O.04 - Southern perspective: Integrated pest management research and practice within the CGIAR

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The increasing demand for affordable food is putting growing pressure on agricultural production. More food has to be produced on a shrinking area of arable land. Crop and post-harvest protection in all its facets is extremely important in food production. In view of the current and future food and nutrition challenges it will no longer be acceptable to lose significant amounts of the agricultural production due to pests, diseases and weeds in the fields and stores. At the same time food has to be produced in such a way that threats to human health and the environment are kept at a minimum. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) System-wide Programme on integrated pest management (SP-IPM) is a collaborative effort of several CGIAR Centres and their partners to champion forward-looking research and outreach programmes to provide farmers in the South with ecologically durable options for managing pests, diseases and weeds. The paper describes SP-IPM's recently agreed upon strategic research direction with the three pillars: adaptation of IPM to climate variability and climate change, management of contaminates in food, feed and the environment, and improvement of agro-ecosystem resilience for soil, root and plant health. This strategy aims at providing new technologies for improved IPM that will contribute to more productive and healthy agro-ecosystems, needed to enhance food production. In addition, a rotational advanced studies programme across the pillars is planned, which moves from region to region to train National Agricultural Research System (NARS) scientists in new IPM technologies. In order to achieve its objectives, SP-IPM is seeking partnerships with centres of excellence in the South and the North, vital to develop and deliver advanced IPM knowledge and technologies suitable for different agricultural production systems. The paper therefore also intends to provide food for thought about areas of potential cooperation between SP-IPM and the members of the ENDURE network.