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Strengthening Research in Small Countries

April 24, 1986

Participant Panel

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Important Issues: 1) Structure, Scale and Priorities
2) Regional and International Linkages

1. Agricultural Research is very "expensive" for small countries, however, small countries should do basic research also, not only adaptive. Need of a critical mass of scientists in order to achieve good quality research.

Importance of research as a means to feed the country.
Smallness issues: limited resources, bargaining power and critical mass of scientists.

2. Examples of research coordination:

SACAR: Southern Africa Coordination of Agricultural Research
CONOSUR: Six South American Countries

Important of Linkages between:

- a) extension, research and teaching
 - b) different Ministries doing research.
 - c) dealing with donors.
 - d) NARS's themselves.
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- * Also linkages between private and public agricultural research, and between science and policy in order to mobilize support for agricultural research more effectively.
 - * Importance of leadership in research groups
 - * Importance of colonial heritage, avoid single commodity efforts
 - * "Networking" as a solution to small country problems, also need external assistance (funding) especially in regional networks.