



Update on the CGIAR Reform Process



This issue of CAN reports on the on-going CGIAR reform, providing an update from the Executive Council Meeting held 03-04 November in Rome. The meeting was attended by Carlos Seré (Director General, ILRI) and Dennis Garrity (Director General, World Agroforestry Centre) who share their views.

In December 2008, the CGIAR launched its Change Initiative to identify how best to fulfill its role as a provider of science-based solutions for agriculture, natural resource management and rural development. A new system was agreed on and over the past 12 months a series of consultations, reports and meetings have been conducted to flesh out how the components of the new system will operate. The recent Executive Council meeting affirmed that all elements of the new system are coming together and that the new CGIAR is quickly becoming a reality. Informal meetings between donors and centers, before the Executive Council meeting, paved the way for constructive exchange. The Chair of the CGIAR, Kathy Sierra, led the meeting in a "negotiation" format, which helped resolve contentious issues.

The core elements of the new CGIAR will be the Consortium of the CGIAR Centers and the Fund. The Consortium will unite the Centers under one legal entity and provide a single entry point for the Fund to contract Centers and other partners for research products. A Consortium Constitution has been drafted and revised, and the members of the Consortium Board will be announced by the end of 2009. Once the Board is established, it will recruit the new Consortium chief executive officer and set up the Consortium office in the second half of 2010.

The Fund will harmonize donor contributions to improve the quality and quantity of funding available, engender greater financial stability, and provide greater unrestricted funding. Existing arrangements will be maintained until the Consortium is fully functional; support to cover transition costs will be provided. The Executive Council agreed that the Fund Council, the Fund's decision-making body, will consist of 21 members and a chair, with equal representation from North and South.

The Strategy and Results Framework and Mega Programs specify the outcomes, intermediate objectives and research activities to be pursued jointly by centres. The Alliance updated the Executive Council on development of the draft Framework and initial set of potential Mega Programs, and it was agreed that further development of these is needed. The Alliance will spearhead a process to address this over the coming months, in close coordination with the process for the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, the Independent Science and Partnership Council, and other partners. The Alliance also indicated that the concept of a Mega Program requires further clarification and will develop a think piece for the forthcoming business meeting of the CGIAR.

The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development is both a biennial event – the first will be held in Montpellier, France in March 2010 – and an on-going process of consultation, as described in the September 2009 issue of CAN. This Global Conference aims to provide feedback from a broad range of CGIAR stakeholders on development of the Strategic Results Framework and Mega Programs. While this Global Conference process is an integral part of the new CGIAR, it encompasses more than the CGIAR; it aims to develop a new global agricultural research system.

The roles and responsibilities for the Independent Science and Partnership Council were approved by the Executive Committee. This Council will consist of a standing panel of world-class scientific experts. It will provide independent advice to the funders of the CGIAR and serve as an intellectual bridge between the funders and the Consortium. An interim Council will be launched in December 2009, with the current Science Council filling in until the new members of the Independent Science and Partnership Council are recruited.

The mutual accountabilities and responsibilities of the Consortium, the Centers and the Fund will be made clear in a "CGIAR Declaration". Also under development is a system-wide Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which sets out a results-based system for performance management and establishes the arrangements for independent evaluation.

CGIAR Members will come together for a final business meeting in Washington, DC, on 08 December 2009. Participants are expected to adopt the new model for the CGIAR. While CGIAR transition processes will continue into 2010, this meeting will formally mark the end of the current CGIAR system.

By Kate Longley, with Carlos Seré and Dennis Garrity. Contact the author, k.longley@cgiar.org.

The Collective Action Underpinning the CGIAR Change Initiative: The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the 64 members of the CGIAR, representing governments, international organizations and private foundations. Over 20 CG members have already indicated their preliminary commitment to the proposed Fund. The CGIAR Alliance (originally established to enable the CGIAR Centers to cooperate and implement collective activities) has been particularly involved in the creation of the Consortium and the development of the Strategic Results Framework. The Global Forum on Agricultural Research, a global multi-stakeholder forum on agricultural research for development (which includes the CGIAR) is organizing the consultative processes for the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development and CGIAR reform. Through its regional fora, some 3,000 research and development workers are currently directly involved in this consultation process, including regional reviews of agriculture for development, e-consultations, face-to-face meetings, and reports. Some 500 members of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa from 65 countries signed up for the e-consultation alone.

Newsbytes

Evaluation Survey Findings - CGIAR Research in Africa

Client feedback and responding to customers' needs are crucial to the success of any enterprise. It is the same line of thought that motivated our first ever evaluation survey of the CGIAR Research Map – a project database of the research carried out by CG centers in Africa.

The survey was administered to scientists from 13 different CG centers. Their conclusion: The map is a useful tool for information sharing, and specifically for discovering what the CG is doing in Africa that could be utilized more by CG centers and their partners. This information couldn't come at a better time than now when the centers are about to mark a new chapter in the global partnership deal towards working together!

Full Report: <http://regionalplan.wordpress.com/2009/11/13/survey-findings-what-you-had-to-say-and-what-we-are-going-to-do/>

Rehabilitating agricultural research in Southern Sudan

Kate Longley, representing the CGIAR Consortium for Agricultural Research and Rehabilitation in Southern Sudan, attended the Mid-Term Review Stakeholder Workshop of the Support to Agriculture and Forestry Development Program, held on 30 October in Juba, South Sudan. This \$18 million Program is being implemented across five states of Southern Sudan to increase smallholder agricultural production and provide support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Government of South Sudan. The original Program proposal included a research component to be implemented by the Consortium, but there have been various delays in signing the contract, for which the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Samson Kwaje, apologized. The workshop highlighted the urgent need for research support and it is expected that the Consortium will be contracted to work under the Phase 1 extension of the Program in 2010.

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