIRCAS, Japan
54 Dr. Ju Luo, Deputy Division Chief of Program Management for International Cooperation
55 Ms. Marlyn Belen, Partnerships Office, IRRI
56 Ms. Margaret Jingco, Partnerships Office, IRRI

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58 **Observers**

59 Mr. Edilberto de Luna, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
60 Ms. Jocelyn Lim, Agri Veterinary Authority, Singapore
61 Dr. Wen Deh Chen, Deputy Minister Council for Agriculture, Taiwan
62 Dr. Tzu Yu Fu (Richard Fu), Council of Agriculture, Taiwan Chief of International Cooperation
63 Dr. Suwat Jearakongman, Thai Rice Department Director for Rice Research and Development
64 Mr. Suniyom Taprab, Senior Researcher Rice Department
65 Ms. Witchuda Rattanakarn, Senior Plant Pathologist, Rice Department

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67 **Opening Session**

68 **Chair:** Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee, Director General, Rice Department, Thailand

69 **Rapporteur:** Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, Deputy Executive Director, PCAARRD, Philippines

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71 Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee welcomed the participants. Dr. Matthew Morell gave the opening address.
72 Being his first time to attend a CORRA meeting, he shared how impressed he is about this Council whose
73 members get together in “such a coordinated manner and with such good will and transparency” to
74 discuss issues in global rice research. Dr. David Dawe shared the message of Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma,
75 Assistant Director General of FAO in the Asia-Pacific region. He expressed pleasure at being in the
76 meeting, adding that CORRA is an important forum to talk about issues facing agricultural research and
77 extension.

78

79 **Approval of the agenda and matters arising from the minutes of the meeting**

80 CORRA members and participants proceeded to approve the agenda of this year’s meeting. Upon the
81 facilitation of Mr. Jojo Lapitan, the members also approved the minutes of the previous year’s meeting.
82 No additional issues from the minutes were raised so the program proceeded to the next session about
83 developments in global rice science.

84

85 **Session 2: Global Rice Science Development Presentations**

86 **Chair:** Dr. Masa Iwanaga, JIRCAS, Japan

87 **Rapporteur:** Dr. Ouk Makara, CARDI, Cambodia

88

89 The second session is composed of presentations and discussions on important topics affecting global
90 rice science. This year’s meeting featured the following issues and speakers (copies of presentations are
91 in the annex section):

- 92 1. Food and Agriculture Organization’s Regional Rice Strategy for Asia and the Pacific, by Dr. David
93 Dawe (FAO);
- 94 2. Global Rice Situation, by Dr. Sam Mohanty (IRRI);
- 95 3. Progress Report on the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) and CORRA Partnership with
96 GRiSP, by Dr. Hope Weber (IRRI); and,

97 4. The ASEAN Proposal: Securing a Stable Global Rice Supply by Building a New Generation of
98 ASEAN Rice Scientists, by Dr. V. Bruce J. Tolentino (IRRI)
99

100 Dr. David Dawe shared that FAO's regional rice strategy was developed in response to the 2008 rice
101 price crisis and is the product of "many debates" on how the rice sector can most effectively respond to
102 the said crisis and work to prevent it from happening again in the region.

103 The strategy has 6 objectives, namely:

- 104 1. Increase the productivity and nutritional value of rice sustainably to meet the increasing global
105 demand.
- 106 2. Enhance the rice value chain by improving food quality, diversity, and food safety while reducing
107 postharvest losses.
- 108 3. Improve mitigation/adaptation of rice farming to climate change and improve farmers' capacity
109 to cope with risk.
- 110 4. Minimize the environmental footprint of rice production and enhance the ecosystem functions
111 of rice landscapes, including the protection/promotion of rice heritage and culture.
- 112 5. Improve the efficiency, reliability, and fairness of domestic and international rice markets for
113 stabilizing rice price and supply, ensuring equitable access by the poor and promoting regional
114 collaboration.
- 115 6. Enhance the well-being and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, women, and the new generation
116 of rice producers by improving adjustments to long-term changes in demography, farm size, and
117 labor supply.

118 Dr. Dawe trained his presentation on the major thrusts or recommendations coming from the FAO
119 Strategy paper. These are:

- 120 1. Investment in research and development; tailored to the work that CORRA reps do and one of
121 the most important work needed to improve the rice economy;
- 122 2. Policy and institutional innovations – to promote overall rural income growth and spread
123 technologies and develop robust food security system;
- 124 3. Investment in rural infrastructure, e.g. rural roads, education, and healthcare; enabling
125 environment from private sector like mobile connectivity (very important for agricultural
126 extension).

127 He concluded by saying that FAO is supporting some countries to translate these regional strategies to
128 become their national strategy or blueprint for their rice sector.
129

130 Dr. Samarendu Mohanty, shared the following observation on the global rice situation: rice prices in the
131 world market are rising while other commodities are falling. Historical data supports this trend as well,
132 as far as Asian markets are concerned. He predicted though that, in the long term, there will be "some
133 sort of equilibrium." Dr. Mohanty pointed out that the availability of accurate data is a problem. This
134 contributes to a lot of uncertainty in the market. Thailand, for example, has a large effect on the global
135 rice market according to him, so it is very important for the world to know how much Thailand holds and
136 how much of it is fit for human consumption.

137 He talked about trends in specific countries. India and China are game changers in the global rice
138 market. They used to be nonplayers in the global rice market. But in the last two years, India emerged as
139 the largest exporter of rice in the world, and China has become the largest importer of rice. Vietnam
140 lost some market shares as India entered the market in 2012 and 2013, but is beginning to capture the
141 aromatic rice market. Pakistan, on the other hand, shows a "flat" trend, indicating little change in export
142 rates. The jasmine rice market is dominated by Thai jasmine.

143 Regarding major rice importers such as the Philippines, he said that the country has managed its
144 stockpiles of rice relatively well up to 2013, and, has thus been importing less. China is currently the
145 largest importer of rice. Looking forward 6 to 9 months down the road, India will bring the most
146 uncertainty to the grains market. If the rice market is going to change, the most probable cause will be
147 India.

148
149 Dr. Hope Weber presented the preliminary outputs of the recently held GRiSP-CORRA meeting in
150 Malaysia on May 2014. The objectives of the said workshop are the following:

- 151 • initiate a systematic inventory of national rice development strategies in Asia;
- 152 • define a common template for systematically capturing these strategies;
- 153 • identify commonalities in the strategies that can 'inform' GRiSP;
- 154 • propose a roadmap on how goals and quantitative targets can be set; and,
- 155 • ultimately, for GRiSP to be fully appreciated and co-owned by participating NARES.

156 The countries that participated in this workshop are the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam,
157 Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. Dr. Weber shared how the national indicators of each country are
158 matched with the GRiSP outcome indicators, namely:

- 159 • increased rice production that meets local and global demand,
- 160 • increased profitability for rice producers and increased rice affordability for consumers,
- 161 • increased efficiency and value added along the rice value chain,
- 162 • increased sustainability and reduced environmental footprint of rice production,
- 163 • increased health and nutrition from rice and from diversification,
- 164 • increased capacity and resilience in the rice sector, and
- 165 • gender equity empowerment.

166 In summarizing the outputs of the reports, he noted that country reports mostly addressed
167 development outcomes 1 to 3 (production, profitability, efficiency in value chains). Also, countries
168 mostly have quantitative indicators and targets for development outcomes 1 and 2 till 2013-14. He also
169 observed that development outcomes 4 to 7 were listed as important by a few countries. There were
170 also no baselines or targets set by the member-countries for development outcomes 3 to 7.

171 He also shared the common interests of the countries that came out from the meeting, namely:

- 172 • sharing of genetic materials for national breeding programs (high yielding, high-quality rice,
173 pest-resistant, tolerance for abiotic stresses like drought, submergence and salinity);
- 174 • conduct common basic studies on rice sciences;
- 175 • building capacity of rice farmers;
- 176 • technology transfer; and,
- 177 • plant protection (e.g., insect pest migration warning systems).

178 Dr. Weber noted that GRiSP seems a suitable platform for sharing national rice strategies and
179 developing cross-country learning. He added that GRiSP will act as a mechanism to strengthen the
180 development of impact pathways, and of harmonized monitoring systems that will allow for tracking
181 and comparison of accomplishments between countries.

182 In conclusion, he shared that the next workshop will include the South Asian countries of Nepal, India,
183 and Sri Lanka, as well as Cambodia, the lone SE Asian country. The workshop will be held in India in
184 December 2014.

185
186 Dr. V Bruce Tolentino shared that his presentation was first delivered in the ASEAN Ministers of
187 Agriculture and Forestry during their meeting in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, in September 2014.

188 He proceeded to discuss the rationale of the ASEAN proposal. He noted that, generally, the trends
189 indicate that:

- 190 • Students and young people avoid training and education in agriculture and science.

- 191 • Farmers are getting older, while very few young farmers are entering agriculture jobs.
- 192 • Extension workers and agriculture civil servants are also getting older.
- 193 • New and modern blood needed in the rice and agriculture sector.

194 The proposed program seeks to develop a new generation of ASEAN rice scientists and extension
195 leaders through a combination of interventions for academic development (MS/PhD scholarships),
196 professional development (through short course trainings, internships) and use of IT innovations and
197 management (e.g., Rice Knowledge Banks and rice crop forecasting). The target outputs of the program
198 for academic development components are:

- 199 • Development of 80 ASEAN PhDs over 5 years
- 200 • Deployment of 45 ASEAN resident scientists at IRRI over 5 years
- 201 • Comprehensive Training of 50 ASEAN NARES rice breeders over 5 years
- 202 • Participation in a week-long Executive Development Forum on ASEAN Food Security of 110
203 ASEAN NARES participants over 5 years;

204 For the extension component, the targets are the following:

- 205 • 125 ASEAN NARES participants trained on a 20-week, season-long course for extension
206 professionals with 3,000 indirect trainees over 5 years;
- 207 • Development of country-specific rice information platforms for all ASEAN rice-growing states;
- 208 • Development of an online rice crop forecasting system for 3 ASEAN countries in the first 5 years
209 and for the remaining ASEAN countries thereafter;

210 Dr. Tolentino also presented the proposed budget for this proposed scholarship and training program. It
211 is proposed that ASEAN and ASEAN partners contribute a total of \$30 million USD over the said period.
212 This amount can come from contributions of ASEAN member-countries and funding by ASEAN
213 development partners. Implementing arrangements of the proposed scholarship was also presented.

214

215 **Third Session: NARES Strategies on Rice Sector Development and Partnerships, Open Discussion and** 216 **CORRA Declaration**

217 **Chair:** Dr. V. Bruce Tolentino, DDG-CP IRRI

218 **Rapporteur:** Dr. Hasil Sembiring, Directorate General of Food Crops, Indonesia

219

220 Dr. Bas Bouman started the afternoon session by presenting the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP)
221 to the participants, some of whom are new to GRiSP. The vision for CORRA to become the regional
222 advisory council for GRiSP representing Southeast, East, and South Asia was presented. Dr. Bouman
223 concluded his presentation with the suggestion that the coordination role of CORRA for GRiSP in Asia
224 will be similar to the set up in Africa (Africa National Expert Committee), Latin America (FLAR), and
225 recently, the Regional Rice Research and Training Center for West and Central Asia (RRRTC-WCA).

226 He recalled that CORRA was created in the mid-90s as a coordination mechanism for bilateral activities
227 across partners and to add value by enabling members to learn from different partner-countries. As an
228 advisory council to GRiSP, CORRA can potentially contribute to the following:

229

- 230 1. facilitation of the agenda setting of GRiSP as a truly global partnership;
- 231 2. facilitation of the alignment of GRiSP agenda with those of national R&D programs in a group
232 approach;
- 233 3. guidance or advisory on the research programs of CGIAR relative to national priorities and
234 targets in the region.

235

236 CORRA will be the forum by which national R&D programs are presented and discussed, core priorities
237 on rice R&D in the region are identified, and indicators of success/progress are outlined to form the
238 GRiSP roadmap and impact pathway.

239

240 He suggested that this become part of the next meeting's agenda, specifically, "looking at co-designing
241 GRiSP 2." Once GRiSP 2 priorities and programs are identified and documented, these will be presented
242 and discussed in the next CORRA meeting for members to comment on and verify.

243

244 **Open Discussion**

245 The question on how to operationalize the partnership between GRiSP and CORRA was raised. Several
246 suggestions were put forward and discussed.

247

248 • There could be an opportunity for CORRA to mobilize resources of country partners (either
249 bilaterally or through a systematic approach).

250 • CORRA as a mechanism to identify joint interest in common technology solutions (e.g., hybrid rice)
251 that become high-priority areas in research or policy analysis.

252 • Both GRiSP and CORRA member-countries can, if available, identify skills, expertise, and other
253 resources available to study common issues of concern and complement the resources of each
254 other. This can contribute to the achievement of the common goals of the region instead of just
255 bilaterally.

256 • CORRA can mobilize certain initiatives, such workshops that are "topic-related" or "region-related".
257 Topics of sufficient common interest are identified, with directions on how to bring these further in
258 a partnership approach.

259 • The GRiSP-CORRA partnership can potentially be an avenue to facilitate access to technology,
260 information, and data or resources that can be shared between members of the region especially
261 when the R&D priorities and resources of countries are aligned with those of GRiSP.

262 • Finally, it was pointed out that CORRA can be an avenue to identify gaps in the research priorities
263 of GRiSP. This is a valuable contribution to shape the future agenda of GRiSP and the CGIAR.

264

265 It was proposed that before these suggestions are put in motion, there first has to be an agreement on a
266 common vision and mission between CORRA and GRiSP, and that CORRA can play a role in contributing
267 to that mission.

268

269 Regarding CORRA's role in identifying common R&D concerns in relation to GRiSP development goals, a
270 question was raised on whether the participants, who are mostly from agricultural ministries and
271 research departments, are the appropriate representatives to comment on some of the sector-based
272 development goals of GRiSP. The observation raised was that GRiSP goals are broader than the scope a
273 ministry of agriculture can provide answers to. It was also pointed out that in many countries, rice R&D
274 concerns are tackled by multiple agencies. There is a need for these agencies to coordinate.

275 To go around this concern and become an effective advisor to GRiSP, it was suggested that CORRA
276 representatives do some internal consultation first from appropriate and knowledgeable sources on the
277 core issues of his/her country and present these various perspectives in the CORRA meeting.

278

279 Additional recommendations of suggested R&D issues that can form the CORRA agenda in relation to
280 GRiSP were raised as follows:

281

282 1. Technologies for climate change adaptation, particularly of small island groups that are more
283 affected by climate change;

284 2. Postharvest losses, rice diseases, crop pest and disease protection in the context of climate
285 change, particularly for tropical countries; and,

286 3. CORRA to serve as platform to discuss and promote different GRiSP technologies and impact
287 pathways to reach farmers.
288

289 **CORRA Declaration**

290 Mr. Jojo Lapitan moved for the crafting and declaration of the CORRA statement of support. He
291 explained that the CORRA Declaration is a summary of what transpired in the meeting, with actionable
292 follow up and/or recommendations that will require the expression of unanimous support from the
293 member-countries. This can also form the basis of the members' report to their respective ministers as
294 items to support.

295 Dr. Bouman, on the other hand, suggested that instead of adopting specific statements and
296 recommendations, a general statement on CORRA's role in guiding and counseling GRiSP can be
297 adopted instead. A more specific declaration of support can be crafted in the next meeting, with the
298 GRiSP Phase 2. Then, CORRA members can comment on whether the proposal/topics put forward by
299 GRiSP are reflective of their national concerns, on what R&D issues have been missed, and how much
300 their country can contribute in terms of expertise or other resources.

301 He proposed that in the next meeting or early next year, GRiSP will "feed" to CORRA how GRiSP 2 would
302 look like to solicit feedback on whether the plans resonate with their country's priorities.

303 **Action point: Include GRiSP Phase 2 in the agenda of the 2015 CORRA meeting.**

304
305 Suggestions were raised on the specific wording and content of the CORRA Declaration statement.
306

307 Dr. Bouman suggested using the statements in Dr. Webber's concluding slide as elements of the CORRA
308 declaration. A beginning statement can be rendered as, "CORRA will engage in the development and
309 counseling of GRiSP Phase 2." The declaration will then have the following elements:

- 310 1. CORRA's commitment to be the GRiSP advisory council for Asia;
- 311 2. CORRA's commitment to be involved in the development of the GRiSP 2 proposal including
312 goals, objectives, targets, plans, governance system, and research activities; and,
- 313 3. CORRA's acknowledgment of the national rice R&D strategies and their analyses.

314
315 Dr. Makara put forward the suggestion to use the wording found in the record of discussion of the
316 previous CORRA meeting.

317 Dr. Iwanaga suggested the outline of the CORRA Declaration should start with the history, followed by
318 the CORRA function, its relationship with GRiSP, which will then lead to those elements enumerated by
319 Dr. Bouman. He suggested a beginning statement, thus: "Corra is pleased to work with GRiSP for Phase 2
320 development and perform the function of an advisory body to GRiSP."
321

322 Additional comments and concerns were raised regarding the role of CORRA in relation with GRiSP.
323

- 324 1. The identification of the appropriate institution/s who can endorse and push for the acceptance
325 of GRiSP programs in a country in relation to the observation that some countries have multiple
326 agencies dealing with rice and rice research;

327
328 The Chairperson of the session moved that this issue be discussed more fully in the sideline.
329

- 330 2. The need to expand CORRA membership in relation to its advisory function to GRiSP; and,
- 331
332 3. The need for each member-country to review their rice R&D agenda to see where GRiSP fits in.

333

334 Mr. Lapitan pointed out that it is important that they are all agreed on the next steps of the CORRA-
335 GRiSP rice R&D partnership before everybody leaves the meeting, and that they will report and endorse
336 this partnership for support from their ministries. What CORRA can do is to (formally) declare support
337 for the initiatives being pushed by the GRiSP program.

338
339 Dr. Tolentino requested the CORRA Secretariat to prepare the draft declaration and have it circulated to
340 the CORRA members for discussion in the 2015 CORRA meeting.

341 **Action point: Draft the CORRA Declaration of Support for GRiSP to be approved and presented in the**
342 **2015 meeting.**

343

344 **Closing Session: Business Meeting**

345 **Chair:** Mr. Chanpithya Shimpalee, Director General Thailand Rice Department

346 **Rapporteur:** Mr. Julian Lapitan, CORRA Secretariat

347

348 *Agenda for the next annual meeting*

349 The body agreed to forego the agenda setting for the next CORRA annual meeting and defer to the
350 outcome of the 2nd CORRA-GRiSP workshop in December.

351

352 *Venues for 2015 and 2016 annual meetings*

353 Dr. Made Jana Mejaya (Indonesia) offered to host the 2015 annual meeting of CORRA at IAARD
354 sometime in July or August upon consultation and approval of the IAARD Director General. There is the
355 possibility of the President of Indonesia visiting the ICRR in Sukamandi. This will also be a good
356 opportunity for CORRA as well. Dr. Sang-Jong Lim offered South Korea, through NICS-RDA, to be the host
357 of the 2016 CORRA meeting.

358

359 *Other matters*

360 Before concluding the business meeting, Mr. J. Lapitan relayed three reminders: (1) official permanent
361 principal or official alternate country representatives should attend the 2015 CORRA meeting to
362 maintain the continuity, institutional memory, and progress of the discussions, agreements, and other
363 outcomes resulting from the annual meetings; (2) member-participants are encouraged to cover their
364 respective international airfares while the host member-country will cover the local costs; and (3) table
365 numbers 9 and 10 are reserved for the CORRA participants at the IRC gala dinner at 7:00 pm.

366

367 **Vote of thanks and closing remarks**

368 Dr. Matthew Morell proposed a vote of thanks. He acknowledged this year's host—the Thai Rice
369 Department, Director General Shimpalee and all staff of the department. He also thanked Director
370 General Shimpalee for transmitting the message for CORRA from the Minister of Agriculture in support
371 of the CORRA meeting. The session chairpersons and rapporteurs were acknowledged for keeping the
372 meeting on time and on topic. The presenters were also thanked.

373 He thanked all the participants from CORRA member-countries and observers for an interesting and
374 productive meeting. Also acknowledged was the representative of CGIAR, Dr. Philip Ellul. Finally, he
375 thanked the CORRA Secretariat for organizing the meeting. He ended by saying that he looks forward to
376 the next phase of CORRA deliberations as GRiSP 2 unfolds.