



August 26, 2004
For immediate release

For more information, please contact:

Michael Rubinstein, +1 202.862.5670, m.rubinstein@cgiar.org
Sarwat Hussain, +1 202.473.5690, s.hussain@cgiar.org

Global Open Agricultural and Food University

*New program will provide first-rate educational opportunities
to people in developing countries*

Statement by:

Ian Johnson, Chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute

In the effort to reduce hunger and poverty, developing nations need many more people who are educated and trained to apply the latest science and technology in all aspects of agriculture. Frequently, these professionals are trained in universities outside their home countries, an educational opportunity available to only a select few.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is spearheading an exciting and innovative program to offer a high quality education to students in developing countries throughout the world. Called the Global Open Agriculture and Food University, it will use internet communications and other technologies to provide access to long distance learning to developing nations. The university will make available the knowledge developed from 35 years of CGIAR science research and from the work of its many partners and collaborators across the globe. By allowing professionals to enhance their skills without leaving their countries, the program will reduce both the cost and time required for schooling, and it will make learning available to many more people.

In the information age, knowledge is power. Global Open Agriculture and Food University will empower students throughout the world to improve farming, reduce hunger, create wealth, and preserve the environment.

The mission of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through scientific research and research-related activities in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, policy, and environment. With membership from 63 governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations, the CGIAR provides funding to 15 Future Harvest Centers, including the International Food Policy Research Institute. Please visit the university website at <http://www.openaguniversity.cgiar.org>.