Compilation of contributions to SRF Consultation Phase 2 from emails to `partnerships@cgiar.org’

Consultation on the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) - Phase 2 (3rd-27th February 2015)

1st March 2015
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**Introduction**

In this second phase of consultation on the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF), stakeholders were given the opportunity to consider and provide feedback and ideas on how the whole SRF has been revised and is now articulated. This phase of consultation asked people to consider:

“How well does the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework now reflect a good roadmap for effective agricultural research for development?”

Opportunities to participate in this Phase included the following:

- submit any responses via email to partnerships@CGIAR.ORG
- have your say and also comment on what others have to say in the ‘public chat room’
- Join a webinar in the ‘Call-In Program’ series – where you can discuss ‘in person’ with other stakeholders and some of those involved in developing the SRF [Note-only 20 seats per webinar and sign up required]

Stakeholder feedback from this second Phase will be used to strengthen the SRF before it goes to the Consortium Board for approval on March 23rd 2015, and then on to the Fund Council for Approval in April 2015.

Providing contributions to the email address partnerships@cgiar.org was one of the channels available for people to participate in the first phase of the consultation on the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework. The compiled results of this channel can be found below.

**Email contributions**

1. **Email from Paul L.G. Vlek, Special Advisor to the Director General ICARDA**

Dear Partners,

Upon careful reading of the latest version of the SRF, I would like to express a concern that ICARDA wishes to bring to your attention. Attached please find a letter and supporting documentation regarding our concern

We hope that this information will help argue for a change in the current text.

With best regards, Paul Vlek
2. Email from Mr. prof. Dr. KBN Rayana, Dir.Gen., IAMMA

From the desk of Mr. prof. Dr. KBN Rayana, Dir.Gen., IAMMA (www.theiamma.org/www.iamma.8m.com). HQ: Hyderabad/India and office at USA (In New York 11510/washington DC 20002)

1. CGIAR to encourage the small scale agroindustries- to enable encourage /attracts youths, income levels up, and stop wastages
2. Agronomic systems to be developed towards climate smart and local resources needs
3. Apply field level with cooperation and coordination of the local agencies and leading farmers belts.
4. Address and encourage to the sustainable Agriculture a missing thing which is more important under UN agenda

Our innovation__ `Agro-economy is super economy under transitional economy...eg. India`

by Mr. KBN Rayana, DG-IAMMA, from office of the DG @ New York office. 11510

3. Email from Philip Chiverton, SIDA

Dear Partnerships,

Sida retains a small group of subject-relevant scientists from a number of Swedish universities and institutions who, amongst other things, advise us on the quality of research in the CRP’s. Their first reaction on reading the Consultation draft of the SRF was “where is the buy in from the centre’s…the people who will actually conduct the research outlined in the SRF?” Their suggestion was a complementary Foreword, undersigned by all 15 D.G.’s, declaring their support of the SRF. This would increase confidence in stakeholders that the CG researchers themselves were behind the SRF.

Best regards, Philip Chiverton

4. Email from David Hong, One Acre Fund

To: CGIAR From: One Acre Fund

Subject: CGIAR SRF Stakeholder Consultation Phase II

Date: February 27, 2015

Overall, we believe the Strategy and Results Framework is a strong step forward to ensuring accountability and impact through the entire CGIAR system. We appreciate the CGIAR’s commitment to consultation with other stakeholders in the global agricultural research community and believe efforts to improve delivery outcomes can have significant benefits for some of the poorest people in the world.
In lieu of commenting on the entirety of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework, we will focus our feedback on the dissemination and adoption of agricultural research innovations at the farmer-level. While we acknowledge that research dissemination is only one of several impact pathways, we believe we are best qualified to comment on this impact pathway given our program model and current operations.

For the SRF to be an effective roadmap, the measurement of research dissemination and farmer adoption of technologies is critical. Additionally, understanding the entrepreneurial framework that farmers use to weigh adoption should pervade CGIAR’s strategy for research delivery, especially regarding partnership development.

Measure impact of research dissemination through standardized reporting:

* In order to capture the impact of research dissemination, the CGIAR should use a standard accountability framework across all of the Centers and CRPs to measure ex ante and ex post farmer adoption of new technologies.

* The CGIAR should redirect more resources to measure program impact, including the “real world” cost of technology adoption (e.g. relative price of adopting CGIAR technologies vs. market alternatives).

* Of course, each program and Center is unique and should develop a site or project-specific set of indicators in addition to the suggested standard accountability framework. The use of an accountability framework will enable comparisons across projects, regions, and Centers.

* Standardized and timely reporting of progress should be completed on timeframes relevant to the specific program or Center, however annual reporting is expected at a minimum.

Employ ‘adoption framework’ to project farmer adoption of new technologies:

* Critical to achieving Intermediate Level Outcomes (IDO) and ultimately System Level Outcomes (SLO), broad farmer adoption and improved productivity can drive impact and reduce poverty.

* To better understand the constraints to farmer adoption, Bain & Co. and Acumen Fund developed a framework in their 2014 report, Growing Prosperity: Developing Repeatable Models to Scale the Adoption of Agricultural Innovations. The adoption framework includes four primary components: awareness, access, affordability, and advantage. For successful adoption, farmers must be aware of the new technology, able to access the new technology, able to afford the new technology, and perceive and understand how the new technology offers significant advantage over competing products.

* The CGIAR’s core competencies have not traditionally included marketing, distribution, product development, and supply chain management, however these skill areas are necessary to accurately assess farmer adoption and market demand. Where sensible, ‘partnerships for impact’ should be created to connect the CGIAR with organizations that work at the farmer-level such as local seed companies, NGOs like One Acre Fund, or large aggregators.

In addition to our overall recommendations, we are including specific text edits – in bolded green text – for your consideration. Most of the comments focus on Section 6: Research Strategy and Section 7: Holding Ourselves Accountable. These are by no means an exhaustive or exclusive set of recommendations.
Achieving impact at scale is one of the greatest challenges facing the development community. Research by CGIAR and its partners can support the drive towards technology dissemination and widespread impact, but the scaling up effort must be led by national services, supported by regional or international development organizations where appropriate. The private sector may will also have a major role to play.

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Accountability can be defined as taking responsibility for performance, in the light of commitments made by a program or organization and to the extent that performance is under its control. Accountability requires ownership and acceptance of responsibility, as well as the ability to deliver, or influence the delivery of, the desired results through standardized and timely reporting.

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Each CRP will develop a specific results framework outlining expected results and corresponding metrics, impact pathways and theories of change, procedures for internal and external evaluation, and processes for learning and adaptation. The supporting work of ‘boundary partners’ across sectors will be measured and attributed to improvements in farmer adoption rates. In many cases, specific indicators capturing the impact of programs on women and young people will be both feasible and appropriate, in addition to specific indicators that measure levels of ex ante and ex post farmer adoption. Each new CRP proposal will be accompanied by an Annex, the Performance Indicator Matrix, that will summarize the outputs and outcomes, with their indicators and metrics, for which the CRP expects to be held accountable. A universal set of CRP indicators will be used to compare research programs across region, theme, and sector, particularly across first order levels of research delivery. The matrix will form part of the CRP’s contract and the basis for its subsequent self-assessment, as well as for review and evaluation by others.

5. Email from M.A. Darghouth (President) and Mohammad M. Ajlouni (Executive Secretary) of AARINENA

I am pleased to send you attached a position paper expressing the points of view of AARINENA concerning the CGIAR strategy.

Yours sincerely, M.A. Darghouth- President of AARINENA

AARINENA Position paper on The CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework 2016-2025

The NENA region (Near East and North Africa) is at a crossroad of its destiny, important and even existential challenges have to be adequately addressed at the social, political and economic levels, particularly at the light of the recent events happening in the region. In addition, the NENA region is a singularly defining region for achieving a stable and food-secure future for the world – posing both an invaluable opportunity and an alarming threat. The investment in agriculture development in the region will, therefore, be decisive for the world at large.

On one hand, if NENA’s needs for agriculture development are not aggressively met, it could have huge repercussions for the world in the form of disenchanted youth and migrating populations. The region already has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, with the youth unemployment rate higher than the world average. According to IFAD, the current unemployment rate among young aged 18-29 years ranges...
from 18% in Morocco to 24% in Egypt, up to an alarming 48% in Syria and 53% in Yemen. NENA is also the largest food importer in the world, a large chunk of it being wheat – a staple diet in most Arab countries. The region was predictably hit the worst in 2008 global food crisis and is rapidly moving toward dangerously food insecure levels with its growing populations.

On the flip side, NENA offers an immediate opportunity for large gains by bridging the wide yield gaps prevalent in the region – a low hanging fruit for boosting self-sufficiency. The case of Syria transitioning from wheat importing to wheat exporting status with the help of technologies and enabling policies demonstrated this potential. Based on ICARDA’s years of research with the national partners on the dryland production systems, sustainable increases in food productivity – even with the region’s scarce natural resources – is not only well within reach, but also transformative of livelihoods and food security.

While NENA does not have the population density or poverty levels found in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, it is the world’s hottest spot of environmental poverty, represented by water scarcity and land limitation, degradation and desertification. The level of poverty in several countries of the region has not globally decreased during the last 20 years, even worst, in some countries it has increased since the 2000s (UNDP & Arab League, 2009).

The NENA region is expected to become one of the main hot spots in terms of changes driven by global warming. The NENA region is the hardest hit by climate changes and is already experiencing frequent droughts, its agricultural systems of production, which are in general lacking resilience, will have to face unprecedented physical, biological and economical shocks. However, the region could be the turning point for CGIAR’s contributions to food security and improving livelihoods in the world’s dry areas – home to the poorest and most marginalized people, with 16% of their population living in chronic poverty.

Why is NENA marginal dry areas critical for CGIAR’s SRF?

- **Food security as a stabilizing force**: The region is at grave risk of food insecurity as the largest importer of foods in the world, as pointed out above. The imports are estimated to reach $115 billion by 2020, making these countries increasingly vulnerable to global food availability and price fluctuations – a known trigger point for human conflict and unrest.

- **Vulnerable ecosystem at the brink**: Climate change has serious implications on the fragile dry ecosystems of NENA, with its already scarce natural resources. Water is the most coveted natural resource in this region as nearly 83% of crop production of the region is rainfed. Irrigation consumes 80-90% of all fresh water used in NENA. With climate change and growing population pressure in the region, water extraction rates are rising and the groundwater levels are falling further down. While the global average for per capita water availability is 8,900 m³, it’s only 1,100 m³ in the NENA region, estimated to drop further down to 550 m³ by 2050 – a disastrous scenario for the region that needs urgent attention. Besides the falling water levels, an increase in the frequency of droughts is estimated from climate change, along with increase in temperatures, which will shorten the growing reason and induce new diseases and insect pests.

- **NENA- a hotspot for climate-smart agriculture research**: The NENA region is known to be the cradle of agriculture and animal husbandry, rich with thousands of years of traditional knowledge and evolved crop varieties and practices – offering an unparalleled hotspot for researching solutions for resilient, food-secure future in the face of climate change. The region’s unique wild varieties and land races offer genetic
resources highly adapted to adverse conditions which can be harvested for genetic traits that lend resilience to droughts, heat and diseases.

- **Agriculture development as trigger for employment**: Even if the relative contribution of agriculture in national economy may remain small in some countries, its returns on socio-economic development will have significant impacts and can help anchor the rural populations in this part of the world. Sustainable agriculture development will spin off new opportunities to engage the youth and farmers through agro-industries, ICT, post-harvest handling and transportation needs. Agriculture is the largest job market in NENA as nearly 44% of the population lives in rural area. In Egypt and Sudan, about two-third of the population are rural and in Yemen, rural population accounts for 70% of the total population.

Based on above facts and challenges, marginal dry areas and NENA region needs to be given needed focus and attention by the CGIAR SRF and its underlying research portfolio.

### 6. Email from John McDermott, A4NH-IFPRI

Colleagues,

Some comments, particularly focusing on the human health dimension, which seems relatively weaker than some other parts of the results framework. Thanks for all your work in moving this forward.

1. In the results framework a number of direct measures to improve human health have been offered in both the food safety and improved health associated with good agricultural practice. I think the SLO title needs just a one word change to reflect this – from “Improved food and nutritional security for health” to “Improved food and nutrition security and health”.

2. The text is very weak on the IDO that looks at improved human health associated with good agricultural practice. I was surprised to see that the SLO goal of human health was widened at the IDO level to include animal health. This seems unusual logic. Of course animal health is important for zoonotic diseases of humans and a majority of new diseases of people come from animals but I am not sure that including animal-only diseases is very logical – the same argument could be made for plant diseases. I do agree that the biomedical research platforms (including immunology and diagnostics) and epidemiological approaches provide a common science that the CGIAR has and will continue to use.

3. The public health community is an important audience for what we are proposing on improving health through good agricultural practice. There are some important research issues in agriculture for public health that deserve inclusion in the results framework section. As agriculture intensifies, there are health risks, largely from more intensive livestock production (including in cities and towns) and in more intensive water use (including contaminated water). Public health is very concerned about antimicrobial resistance and a post-antibiotic world. It is an important research topic to see what role antibiotic use in intensifying livestock and fish production play in this. The amounts of antimicrobials used, especially in Asia are very large.

4. On the health side, there are also important diseases, eliminated in richer and more organized countries that persist in poor countries, which have important agricultural elements to their solution. Cysticercosis is one that comes to mind that has benefited from joint agriculture and public health actions in Peru and would be an area for joint effort in Africa.

Best wishes,

John
7. Email from François Houllier-INRA (in French)

Monsieur le Président, Cher Professeur Darghouth,

Je vous confirme le plein soutien de l’INRA à la prise de position de l’AARINENA : les enjeux alimentaires et agricoles de la zone méditerranéenne, notamment de ses rives sud et est, justifient pleinement que la région formée par l’Afrique du Nord et le Proche Orient soit pleinement prise en compte dans la stratégie du CGIAR et soit considérée comme une zone prioritaire.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, en l’assurance de mes sentiments les meilleurs
François HOULLIER (PDG de l’INRA)