

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/38
31 October 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Ninth meeting

Montreal, 10-14 November 2003

Item 4.2 of the provisional agenda*

**INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT: FINAL REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE
CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At the request of the World Bank, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the final report of the Steering Committee for the Consultative Process on Agricultural Science and Technology. As noted in the preface to the report, the purpose of the consultative process, which was co-sponsored by the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), was to engage a balanced and representative set of stakeholders in each region to discuss the potential value and scope of the proposed international assessment of the role of agricultural science and technology in reducing hunger, improving rural livelihoods and stimulating economic growth over the coming decades.
2. The document is being circulated in the languages and the form in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

An Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development

How can we reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to, and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology?

**The Final Report of the Steering Committee
for the Consultative Process on Agricultural Science and Technology**

12 August 2003

Preface

Between late 2001 and mid-2002, the World Bank held a number of meetings with various stakeholders to discuss prominent issues in agricultural science and technology. This led to an announcement by the Bank at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002 that an international consultative process on a proposed international assessment of the role of agricultural science and technology in reducing hunger, improving rural livelihoods and stimulating economic growth over the coming decades would be cosponsored by the World Bank and FAO.

The goal of the consultative process was to engage a balanced and representative set of stakeholders in each region (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Pacific, Europe and North America). At each regional meeting, participants discussed the potential value and scope of the proposed assessment. They also discussed potential organizational structures and governing principles and procedures for the proposed assessment.

The first meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland in November 2002 with representatives from relevant stakeholder groups from around the world. Participants at this meeting agreed that transparency and inclusiveness were essential operating principles for the regional consultations. Specialists and generalists, natural scientists and policy experts, experts in local and institutional knowledge, producers, environmentalists and health experts from all relevant stakeholder groups active in the area of agriculture (governments, private sector, producers, consumers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, extension systems, foundations, scientific organizations and individual scientists) should be included.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups was formed shortly after Dublin (Annex I). The five co-chairs were Rita Sharma, Principal Secretary and Rural Infrastructure Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh, India; Louise Fresco, Assistant Director General for Agriculture, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; Claudia Martinez Zuleta, Former Deputy Minister of the Environment, Colombia; Seyfu Ketema, Executive Secretary, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA); and Robert T. Watson, Chief Scientist, The World Bank.

Regional consultations were subsequently held in Cairo, Egypt (North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia); Paris, France (Eastern and Western Europe); Lima, Peru (South America); Washington, D.C. (USA and Canada); San Jose, Costa Rica (Central America); New Delhi, India (South Asia); Suva, Fiji (Pacific Islands); Bogor, Indonesia (Southeast Asia); and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Sub-Saharan Africa). In addition, presentations on the proposed assessment were presented to participants in the CGIAR Annual General Meeting (Philippines, Sept 2002); ASARECA Annual Meeting (Kenya, Jan 2003); FAO Commission on Agriculture (Italy, Apr 2003); and Forum on Agricultural Research for Africa plenary (Senegal, May 2003).

The Steering Committee met in Cork, Ireland (June 12-13) and Budapest, Hungary (July 31-August 2) to finalize recommendations to the President of the World Bank and the Heads of FAO, UNEP, WHO, UNDP, IFAD and UNESCO based on the outcomes of those regional meetings. The recommendations are attached; they address the rationale, goal, scope, outputs, outcomes, assessment characteristics, management and governance structure, location of secretariat, the proposed budget and funding philosophy.

An Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development

**How can we reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods,
and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically
sustainable development through the generation, access to, and use of
agricultural knowledge, science and technology?**

Executive Summary

Today, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is the primary problem for nearly 800 million chronically undernourished people, the vast majority of whom live in rural areas. Yet, the demand for food is projected¹ to double within the next 25-50 years, primarily in developing countries, as the global population increases to 8-10 billion. The global community confronts the enormous task of enhancing rural livelihoods and ensuring nutritional security in a world where the population is growing in size and evolving in consumption patterns while reversing environmental degradation, redressing social and gender inequity, and ensuring human health and well-being.

Assessing the demand and the range of possibilities for meeting the demand for agricultural products and improving rural livelihoods (on- and off-farm) is a multi-sectoral endeavor, which requires attention to a wide array of economic, environmental, ethical and social considerations. Conflicting views on a number of issues underscore the need for an international assessment to provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary analysis of issues critical to policy formulation.

Goal of the proposed Assessment

Our goal is to provide decision makers with the information they need to reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to, and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology.

Scope of the proposed Assessment

The Assessment would take interlinked short, medium and long-term perspectives (up to 2050) and use a multi-disciplinary approach to address the full range of agricultural products (crops, livestock, fisheries, forests, fiber, and biomass) and services. It would assess the economic, environmental, health and social (including gender) implications of current and potential future technologies. It would assess what we can learn from the past by providing a critical retrospective of agricultural knowledge, science and technology and the effectiveness of institutional arrangements, as well as focus on critical areas identified during the consultative process in relation to a plausible range of future scenarios.

¹ UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Food for All. Rome, 1996.

The Assessment would be multi-scale, addressing global and sub-global (community to regional) issues. The global Assessment would address issues with broad relevance and would be interlinked with the sub-global (community to regional) Assessments. These sub-global Assessments, which would vary in scale from the continental to community level, would use a consistent methodology, cover a range of agro-ecological systems, and employ selection criteria that would take into account socio-economic and institutional conditions, and poverty mapping.

The proposed Assessment would be framed by historical lessons and plausible futures.

Historical lessons

- A critical retrospective (up to 50 years) of how agricultural knowledge, science and technology and institutional systems and policies have affected nutritional security and rural livelihoods for different segments of the population
- An analysis of factors responsible for significant differences (by region, farm scale, type of technology, etc.) in the use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology

Plausible futures

- Presentation of a plausible range of future scenarios for agricultural production (crops, livestock, fisheries, forests, fiber and biomass) and services between now and 2050 given a range of demographic, climatic, ecological, economic, socio-political, and technological projections

This framework would provide the context for an analysis of the:

1. Relevance, quality and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science and technology; and
2. Effectiveness of public and private sector policies and institutional arrangements in relation to agricultural knowledge, science and technology;

with respect to their impacts on:

- the reduction of hunger and poverty and the improvement of rural livelihoods;
- the environment (water, land use, soils, biodiversity and atmosphere);
- equitable, socially and economically sustainable development; and
- human health (nutrition and food safety).

The Assessment would take into account those enabling conditions and contextual issues that directly affect the use and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science and technology.

Expected Outputs of the Assessment

A series of published (printed and web-based) Assessment reports would be produced, including methodological reports on scaling (temporal and spatial) and critical in-depth global and sub-global Assessments of local and institutional knowledge and experiences. The Assessment reports would be translated into the

six official UN languages and presented and discussed at international, national and sub-national user forums, workshops and symposia involving the range of stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes of the Assessment

The Assessment process would bring together the range of stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector to share views, gain common understanding and vision for the future (present to 2050), develop new partnerships and provide robust information for decision makers. The Assessment would anticipate the challenges that the world will face over the next 50 years through the work on plausible futures.

The Assessment would have a major impact on how we manage the generation and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology in the future by providing decision makers at all levels—from the field to the international arena—with critical information concerning agricultural science and technology. The Assessment would help identify public and private sector research and funding priorities, determine the effectiveness of institutional systems, and provide options for improvement.

Characteristics of the proposed Assessment

The Assessment would:

- be conducted using an open, transparent, representative and legitimate process
- involve a representative set of experts from all relevant stakeholder groups in the preparation of the Assessment using local and institutional knowledge²
- be intellectually rigorous (peer and stakeholder reviewed), but accessible and comprehensible to non-specialists
- complement, not duplicate, a number of ongoing activities³
- be policy relevant, not policy prescriptive
- incorporate gender analysis
- encompass risk and benefit analysis
- develop a consensus on what is known and unknown, explain different points of view and identify, and where possible quantify, the uncertainties
- assess options for action
- incorporate capacity-building activities
- incorporate a continuous and effective outreach and communications strategy

Governance and Management of the Proposed Assessment

An intergovernmental structure is proposed, with a multi-stakeholder Bureau. Decisions would be taken by governments in plenary meetings, open to all stakeholders, taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau, where appropriate. The proposed intergovernmental process should ensure ownership by

² The proposed assessment would build on the experience gained in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) sub-global assessments and the outcomes of the MA conference on “Bridging Scales and Epistemologies,” which will address cross-scale interactions as well as the incorporation of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge in scientific assessments.

³ Annex 1 describes the complementarities among the proposed assessment and other related activities.

governments, while the integrated Bureau allows the full range of stakeholders to meet as a single body creating opportunities for constructive exchanges and building consensus.

Cosponsoring Agencies and location of the Secretariat

Given the breadth of issues to be covered, and the desire that no single agency be allowed to dominate the process, the Assessment should be cosponsored by a combination of the World Bank, FAO, WHO, and UNEP, while encouraging the participation of other agencies, such as UNDP, UNESCO and IFAD. The secretariat should be technically competent with excellent communication capacity, and would operate transparently, while retaining autonomy. The secretariat should be hosted by the World Bank at a location agreed by the cosponsoring agencies.

Budget and sources of funding

The budget of the proposed Assessment would be about US \$15 million over 2.5 years funded mainly through a “blind trust” supported by governments, international agencies, foundations, private sector and others.

Introduction

Today, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is the primary problem for nearly 800 million chronically undernourished people, the vast majority of whom live in rural areas. Yet, the demand for food is likely to double within the next 25-50 years, primarily in developing countries, as the global population increases to 8-10 billion. The global community confronts the enormous task of enhancing rural livelihoods and ensuring nutritional security in a world where the population is growing and evolving in consumption patterns while reversing environmental degradation, redressing social and gender inequity, and ensuring human health and well-being.

The demand for food will be further affected by the rapid urbanization of the developing world; increased per capita income; and changes in lifestyles and food preferences. These factors will have implications for food production, food distribution, and consequently, nutritional security and rural livelihoods.

Our agricultural research agendas and institutional systems will need to be focused appropriately to meet an increase in demand that will come at a time when there will probably be less water due to increased demand from other sectors, less arable land due to land degradation and urbanization, less labor due to HIV/AIDs and rural to urban migration, increased feminization of agriculture, increasing levels of acid deposition and tropospheric ozone, and a changing climate with warmer temperatures, increasing variability and more extreme events.

Hence, a key question concerns the effectiveness of current and future agricultural science and technology research agendas and institutions in reaching the goals of reducing poverty and improving nutritional security. Over US\$35 billion is spent

annually on agricultural research. We need to know if this money is well spent and where best to target science and technology efforts—more productive crop cultivars and animal breeds, improved nutritional quality, reduction of yield losses due to pests and diseases, improved post-harvest practices, more sustainable land, forest, fisheries and aquaculture practices, more efficient water management, improved genetic, species, and ecosystem conservation and management techniques—in order to most effectively fight poverty and hunger and we need to understand how to effectively use institutions in this fight. Finally, yet importantly, we need to know what policies are needed to ensure that agricultural production rises to meet demand in a framework of equitable, environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development.

The philosophy of the Iroquois Confederacy “*In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations*” is a guiding vision for sustainable development. We need to closely assess the effects of policy frameworks, farming systems and production technologies on water, land and soils, biodiversity, and atmosphere in order to ensure the well being of future generations.

Assessing the demand and the range of possibilities for meeting the demand for agricultural products and improving rural livelihoods is a multi-sectoral endeavor, requiring attention to a wide array of economic, environmental, ethical and social considerations and utilizing different perspectives such as gender, social and economic analysis. Successful technologies have been developed by small producers and by organic and low-external input producers, yet some of these remain unknown to most decision makers. The relative invisibility of these approaches as well as conflicting views on a number of emerging technologies underscore the need for a global dialogue.

Consumers have been concerned for a long time about food safety. The Assessment would address the state of knowledge of the risks and benefits of the range of agricultural technologies and products on human and animal health as well as the potential of agricultural knowledge, science and technology to improve food safety.

In light of the centrality of these issues to decision making, an international Assessment is needed now to provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary analysis of issues critical to policy formulation.

Goal

Our goal is to provide decision makers with the information they need to reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to, and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology.

Scope of the proposed Assessment

The Assessment would take interlinked short, medium and long-term perspectives (up to 2050) and use a multi-disciplinary approach to address the full range of

agricultural products (crops, livestock, fisheries, forests, fiber, and biomass) and services. It would assess the economic, environmental, health and social (including gender) implications of current and potential future technologies. It would assess what we can learn from the past by providing a critical retrospective of agricultural science and technology and the effectiveness of institutional arrangements, as well as focus on critical areas identified during the consultative process in relation to a plausible range of future scenarios. They include issues within the domain of global public goods that require international collaboration and discussion and issues characterized by rapidly changing contexts.

The Assessment would be multi-scale, addressing global and sub-global (community to regional) issues. The global Assessment would address issues with broad relevance and would be interlinked with the sub-global (community to regional) Assessments. These sub-global Assessments, which would vary in scale from the continental to community level, would use a consistent methodology, cover a range of agro-ecological systems, and employ selection criteria that would take into account socio-economic and institutional conditions, and poverty mapping.

The proposed Assessment would be framed by historical lessons and plausible futures.

Historical lessons

- A critical retrospective (up to 50 years) of how agricultural knowledge, science and technology and institutional systems and policies have affected nutritional security and rural livelihoods for different segments of the population
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Plausible futures

- Presentation of a plausible range of future scenarios for agricultural production (crops, livestock, fisheries, forests, fiber and biomass) and services between now and 2050 given a range of demographic, climatic, ecological, economic, socio-political, and technological projections

This framework would provide the context for an analysis of the:

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with respect to their impacts on:

- The reduction of hunger and poverty and the improvement of rural livelihoods;
- The environment (water, land use, soils, biodiversity and atmosphere);

- Equitable, socially and economically sustainable development; and
- Human health (nutrition and food safety).

The Assessment would take into account those enabling conditions and contextual issues that directly affect the use and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science and technology.

Expected Outputs of the Assessment

A series of published (printed and web-based) Assessment reports would be produced, including methodological reports on scaling (temporal and spatial) and critical in-depth global and sub-global Assessments of local and institutional knowledge and experiences. The Assessment reports would be translated into the six official UN languages and presented and discussed at international, national and sub-national user forums, workshops and symposia involving the full range of stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes of the Assessment

The Assessment process would bring together the range of stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector to share views, gain common understanding and vision for the future (present to 2050), develop new partnerships and provide robust information for decision-makers. The Assessment would anticipate the challenges that the world will face over the next 50 years through the work on plausible futures.

The Assessment would have a major impact on how we manage the generation and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology in the future by providing decision makers at all levels—from the field to the international arena—with critical information concerning agricultural science and technology. The Assessment would help identify public and private sector research and funding priorities, determine the effectiveness of institutional systems, and provide options for improvement. Among the major expected outcomes of the Assessment would be:

- *A multi-stakeholder community* sharing a common vision, building trust and seeking innovative approaches for managing the generation and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology to alleviate hunger and poverty, and ensure nutritional security.
- *Integrated local and institutional knowledge* to help reshape institutional and financing agendas for agricultural research, education/training and extension.
- *A framework that emphasizes partnerships and cooperation* for agricultural knowledge, science and technology to foster sustainable development.
- *Research agendas that are balanced between short-term demands and long-term challenges* based on lessons learned from past successes and failures.

Stakeholders (in particular, governments, multilateral organizations, private sector, foundations and the scientific community) would be able to understand the needs of producers and consumers, evaluate the effectiveness of relevant agricultural

activities, including investments in national and international agricultural research, and assess how they can be more effective in the future. The Assessment would identify key information and implementation gaps that can be addressed through targeted research programs, evaluate why current technologies are not being exploited, and present changes in policies and institutions to enable opportunities afforded by agricultural knowledge, science and technology to be realized.

Stakeholders would be able to better understand the benefits and risks of the range of agricultural products, e.g., the environmental and food safety implications of producing food using different technologies. Consumers would also be able to better understand the impacts of their consumption patterns and make informed choices.

Local producers and communities would contribute local knowledge, and would benefit by working in partnership with other stakeholders in crafting improved practices, research programs, policies and institutions.

NGOs would be able to improve their ability to meet the needs of producers, consumers and the public; strengthen advocacy on behalf of their members; and more effectively monitor government commitments.

The private sector would have better tools for planning activities to address the needs of poor people in the developing world. These tools would be developed in coordination with the other major stakeholders. The novel ground up approach would provide another metric for determining if products are adequately meeting the needs of stakeholders (e.g., local producers and shareholders). It will also facilitate increased contact with future customers regarding product and stewardship needs.

Characteristics of the Proposed Assessment

To be successful the Assessment should have the following characteristics:

Conducted using an open, transparent, representative and legitimate process:

The Assessment would be demand-driven and open to all relevant stakeholders (all voices must be heard); it must be conducted in a transparent manner (the process must be understood); the participants must be representative of the relevant stakeholders; and the process must be considered legitimate by all stakeholders from the grass roots (e.g., producers and consumers) to the global level (governments and multi-national corporations). A set of Principles and Procedures (Annex III) outlines how the Assessment would be conducted to ensure openness, transparency, inclusiveness and legitimacy. Annex III describes the overall organizational structure; government eligibility for Panel membership; procedures for selecting Bureau members, including their desired technical qualifications; tasks and responsibilities for Bureau members; procedures for nominating and selecting the Assessment chair (or co-chairs), authors and editors; tasks and responsibilities of chair (or co-chairs), authors

and editors; tasks for the secretariat; and procedures for the preparation, peer-review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of the Assessment Report(s) and the Summary for Decision Makers.

Involve a representative set of experts from all relevant stakeholder groups in the preparation of the Assessment using local and institutional knowledge:

Appropriate expertise would be needed to prepare the Assessment, ensuring geographic, disciplinary and gender balance (author selection procedures are described in the Principles and Procedures). Experts are individuals, acting in their personal capacity, possessing information relevant to the questions being asked. Hence, experts with local knowledge (e.g., producers and community leaders) would play a critical role in place-based local studies.

Intellectually rigorous (peer and stakeholder reviewed) but accessible and comprehensible to non-specialists: A representative set of experts from all relevant stakeholder groups would be involved in the peer-review process. The Principles and Procedures describe how local and institutional knowledge would be reviewed by peers for accuracy and reproducibility. The report would be robust and accurate, but accessible and comprehensible to those who are not specialists in the material.

Complement, not duplicate, a number of ongoing activities: The Assessment would analyze existing local and institutional knowledge, as appropriate, and would complement, not duplicate, past and current activities, including ongoing international Assessments such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA), the UN Millennium Development Goals task force on Hunger, and the Inter-Academy Council study of “How to Feed Africa.” It would not duplicate the work of the World Trade Organization, FAO-WHO CODEX-Alimentarius or the work under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It would build upon other relevant activities (see Annex II).

Policy relevant, not policy prescriptive: The Assessment would analyze information of importance to the range of relevant stakeholders/decision-makers. The Assessment would assess the effectiveness of research agendas, institutional systems and the economic, environmental, social and gender implications of different technologies, policies and practices, but would not recommend actions. It would, however, assess the implications of different decisions using the “if x,” “then y” approach.

Incorporate gender analysis: In a context where the majority of poor producers today are women, gender inequity plays a significant role in differential access of agricultural science and technology and realization of benefits between men and women. Hence, the Assessment would specifically incorporate gender analysis.

Encompass risk and benefit analysis: The Assessment would use a risk-benefit framework for reviewing the application of technologies, policies and practices, how to manage the risks and capture the benefits, and to communicate the risks and benefits in an understandable and useful form to the range of relevant stakeholders.

Develop a consensus on what is known and unknown, explain different points of view and identify, and where possible, quantify, the uncertainties: The Assessment would analyze all relevant knowledge and identify where there is consensus on what is well known (well established) as well as what is uncertain. It would discuss minority points of view that cannot be discounted, and would identify and, where possible, quantify uncertainties.

Assess options for action: Present analyses of activities with the best potential for reducing hunger and poverty, improving nutritional security, and improving rural livelihoods.

Incorporate capacity-building activities: The Assessment would integrate capacity-building activities to ensure the effective engagement and participation of local expertise.

Incorporate a continuous and effective outreach and communications strategy: In order to ensure broad stakeholder engagement and interaction as well as effective public awareness, the Assessment process would include an effective communications, information and media relations strategy involving all stakeholders throughout the process.

Governance and Management of the Proposed Assessment

An intergovernmental structure is proposed (Figure 1). A detailed governance structure is in Annex III. The merits of the proposed structure include:

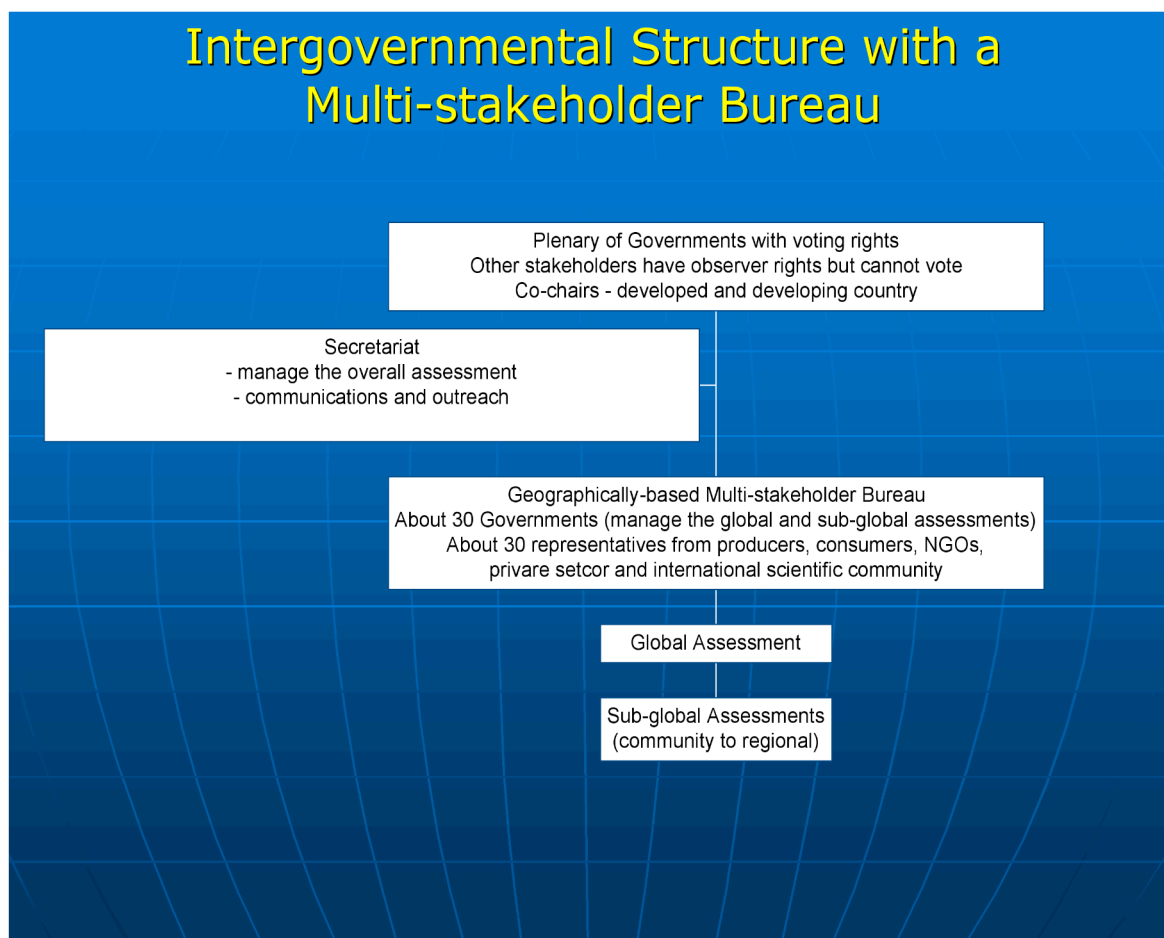
- An intergovernmental process that should ensure ownership by governments;
- An integrated Bureau that allows for meaningful multi-stakeholder participation, allowing the range of stakeholders to meet as a single body and hence create opportunities for exchanging views and building consensus
- Well-defined roles and responsibilities for Bureau members (outlined in Annex III: Principles and Procedures)
- The sub-global Assessments would be guided by the relevant Bureau members, e.g., The African sub-global Assessment would be guided by the African Bureau members.

Cosponsoring Agencies and location of the Secretariat

Given the breadth of issues to be covered, and the desire that no single agency be allowed to dominate the process, the Assessment should be cosponsored by a

combination of the World Bank, FAO, WHO, and UNEP, while encouraging the participation of other agencies, such as UNDP, UNESCO and IFAD. The secretariat should be technically competent with excellent communication capacity, and will operate in transparent mode, while retaining autonomy. The secretariat would be hosted by the World Bank at a location agreed by the cosponsoring agencies.

Figure I



Budget and sources of funding

The budget of the proposed Assessment would be about US \$15 million over 2.5 years funded mainly through a “blind trust” supported by governments, international agencies, foundations, private sector and others, as well as additional in kind contributions.

Item	Estimated Budget (US\$ K)
Design meetings for the global Assessment (100 experts)	300
Expert plenary and chapter meetings for the global Assessment	2000
Design meetings for the sub-global Assessments (50 experts each)	500
Expert meetings for the sub-global Assessments	4000
Three plenary meetings of governments and experts	2500
Three Bureau meetings	300
Meetings of non-governmental groups (producers, consumers, etc.)	400
Secretariats for global (overall) and sub-global Assessments	3000
Communications and Outreach, including translation	2000
Total	15,000

Budgetary Assumptions

- An intergovernmental process;
- Conducted in 2.5 years from initiation to publication;
- Bureau and Plenary meetings conducted in the six official UN languages;
- No honoraria or salary costs for the preparation and peer-review of the Assessment reports;
- The travel costs of OECD experts paid by their own governments;
- Travel costs of OECD government representatives to the Bureau and Plenary meetings paid by their own governments;
- Travel costs for developing country and CEIT experts and government representatives to the Bureau and Plenary meetings are based on economy class tickets;
- All expert meetings associated with the global Assessment conducted in English – the executive summary would be translated into the UN languages for review and final publication;
- All sub-global expert meetings can be conducted in the language most appropriate to that region, with Assessment documents in both English and the most appropriate language for that region;
- Inclusion of capacity-building activities; and
- In-kind contributions are not included in the proposed budget, but are encouraged.

Some additional funds would be required to provide for the participation of the resource poor, e.g., local producers and community-based organizations.