

Message from the Executive Secretary

June 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you know, 2014 is a pivotal year for CGIAR, not least because of ongoing work to revitalize our Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) and develop a system-wide resource mobilization strategy to ensure coordinated, sustained, and adequate funding to support our mission and goals. The new SRF – which will clearly outline our shared vision, the specific outcomes we hope to achieve, the path we intend to take to get there, and metrics to hold us accountable – will guide the next generation of CGIAR Research Programs. Of equal importance is the Mid-Term Review, which will provide an objective assessment of how we can strengthen CGIAR across the board, at all levels of operation and outreach, so that we can translate our vision into real results for the poor, and do so in a rapidly changing world.



I'd like to thank all of you for the significant time and attention you've already given to these initiatives, including through active involvement in the FC11 meeting and the workshop that preceded it, and encourage you to stay engaged over the next few critical months in the run-up to the 12th Fund Council Meeting and Funders Forum in Brussels. The overall success of our joint efforts depends on your continued thoughtful, insightful and timely contributions, including asking tough questions, raising challenging issues, and offering practical solutions. The decisions we take between now and December will potentially set the future direction and impact of CGIAR for many years, if not decades, to come. Our foresight and stewardship now will be vital in following through on the big reform challenges ahead.

Thank you and best wishes,

Jonathan Wadsworth
Executive Secretary, CGIAR Fund Council

Highlights from the 11th Fund Council Meeting

At FC11, held in Mexico City on May 7-8, it was decided that CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) should be developed in conjunction with a resource mobilization strategy (RMS). The SRF will define CGIAR's future research agenda, including SMART targets to deliver impact, and the RMS will entail a system-wide fundraising and partnership strategy to mobilize funding to support the research agenda. The Fund Office will coordinate the co-development of the SRF and RMS to ensure that both processes inform, and are informed, by the other.

Among other decisions taken, members approved the Gender Action Plan and Gender Performance Report, which offer clarity on how CGIAR will deliver concrete research results that empower poor, rural women and improve gender inequities; approved extension proposals for three CGIAR Research Programs; agreed to standardize the satisfaction survey portion of the system entity scorecards; and approved guidelines or best practices for Special Initiative System Costs. The guidelines will be further refined to steer the development of a related amendment to the Common Operational Framework.

The Fund Council also discussed the Open Access proposal and comments on it by the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC). *(Continued on page 3)*

Status of the CGIAR Fund

Current projections forecast that about \$520 million in contributions will be channeled through the CGIAR Fund in 2014. By the end of May, 61% of the expected contributions were already received or confirmed – a significant improvement from last year at this time, when only 44% of projected funding had been received or confirmed. Despite this noteworthy progress, efforts must be ramped up to achieve greater predictability of funding and ensure the timely disbursement of funds to the CRPs, including by encouraging donors to make and renew multi-year commitments and disburse contributions earlier in the year. Special thanks to partners who have made multi-year contributions, namely: Australia, Belgium, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Denmark, IFAD, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Figure 1. Fund Status as of May 30, 2014

<i>US\$ million</i>	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Provisional	Total
Carryover balance	123.8	32.5	36.7	8.1	201.1
2014 Receipts ¹	25.9	51.0	122.3	8.5	207.7
Transfers from PA / Collection of CSP	3.8	(1.0)	12.8	(15.6)	0.0
Total Inflows	153.5	82.5	171.8	1.0	408.8
2013 Disbursements	(132.3)	(74.4)	(154.1)		(360.8)
Fund Balance	21.2	8.1	17.7	1.0	48.0

¹ Includes 2013 contributions received in 2014

Figure 2. Funding Projections for 2014

	Received as of May 30, 2014	Confirmed ¹ to be received in 2014	Additional expected ² funding in 2014	Total
Window 1	24.4	100.4	54.3	179.1
Window 2	12.8	52.5	46.8	112.1
Window 3	47.7	79.3	102.5	229.5
Provisional			-	
TOTAL	84.9	232.2	203.6	520.7

¹ Funds are considered "confirmed" if any of the following applies:

- a) CA already signed between Fund donor and the Trustee, but the funds have not been received in the Fund;
- b) Fund donor and the Trustee have initiated the CA process, and funds have not been received, or
- c) Contributions were received but CA process has not been completed.

² Based on estimated indications from on-going communications with donors

Contributions to the CGIAR Fund in 2014

Received and Confirmed as of May 30
(in US\$ million)

United Kingdom	65.46	New Zealand	6.44
Netherlands	53.32	Denmark	6.36
BMGF	35.59	IFAD	6.17
Australia	26.76	India	6.03
Norway	19.00	Ireland	5.46
Sweden	17.96	Luxembourg	0.66
Switzerland	17.05	Portugal	0.52
USA	16.76	Russia	0.52
Canada	15.40	South Africa	0.50
Belgium	10.40	Nigeria	0.20
European Commission	6.50	Spain	0.03

Cost Sharing Percentage (CSP) in 2014

As presented at FC11, the CSP in 2014 will be 2%, which was determined based on the agreed mechanism described in the Common Operational Framework.

Chair of Mid-Term Review Panel Provides Progress Report

During a virtual briefing to the Fund Council at its May meeting in Mexico City, the Chair of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) Panel, Sir John Beddington, emphasized that the primary role of the Panel is to provide the best advice possible to ensure that CGIAR is fit-for-purpose to address emerging development challenges and to assess the appropriateness of CGIAR's current goals and strategies to support research that generates solutions for the benefit of the poor. As part of the ongoing review, the Panel is:

- Evaluating CGIAR's organizational architecture to manage and fund research;
- Scrutinizing the performance of all three Windows of the CGIAR Fund;
- Analyzing CGIAR's risk management, governance, and accountability mechanisms;
- Investigating the effectiveness of CGIAR's partnerships internally and with external stakeholders; and
- Examining the accessibility and delivery of CGIAR's research outputs to its intended beneficiaries.

The MTR Chair noted that while the Panel's preliminary thinking supports CGIAR's current vision to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition and enhance ecosystem resilience, this vision has yet to be fully translated into actionable, measurable, and prioritized objectives. The Chair emphasized that CGIAR should focus more on future challenges that research will need to tackle, including population growth, increasing urbanization, and the multiplier effects of climate change, and called attention to other issues that need to be addressed, such as:

- Lack of agreement within CGIAR regarding its overall objective (e.g., focusing on longer-term global food security issues or short-term national needs, including capacity building);
- Overly complex governance arrangements that create challenges; and
- Issues related to CRP partnerships, including the ad hoc nature of private sector linkages.

Sir John reiterated the Panel members' interest in and plans for increased engagement with key stakeholders across CGIAR, including the Fund Council and Fund Office, Consortium Office and Board, Center Directors General and Board Chairs, CRP Directors, and senior scientists. The Panel also plans to bring together a group of leading scientists to identify the most critical questions facing the international agricultural research community and to further engage with external partners to understand how CGIAR could best serve them.

FC11 Highlights *(Continued from page 1)*

FC members reiterated their strong support for the Open Access initiative and agreed that the ISPC will form a working group with donors to set out required modifications to better meet the needs of end-users, address the quality of information being made available, and develop principles of prioritization. The Fund Council also gave consideration to a study on delivery, noting that if technologies and knowledge generated by CGIAR research are not shared and adopted by poor smallholders, the investment in research is lost. Following further feedback on and input from the Consortium Board, Office and Centers, as well as FC members, the report will be revised and submitted to the MTR.

Andy Jarvis of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) presented on climate-smart agriculture (CSA), noting the need to scale-up CSA practices and outlining CCAFS's strategy to use both top-down and bottom-up methods, such as the climate-smart villages approach. CCAFS recently released a policy brief that explores how to overcome challenges when developing [National Adaptation Plans](#) and analyzes how best to advance [climate variability research](#) and support communities' capacity to adapt.

News Bytes

Africa's First Water Fund

As part of the CRP on [Water, Land and Ecosystems](#), CGIAR's International Center for Tropical Agriculture ([CIAT](#)) and the Nature Conservancy are launching [Africa's first water fund](#), a tool that re-directs investment from water users to conservation activities in an effort to preserve the Tana River in Kenya and the livelihoods it sustains, and pave the way for similar initiatives across Africa.

More Pork by and for the Poor

As part of the [CRP on Livestock and Fish](#), CGIAR's International Livestock Research Institute ([ILRI](#)) launched a project to catalyze emerging smallholder [pig value chains in Uganda](#) for increased food security and poverty reduction, with a special emphasis on ensuring benefits for both women and men.

CGIAR Alumnus Wins 2014 World Food Prize

Sanjaya Rajaram, former director of [CIMMYT](#)'s wheat breeding program and former director at ICARDA, was awarded the [2014 World Food Prize](#), joining a long list of CGIAR scientists who have won the award. Over the course of his career, Dr. Rajaram developed an astounding 480 wheat varieties that have been released in 51 countries on six continents and have been widely adopted by small- and large-scale farmers alike.

Increasing Incomes and Food Security in West and Central Africa

As part of the [CRP on Dryland Cereals](#), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics ([ICRISAT](#)) developed solutions for soils with low phosphorus levels that [greatly increase sorghum and pearl millet production](#), critical sources of income and food for more than 120 million people in West and Central Africa.

Online Platform to Increase Dialogue on Gender and Nutrition

The CRP on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health's ([A4NH](#)) [Gender-Nutrition Idea Exchange](#) will serve as an interactive, online hub for sharing new ideas, best practices, and guidance on how to apply a gender lens to agricultural research to achieve nutrition outcomes.

Knowledge Transfer for Poverty Reduction

Research conducted as part of the CRP on Policies, Institutions and Markets ([PIM](#)) demonstrated the effectiveness and led to greater use of volunteer farmer trainers to [transfer knowledge and increase adoption](#) of improved agricultural techniques, increasing yields, incomes and household food security.

Increasing Resilience of Vulnerable Drylands

As part of the [CRP on Dryland Systems](#), [ICRISAT](#) is leading a local innovation platform in Rajasthan, India to encourage [intensification and increased resilience of drylands](#) through strategies, such as rainwater harvesting for high-value crops, inter-cropping trees and food crops, and village-level seed production.

Working Alongside Communities to Improve Livelihoods

The CRP on Aquatic Agricultural Systems ([AAS](#)) published an analysis and collection of best practices for implementing [community-based resource management](#), based on [WorldFish](#)'s work in the Solomon Islands to improve the sustainable management of marine resources and small-scale fisheries.

Capturing the Potential of Wastewater

The CRP on Water, Land and Ecosystems ([WLE](#)), the International Water Management Institute ([IWMI](#)), and FAO have partnered to create a [global wastewater database](#) to enhance assessment and monitoring of wastewater, which is rich in nutrients and a highly productive agricultural resource.

Linking Smallholders to Markets in Vietnam

The CRP on [Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics](#) conducted a value chain assessment in Northwest Vietnam for maize, pigs, plums, and tea, providing crucial insights into successful business models that link smallholder farmers to markets, improving their incomes and leading to a [decrease in rural poverty](#).



Hmong farmers thresh their maize harvest in rural Northwest Vietnam, © ILRI, Jo Cadilhon

Upcoming Events

- CGIAR Development Dialogues, September 25, New York City, New York
- Humidtropics Integrated Systems Conference, October 7-9, Ibadan, Nigeria
- 3rd Funders' Forum, November 4, Brussels, Belgium
- 12th CGIAR Fund Council Meeting (FC12), November 5-6, Brussels, Belgium

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