Fund Council
9th Meeting (FC9)—New Delhi, India
April 25-26, 2013

2012 ISPC Activity Report
(Approved)

Document presented for Agenda Item 3:
2012 Scorecards and Financial Reports
of FO, CO, ISPC and IEA

Submitted by:
ISPC
Summary of ISPC activities in 2012

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<th>2012 Activity (in bold font): Report (in normal font)</th>
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**STRATEGY AND TRENDS**

1. **Finding convergence on views of the future**
   Study of the future of farm size, urbanization and demand convened in October 2012, and expert workshop held January 2013. Draft synthesis paper complete and ISPC set to report in April 2013 for contribution to the Consortium as background for the new SRF.

2. **Prioritization of CGIAR activities**
   Completed. ISPC White Paper on “Strengthening Strategy and Results Framework through prioritization” provided to Consortium in June 2012 and incorporated into Consortium’s Plan of Action for a revised SRF.

3. **Seeking efficiencies in the portfolio approach.**
   ISPC developed background papers and held a major workshop on Conservation Agriculture in the CGIAR at the University of Nebraska USA in October 2012. Workshop statement available at:
   A scientific Report (including 18 conference papers and synthesis) will follow in mid-2013.

4. **Stripe study of natural resources management in the CGIAR**
   Completed. ISPC Green cover “Stripe Review of Natural resources management research in the CGIAR” published September 2012 and available at [www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org](http://www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org)
   It included many of the outcomes of the Science Forum 2011 on the agriculture/environment nexus. Stripe Report outcomes reported to EIARD conference (September) and GCARD (October 2012).

**INDEPENDENT PROGRAM REVIEW**

5. **Completion of the CRP proposal review process**
   Eight Commentaries on CRP proposals, or the Must haves for proposals undergoing re-review, were conducted in 2012 [and a further re-review of the CRP 1.1 Drylands proposal in March}
2013 to complete the current round of CRP proposal review].

### 6. Guidance review of the CRP portfolio

Completed. A cross CRP-study of the CRP portfolio was completed by the ISPC with special attention to Theories of change and impact pathway analysis, seed systems and the value-chain approach as cross cutting themes. The draft reports were made available to the Consortium and the final synthesis paper was produced for the Fund Council and CGIAR at large before the end of 2012.

### MOBILIZING SCIENCE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

#### 7. Science Forum

i) Publishing the 2011 outputs

A Summary of the Science Forum 2011, Beijing, China and an ISPC Brief on the outcomes have been published on the ISPC website in early 2012. Key scientific papers from the Forum are in review for publication in a high quality scientific journal which will be published in mid-2013.

ii) Other means of sharing the outputs – Workshop

The outcomes have been incorporated also into the NRM Stripe review and were presented at the GCARD 2012 and to a meeting of European funders to the CGIAR in October.

iii) Science Forum 2013 §

On target: Planning was advanced for Science Forum 2013, with subject matter agreed with the Consortium and Centers and a co-hosting arrangement, dates and venue agreed with BMZ Germany. The title of the forum is “Nutrition and health outcomes: targets for agricultural research”. A Steering Committee was convened and a first meeting held in November 2012 in Bonn. Details are available at:

http://www.scienceforum13.org/

iv) Follow up workshop for 2013

This will be planned by the Steering Committee in order to access the human nutrition and health science communities in early 2013.
**INDEPENDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**8. Poverty Impact Study**

Mid-term workshop to review four case studies of CGIAR poverty impacts (CIMMYT, IRRI, Worldfish, IFPRI) held at the London International Development Center, 8-9 May 2012.

Status: Drafts of the Center case study reports due in mid April, 2013 and to be finalized after external review and published as a green cover report in August 2013. Individual studies likely to be published as journal articles by the Centers.

**9. Diffusion and Impact of Improved Varieties in Africa Study**

Third technical and financial report, summarizing progress over the past year, submitted to BMGF in September 2012. Results from Objectives 1, 2 and 3 presented and discussed at the Final Workshop held at Bioversity 8-10 November 2012. The datasets are being finalized and will be published on the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) website. The Objectiev 1 and 2 Synthesis report and the impact case-studies (Objective 3 of the project) will be published as green cover reports after being externally reviewed. The project has been given a no-cost extension until June 2013.

**10. Stripe impact review of Legume research in the CGIAR**

Report of a study that field tested a varietal identification protocol for pigeonpea in Tanzania completed in October 2012.

Variatel identification protocol for cowpea designed and added as a supplement to the LSMS-ISA survey for Nigeria.

Major adoption studies of chickpea varietal use in two states of India (with ICRISAT and with ICAR) well underway and expected to be completed by first half of 2013, along with final report of the main study.

**11. Meta-analysis of CGIAR impact (10-year update)**

This initiative has been subsumed into the preparation of a new proposal for the CGIAR on Strengthening impact assessment and accountability in the CGIAR System (SIAC)

This initiative aims to provide donors and other stakeholders with up-to-date evidence of the efficacy of investing in international agricultural research, and at the same time build capacity within the System to undertake regular ex post IA for tracking implementation of the new CRP portfolio against SLOs. Major support for the three-year phase of the SIAC program has been secured through a grant agreement between the CGIAR Consortium and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A similar level of financial support is expected from DfID. The potential for securing additional funds from IFAD has been discussed. This will be complemented with core support.
The SIAC project steering committee – with representation from SPIA, the CGIAR Consortium, the IEA, the FC, and an independent expert – has met twice since the beginning of the year. The LOA between the CGIAR Consortium and MSU has been signed, and the PSC has approved MSU’s Workplan and Budget (Phase I) for Objective 1 (methods) and Objective 2 (outcomes). Workplans for Objective 3 (impacts) and Objective 4 (capacity strengthening), are being planned, which will be initiated in 2013.

12. IAAE Meeting Special Session on Impact Assessment

Pre-conference workshop on “Innovations in impact assessment of agricultural research: Theory and practice” attended by more than 60 people held at the Int’l Association of Agricultural Economists meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, 18th August 2012. A special issue of the journal Food Policy is in preparation, and scheduled for publication in August / September 2013. The special issue includes the best papers from the pre-conference workshop that SPIA organized at the International Association of Agricultural Economists meetings in Foz do Iguazu in August 2012. SPIA-Impact Assessment Focal Point (IAFP) meeting (CGIAR Centers, SPIA members, donors, other stakeholders) held on 17 August 2012 in Brazil.

13. Stripe impact review

Thematic call for proposals included in the SIAC proposal to commence in 2013.

14. Donor survey on impact assessment demand and utilisation

Included in the SIAC proposal to commence in 2013.

15. Communication and outreach (SPIA)

Impact Brief #37 Environmental impacts of agricultural research: an overview.

Impact Brief #38 Environmental impacts of agricultural research: concepts and tools to strengthen the evidence base.

Impact Brief #39 Ex-post environmental impact assessment: lessons from four CGIAR case studies.

Impact Brief #40 Does crop improvement reduce agricultural expansion?


Stevenson et al. “Agricultural technology, global land use and deforestation: a review and new estimates of the impact of crop research”. (Forthcoming in PNAS).

Other

Genetic Collection, Conservation, Characterization and Evaluation (GCCCE) impact study:

Revised versions of the CIP and CIAT case study reports were submitted in November 2012 and final versions posted to the http://impact.cgiar.org website. The earlier conceptual papers are also available on the website.