



Fund

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WORKING DOCUMENT

Consortium Response, dated 22 Sept 2014

*Submitted by:
Consortium Office*



WHEAT

The WHEAT response to the written documents provided by ISPC and CO is extensive (20-pager), well-articulated following the Extension Proposal's structure and comprehensive.

The response matrix addresses each of the CO/ISPC comments in a detailed manner and the CRP agrees that most of these points are priorities. However, the WHEAT Gender Research strategy needs to be considered as critical before this extension period. As the first proposal was only approved by the CO for its first year of implementation, WHEAT submitted a proper revised gender strategy in May 2014. Unfortunately, this second version still lacks clear research tractable questions and hypothesis and WHEAT has recently committed to submit an improved revised version before the end of 2014.

In our view, the Extension Proposal is acceptable. The clarity and quality of this proposal is aligned with other WHEAT reporting documents (POWB 2014, Annual Report 2013). In addition, the new WHEAT activities for the coming 2 years are identified with their requested budget and mapped to the different FPs with a contingency plan. The WHEAT additional funding is planned to be allocated based on the following targeted priorities and strategic objectives:

- New foresight and targeting analysis through FP1 (CoA1.1) for guiding and updating WHEAT Business case (ex-ante) in preparation of CRP 2nd call.
- New HEDWIC competitive grants advertised to ARIs (CoA2.4) and innovative research activities on Nitrogen Use Efficiency (CoA2.5) in collaboration with JIRCAS in the context of FP2 (Novel diversity to adapt to climate change and resource constraints)
- Through FP3, increased capacity in "Bioinformatics and open access database" (CoA 3.2) with two additional complementary activities: first, by driving forward the informatics/genomics data back office in wheat, in collaboration with Cornell University; and, secondly, by setting up and implementing an informatics breeding management system (similar to the BMS developed by IBP or equivalent). In the context of FP3 (Global partnership to accelerate genetic gain in farmers field) 7 new "precision phenotyping platforms" (CoA 3.3) for different traits and locations (CoA 3.3) are planned to be set up in Morocco, Sudan (2015) and India, Ethiopia, Uruguay, Pakistan and Turkey (2016). Drought, heat and disease tolerance are the main traits to be evaluated with a clearly-estimated cost per platform, depending on trait and location.
- Regarding FP4 (Sustainable intensification of wheat-based cropping systems) two strategic analysis will be performed for greater impact orientation (CoA4.1) on innovation framework and partnership adoption
- For increasing human and institutional capacities for seed systems and scale-out (FP5) additional W1/2 resources will complement bilateral funding & scholarships to double international trainings (CoA5.3) and for supporting the Wheat University Concept (CoA5.4)



Consortium

- Finally, the next priority in terms of additional budget request is for management to increase WHEAT's capacity on (i) Oversight & management, (ii) Knowledge management, open-access and communication, (iii) M&E and (iv) Gender mainstreaming in South Asia.

Recommendation to approve.