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> happening. Since I don't know what ground has been covered, please excuse
> me if I go over ground that has already been covered. The two points I
> want to highlight are as follows.

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> 1. The main focus of the Institution should be dryland agriculture and
> associated technologies. This should not preclude the social
> sciences/humanities which are vital to any technological institution.
> Other supporting academic areas such as the sciences are also a must. Let
> it not be just another University - we have seen how, without proper focus
> new institutions have developed to be diffuse. Furthermore, it is more
> attractive for donors to support a specialised program (Dryland
> Agriculture/Technology/etc. which is not catered for in other
> institutions, and strategically located in a natural "laboratory" is a
> very positive plus)

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> 2. What does "Council of Elders" mean? Polititians? I hope we do not
> fall in the same pitfall we did with UKAI when some of us chose to hijack
> the whole program to curry favour with the political class, to the
> exclusion of others in academia. We definitely need a strong political
> support, BUT wide inclusion of all parties who can make a contribution is
> a must. Any willing contributor should be made to feel an insider.

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> F.M. Luti