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MEDIA RELEASE

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Scientific Excellence Recognized

Ten scientists from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Costa Rica, China, Ethiopia, Kenya and India have this week been recognized by IFAR, –a foundation, dedicated to fostering scientific excellence in agriculture through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) by way of partnerships, collaboration and awards.

The successful scientists will spend up to three months working with world class scientists at CGIAR Centers. All their costs will be covered for the three month period.

The fellowship winners developed innovative results-oriented proposals together with their proposed host research Centers, IPGRI, World Agroforestry Centre/ICRAF, IITA ILRI and the Africa Rice Center/WARDA. The proposals, which were assessed by a team of international experts, cover areas such as the development of rice lines for drought prone rice production systems; modeling gene-flow to assess risk to biodiversity in traditional cropping systems and the application of GIS and remote sensing in soil quality assessment.

Professor Ruth Haug, Chair of the Evaluation Committee and Director of NORAGRIC, Agricultural University of Norway, considers the quality of the applicants and applications to be very high. “I believe the majority of the applications we received this year were outstanding. It is gratifying to see the high standard of academics from developing countries who are choosing to work on programs which have the potential to offer real benefits to the poor. Their work is focused on delivering global public goods and they are exceptional professionals.”

“This fellowship program is an excellent way to help scientists from developing countries expand their skills and experience. I am delighted to be associated with it,” she added.

The Evaluation Committee included experts from Brazil, Cameroon, India and New Zealand.

According to Francisco Reifschneider, President of IFAR, “IFAR has a strong commitment to partnerships, we are confident that one of the best ways we can foster effective partnerships is through awarding fellowships which benefit both the individual and the CGIAR Centers where the fellows will work, and which produce knowledge and expertise for the public good, focusing on the needs of developing countries.”

The scientists are Helga Rodriguez Von Platen, Christian O. Thine, Zachee Ngoko, Xue-Jun Ge, Jules Bayala, Geetha Rani, Peter Gathumbi, Tilahum T. Habtemichael, Drissa Hema, and Reuben Muasya.

**For interviews please contact Sarwat Hussain, CGIAR, Tel: +1.(202) 473 5690.
For more information about the scientists, the fellowship program, and IFAR visit:**

www.ifar4dev.org